

## JERRY GIBBS'S TACKLE SHOP

### RUBBERIZE YOUR FAVORITE GEAR

Elastack is an amazing synthetic rubber that's available as tape and as a molding compound. It's ultra-soft, which helps it cling to most hard surfaces, and highly stretchable. I rewrapped the spliced electrical plug connection on my boat's electric motor and the wiring on my boat trailer with this material.

Then I sealed the wood handle of a favorite knife. For all of these jobs I made sure to use the marine-grade tape with UV protection that comes with the product.

The molding compound (called "Ice Cubes") comes in 3/4-pound packs and can be melted over low heat, then shaped. You can even add colors (the company recommends melted crayons). Thus far I've created streamer fly heads with them. (\$4.99 to \$12 for various products; 410-287-7900; [www.elastack.com](http://www.elastack.com))

Elastack is a stretchy rubber that comes in meltable cubes (below) and as a wrap. It can give gear a better grip.



## NEW & NOTEWORTHY



### ALL THE ANGLES

Pentax says its AC600 and AC800 laser range finders (its 600- and 800-yard models) provide the correct distance on flat ground and steep slopes. Line-of-sight range finders may give false readings in vertical terrain and thereby cause a hunter to overshoot a target, but the AC range finders give the proper distance every time. The unit also filters

the data to allow accurate readings in rain or snow—no "rain mode" necessary. (\$447 for the AC600 and \$473 for AC800; 800-877-0155; [www.pentaxusa.com](http://www.pentaxusa.com))

### AN INFLATABLE TENT

Tent poles are now outdated. Air-Zone Recreation Inc.'s new tents use pneumatic tent poles. The Ptarmigan (its camo version) can be inflated with a CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge in about eight seconds, or with a bicycle

pump in just over a minute. (877-767-9663; [www.airzonerecreation.com](http://www.airzonerecreation.com))



### PORTABLE POWER

If batteries make you nervous, perhaps you'll be interested in Brunton's SolarPort 2.2 (a portable power unit that generates 2.2 watts of sun power). We set the unit out on a partly cloudy day with a GPS loaded with dead batteries plugged into its recharging port. About six hours later, the GPS's screen lit up as it started to talk to satellites. (\$95; 800-443-4871; [www.brunton.com](http://www.brunton.com))

### FASTER THAN A SPEEDING .22-250

Short and fat is in. Winchester Ammunition, in cooperation with Browning and U.S. Repeating Arms, is introducing two new magnum cartridges: the .223 Winchester Super Short Magnum (WSSM) and the .243 WSSM. These two cartridges extend Winchester's short magnum line—previously the company introduced the .300 WSM, .270 WSM and 7mm WSM. The .223 and .243 WSSM cartridges are each a compressed 2.36 inches long. The .223 WSSM should be available this spring in 55-grain Supreme BST, 55-grain Super-X Pointed Soft Point and 64-grain Super-X Power Point. The .243 WSSM will be available in 55-grain Supreme BST, 95-grain Supreme BST and 100-grain Super-X Power Point.

The Winchester Super Short Magnum Model 70 and Browning A-Bolt rifles will be available along with the ammunition in March or April. The Model 70 will have a barrel length of 22 inches (the Coyote model will have a 24-inch barrel) and will weigh six pounds. The A-Bolt will have a barrel length of 21 inches (a Varmint model will have a 24-inch barrel) and will weigh six pounds. (801-876-2711; [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com))

