

dwell

AT HOME IN THE MODERN WORLD

Buy American
The 61 Products We
Can't Get Enough Of

**Loft Living, Modern
Renovations & More**

Dwell, October 2011

Viking Designer Series Range

Made in Greenwood, Mississippi

Viking keeps its manufacturing lean by only building what's already been sold, and the manufacturing process is equally refined. From start to finish, the average Designer Series range takes about six hours to complete in Viking's Mississippi factories. vikingrange.com



Lehman's Leather Fly Swatter

Made in Amish country, Ohio

Imagine a fly swatter from the 19th century, and you'll likely picture this Amish-made bug smasher from the Ohio-based "old-fashioned, non-electric merchandise" emporium Lehman's. The handsome head is made from one-eighth-inch-thick, hand-sewn cowhide, and you can rest assured no machine helped form the 15-inch wire handle. lehmans.com



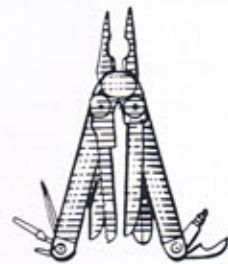
Richard Schultz Swell Seating Collection

Made in Palm, Pennsylvania

Not only made in America, the Swell Seating Collection and its pieces are nearly all made in Pennsylvania. The specialized sewing necessary to produce the slings that make up the seats is done at Schultz HQ in Palm, Pennsylvania, in a converted glove factory. Even the vendor who makes the cardboard boxes for shipping this outdoor furniture is just down the road. richardschultz.com



Industrial Three-Gallon Cooler
by Igloo
Katy, Texas
igloocoolers.com



Charge AL
by Leatherman
Portland, Oregon
leatherman.com



X700 Tractor
by John Deere
Horicon, Wisconsin
deere.com



Shed
by Modern-Shed
Sedro Woolley, Washington
modern-shed.com

Made in the USA

It's not often that you'll find Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan on the same side of an issue, but ask either one and he'll tell you he's all for buying American. But to buy American we have to make American. Though we're not the manufacturing powerhouse we were at mid-century, there's still plenty of good design rolling off our assembly lines and out of our workshops.

First the bad news: According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, American manufacturing hit its postwar peak in 1951, when it accounted for 27.9 percent of the gross domestic product. By 2010 that percentage was down to just 11.7 percent—a small tick above the 2009 nadir of 11.2 percent—and the production of furniture and related products as a percentage of GDP accounted for just half of what it did in 1977. As a percentage of GDP, similar declines have hit the manufacturing of textiles, electronics, and appliances with loads of middle class jobs disappearing, too. They wouldn't call it the Rust Belt if all its cogs were turning.

Competition from low-wage countries, manipulated foreign currencies, and a penchant for off-shoring production has put the American factory in dire straits. Yet, when we searched for the best of American-made design, we were pleasantly surprised at the breadth of goods still made on our shores.

A flashlight made in California, a fly swatter in Ohio Amish country, nail clippers in Idaho, eco-savvy furniture in Philly, and stoves in small-town Mississippi are just a few of the designs that roundly refute the notion that America doesn't make anything anymore. Even more impressive is the constellation of major cities and townships that host the still-chugging American industrial machine.

Granted, some everyday objects (we're looking at you, MacBook) will likely never be made domestically. The odds of ever talking, texting, or using anything on an American-made mobile phone are slim. But our sourcing guide not only to the designers (sung

Lehman's!