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A collapsible hard hat



Toyo Safety's new collapsible hard hat

Japanese safety equipment manufacturer Toyo Safety has developed a safety hard hat which can be collapsed when not in use to a more compact, transportable and storable shape.

Initially designed in case of an earthquake or natural disaster, the Bloom hard hat can expand from its collapsed shape, which measures 88mm wide, 345mm long and 145mm high, in less than 30 seconds by pulling on a cord attached to the back of the helmet. Once pulled its adaptable panels expand and lock in place and an adjustable chin strap drops down from the crown of the helmet. Weighing just 450g and certified to the Ministry of Health and Labour and Welfare protection cap standard, the hard hat is available in a range of colours including white, grey, orange and yellow.



The Bloom hard hat comes in a range of colours

Oerlikon transmission for hybrid vehicles

Oerlikon Graziano, a division of Swiss drive, gearing and transmission specialist Oerlikon Drive Systems, has announced details of a new hybrid six-speed Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) - OGeco.

Designed to provide torque infill from an electric motor during gear changes, the company claims the new transmission is more cost effective, lighter and efficient than Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT) alternatives and provides seamless shift benefits. OGeco supports different drivetrain layouts to provide a range extender drive for plug-in hybrid vehicles, torque infill, electric boost and KERS performance benefits. Regeneration is also possible.

Oerlikon Graziano head of automotive design Roberto Gay, said: "The hybrid unit is designed for high performance vehicles with transaxle transmission configuration, suitable for front- and rear-wheel drive applications. This technology is able to provide an innovative breakthrough as manufacturers seek reduced fuel consumption and improved Co2 emissions."

The OGeco has been designed to provide torque infill from an electric motor during gear changes



Measuring 10cmx10cmx1cm the pocket sized pouch offers a discreet and hygienic means to urinate

The pocket sized toilet

Portable urinating device company Shewee has developed Peebol, a new pocket sized pouch that allows men, women to urinate anytime and anywhere. Although one of the more peculiar innovations we have ever featured, Peebol might be ideal for tower crane operators who spend extended periods of time in the cab and who do not have easy access to a more conventional method.

Available for purchase in packs of eight, the Peebol pouches are said to be easy to use, discreet and hygienic. Once unrolled, absorbent granules inside the pouch convert fluid into biodegradable spill-proof gel, allowing the odour free pouches to be sealed and reused until it reaches its one litre capacity. Once full the pouches can be easily and environmentally disposed of in a bin.

360° work platform

US masonry specialist Lombardi & Son Masonry is working with Diversified Product Development to commercialise an aerial work platform which the company claims will be the first to provide easy 360 degree access around a vertical structure. Conceived by company owner Don Lombardi, the Lombardi Lift was originally designed to provide a more efficient way for masons to work around four sides of a chimney.



Once positioned against a vertical structure the platform's hydraulic sides can be adjusted

The platform mounts to a regular boom – either a boom lift, telehandler or crane – and features an open front and two hydraulically 460mm side platforms that can be adjusted hydraulically. Once the sides are adjusted a folding platform and guardrails close the open side, completely encircling the structure. The product can then be used to provide 360 degree access around vertical structures such as chimneys, steel columns, power poles, or trees.

It can also be used as a conventional platform or configured into an 'L' shape allowing it to be used on building corners. The unit can be fully self-contained with its own power and hydraulic system, or powered hydraulically by the machine supplying the boom, depending on the user's preference or application.



The device's folding platform and guardrails can then be closed completely encircling the structure

The company said the Lombardi Lift can be used in place of staging, scaffolding and climbing, and allows users to work around a structure without the need to reposition the platform. In addition, when the platform is configured completely around a structure they will not have to work through or over an internal guardrail, making the work area more accessible.

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