



The power of invention

By LYNN PHILLIPS

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SHELBY — Inventor Lynn Fetzer Westmeister has put her ingenuity to work both at home and in the workplace.

The 29 year old Westmeister has not only invented the Power Shelf but she and her husband Shawn put it to use in nearly every room in their Shelby home including the garage. It is also in use at the family owned and operated Fetzer Manufacturing Company (FMC) in Plymouth.

The power shelf comes in a range of sizes and its unique design has changed how people view the traditional outlet cover according to its designer.

At home, Westmeister said one of her favorite power shelf designs graces an outlet near the front entrance and holds a candle warmer. "We have smaller ones in all of the bathrooms as well," she said. In the master bath the original size power self holds Shawn's electric razor. A larger power shelf in the kitchen holds a driveway alarm.

A mega shelf is mounted next to Shawn's favorite recliner in the livingroom keeping within easy reach both his laptop computer and cell phone. "We have the mega shelves on both sides of the bed in the master bedroom," she said. "For every room with an outlet there is a use for a shelf," she said with a grin



Lynn and Shawn Fetzer Westmeister display the Power Shelf she invented. The outlet cover shelf is for use throughout the home and garage. It is being manufactured in Plymouth.

adding, "I am working on a new design for the garage," a larger shelf called the drill pack."

Both a combo and a mega unit are put to use in the couples garage holding tools and a radio.

Westmeister said there are new styles constantly being created of the patent pending shelf. "The possibilities are just endless," she said.

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The couple are currently negotiating with a number of local and national retailers to market their invention.

The power shelf is made

100 percent in Plymouth according to Westmeister. "They are made at the family owned and operated FMC. The company has been in operation for more than 25 years.

The shelf is manufactured using recycled domestic steel and the most durable powder coating finishes.

Westmeister said there are multiple patents pending on the product. Packaging for the product is also made locally from recycled cardboard by Shelby Carton. "The great thing about the packaging," said Westmeister, "is that it can be recycled yet again."

Currently the power shelf

can be purchased on line at buypowershell.com.

Demand for the product continues to grow and with it Westmeister is optimistic there will be employment opportunities. "There could be jobs added in the areas of powder coating, stamping, forming, machining and welding."