

Special Report: **FIXING DEADLY U.S. COAL MINES**

10 WILD BACKYARD INVENTIONS

Popular Mechanics

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RADICAL VEHICLES

INSIDE THE RACE TO BUILD THE 100-MPG CAR

FROM LEFT: FVT RACING eVARO, LI-ION MOTORS EVI WAVE II, EDISON2 VERY LIGHT CAR



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Sniper Sniper

→ Two years ago, two snipers from the Army Marksmanship Unit approached Leatherman with an idea: Combine a standard pliers and knife with specialized tools for maintaining M-16 and AR-15 rifles. The company responded with the **Leatherman MUT Military Utility Tool (\$170)**, which contains a bolt-override tool to clear jams, a bronze scraper to remove carbon deposits and a 1/8-inch steel punch for disassembly. The tool has already been tested by Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CLEAR JAMS, DISASSEMBLE M-16S, STAB INSURGENTS—THE MUT IS A GO-TO TOOL FOR WEAPON MAINTENANCE IN THE FIELD.



A Free-er Phone

IT'S difficult to call the modern mobile phone world a free market. After all, just about any phone worth its salt is tied to a particular carrier for months—or even years (iPhone, we're looking at you)—after its launch, forcing many would-be buyers to either forgo a purchase or suffer a hefty fee for ditching their mobile contract early. The **Samsung Galaxy S (price not set)** line of phones is an exception—over the course of the summer, the Android-powered handset is being released on all four major mobile carriers, with only subtle variations between the models.

Plunge Taker

→ The fact that it can make a plunge cut—that is, a cut beginning in the middle of a workpiece, used when routing a groove or carving a mortise—signals that the **Dremel Trio (\$100)** goes beyond the typical lightweight hobbyist's rotary tool. Using proprietary 3/8-inch shank bits, the 12-volt lithium-ion tool cuts laminate flooring or galvanized

ductwork, sands molding edges and routs holes in drywall for electrical boxes. The bit spins at up to 20,000 rpm; the head articulates in a 90-degree elbow pivot, and, on a dusty day in our test labs, we successfully Trio-ed every material listed above.

