

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

by Home Improvement Expert
TODD FRATZEL



Welcome to the 2012 Holiday Gift Guide. This guide will help give you ideas for those hard to shop for Contractors and DIYers on your list. While you're at it, pick something up for yourself too! We've included small, versatile stocking stuffers all the way up to large shop tools.

For each product in the guide we have included a picture, short description, and a link so that you can buy the products online. Many of these can be found in local stores as well so if you're the type that likes to look something over first, there's always that option. Though, the online links help keep the lights on at HCI and Tool Box Buzz so we appreciate it when you purchase that way. See our disclosure at the end for more details on the links to online retailers.

Special thanks for contributing editor Jeff Williams for helping out with this year's selections and the guide!

Let The Shopping Begin!



Irwin Marples 6-piece Chisel Set

\$47.51 – [Amazon.com](#)

This is a great chisel set and comes in its own protective case. Easy to wrap!



Johnson Laser Distance Measuring Tool

\$119.00 – [Amazon.com](#)

This versatile tool is a hit with estimators, contractors, DIYers and realtors alike. Almost anyone can find a use for this fun, accurate tool. It has a laser, you know they're going to love it!

Channellock 12" Tongue and Groove Plier

\$13.78 – [Amazon.com](#)

The original Channellock is still the best and is still proudly made in the USA.



Rockler 3-Piece Silicone Glue Application Kit

\$14.99 – Rockler.com

This must have accessory will prove its worth the day after your first glue-up. The dried glue just peels away and it's ready to go again!



Bosch Colt Router Plunge Base

\$99.99 – Amazon.com

Finally the venerable Colt has a plunge base. If you know someone with the Colt, buy them this. If they don't own the Colt, buy the complete kit, you won't be sorry.

Stanley FatMax Xtreme Fubar

\$29.14 – Amazon.com

Stanley hand tools are always welcome and this is no exception. With a name like Fubar you know this tool means business. With all the fast growth timber used today this becomes a necessary tool for getting twisted SPF to behave.



Bosch LBOXX-2 Carrying Case

\$51.32 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Rob recently converted his entire tool trailer over to the Bosch system. You know it's good if a professional carpenter puts all his proverbial eggs in Bosch's very secure basket.



Veto Pro Pac – Model LC

\$139.95 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Back again this year because frankly these are the best tool bags on the market. Depending on the trade you're in, they have a lot of sizes and options to choose from. This is the perfect gift for your contractor!

Dewalt Tough System Case, Small

\$48.31 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Described as Pelican cases for tools. Very rugged and will protect your tools for years to come!



Makita 18V Cordless Random Orbit Sander

\$279.00 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

3 speeds make this sander easy to dial into specific projects. It is so great to be able to sand without the cord chasing you around!



Rockwell Sonicrafter Oscillating Kit

\$119.99 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

If you or someone you know doesn't own an oscillating multitool yet, what are you waiting for? These tools will change your world.

Porter-Cable Coded Multi-Tool Kit with 31 Accessories

\$136.98 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Tons of power, tool-less accessory change and now a depth stop. This tool is the cat's meow and would make an awesome gift!





Bosch 23-Gauge Pin Nailer

\$146.68 – [Amazon.com](#)

We saw this nailer at a Bosch media event over the summer and have been in love ever since. A pinner is a must have for attaching fine moldings.

Paslode Cordless 16-Gauge Finish Nailer

\$399.00 – [Amazon.com](#)

The new Paslode has all the great features of the previous version while improving on them. Cut the cord and get all that trim work done fast!



SENCO 15-Gauge Fusion Finish Nailer

\$355.50 – [Amazon.com](#)

SENCO's nitrogen cell equipped nailer is still an amazing tool. For quick finish trim work without a hose or smelly cartridges, SENCO is the best choice.



DEWALT 20V Max Brushless Impact Driver

\$229.00 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Buy this for your friend or family member and I can guarantee a successful gift, this impact is that good. Definitely one of our **top picks!**

RIDGID 18V Drill/Driver with Impact Kit

\$179.00 – [HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)

This kit will be flying off the shelves at Home Depot this year and for good reason.

It is an awesome kit for not much money. Have a honey-do list to get through? This kit will get you well on your way!



Ryobi 18-Volt One+ Li-ion Upgrade Kit

\$59.97 – [HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)

Know someone who has plenty of One+ tools but aging batteries? Upgrade to Li-Ion on the cheap. Ryobi makes great power tools for the home improvement and DIY sector.



Irwin 6 Piece Clamp Set

\$50.96 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The old adage goes, you can never have too many clamps. We all have Irwin Quick Clamps in our shops because they are so quick and easy to use. Buy a set for you and one for your loved one!



Irwin Marples Circular Saw Blade

\$50.12 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Made in Italy, these laser cut precision balanced blades for your table or miter saw will produce beautiful cuts for years to come. They come in 10" and 12" sizes in various tooth configurations.



Milwaukee M12 Heated Jacket

\$199.00 – [HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)

This is Jeff's favorite tool. It allows him to work in his unheated shop on a snowy January morning. The newest version brings new colors and has hand warmers and a USB port for charging a smartphone. Great for snowmobiling or snowblowing too!



Jet 14" Woodworking Bandsaw

\$637.49 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

This is Rob's bandsaw of choice in his shop. He's been using it for the better part of the year and loves it, you will too.

RIDGID 10" Table Saw

\$499.00 – [HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com)

This is the saw Jeff has in his shop and he loves it because it is versatile, not too expensive, and can roll out of the way. Pair it with the Irwin Marples blade and you have a hit!



Delta 3HP Unisaw

\$2,933.00 – [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The ultimate gift is back this year. This is still one of the finest table saws available and it's made in the USA! This is the ultimate holiday gift and is a **top pick!**

Top
Pick!

Disclaimer

All of the items listed in this guide are items that we've tested and/or used in our shops. Prices are subject to change. All of the items listed in this guide are eligible for a small commission as an affiliate sale.

We don't make much from these sales but the small commission does help offset the costs of producing this Holiday Gift Guide.

Thanks for helping support Front Steps Media and Happy Holidays!