

HOME ELECTRONICS

Nifty new product makes it easy to plug in



BARRY JENSEN

A nifty new product made in Canada is becoming available in this area. It allows you to have more electrical outlets without hiring an electrician or knocking holes in your walls.

Easy Trac is based on two wires covered by a hard plastic strip that plugs into a single outlet. You can put outlets as far from the original outlet as you wish.

Think of Easy Trac as a heavy, grounded extension cord that mounts to a wall. It consists of a plug that goes into a wall electrical receptacle and a hard-plastic strip that attaches to a wall.

The system is rated at 20 amps and 125 volts ac, the same as most modern home electrical circuits. It is approved both by the U.S.-based Underwriters Laboratories and the Canadian Standards Association.

The track consists of a ground wire in the middle with the "hot" wires at the upper and lower edges of the track. The wires are almost completely covered by the basic track. The smooth plastic cov-

er is more for looks than for protection, but a cover does make it nearly impossible to touch one of the "hot" wires.

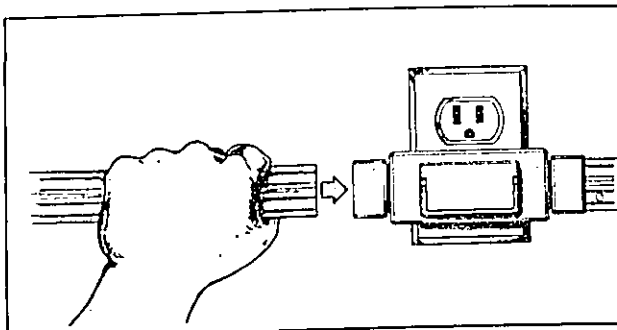
Easy Trac is no substitute for additional circuits. If you need more circuits, they must be brought into your electric panel (the box that contains your circuit breakers or fuses). Easy Trac is for the person who has a circuit or two with almost nothing on it and wants more outlets on those circuits.

The system is not designed to handle an electric clothes dryer. It is best for lightly loaded lines: a dot-matrix printer and a 100-watt lamp don't draw much current. Avoid such current-hungry appliances as large color TVs, microwave ovens, resistance heaters and refrigerators.

To use Easy Trac, plug a master plug into an existing outlet. Then extend the hard plastic track as far as you want. Cut the track (with a hack saw) wherever you want an electrical outlet. Finish the electrical work with end pieces.

You can buy smooth pieces of plastic to cover the main track pieces. The cover can be cut with a heavy knife. You don't have to cover the tracks, but they look nicer, and the covers can be painted.

All kinds of track pieces are avail-



Uncomplicated: New Easy-Trac system is no trouble to assemble and makes it easy to make the most use out of your electrical circuits.

able: end caps, outside corners, inside corners, elbow connectors, and, of course, outlets. Cost depends on how many pieces you need. You can even buy a surge suppressor that fits into the track.

The Easy Trac system is available at hardware stores such as ACRO Hard-

ware, Ace Hardware, Builder's Square and some independent hardware stores.

Barry Jensen welcomes your comments and suggestions for topics for future columns. His telephone number is 313-953-2125. This number has voice mail attached, so you can call at any time.

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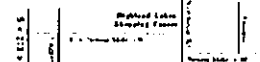
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