What You Need to Build a Patio
No one said it would be easy, but here are the tools that make it possible. Related Article » UPDATED July 9, 2014

- Two-by-fours ($4 for a 10-foot length) ensure a solid layout and perfect slope.
- The True Temper Trencher Control 6-cubic-foot poly wheelbarrow lightens a load ($70).
- From top: Line level (Johnson, $4) and tape measure ($7 for 25-foot length).
- From left: Mason's line (Wellington Cordage, $3), plumb bob (Johnson, $3.50), and paver edging spikes (EdgeEase, $75).
- From left: Chalk reel (DrWalt, $9), rubber mallet (Mayhew, $12), and chisel (Mayhew, 3 by 7 inches, $9).
- Limit the post-patio recovery time with work gloves (Pirim Grip, $2), top, and safety goggles ($4, $13).

Ergonomic tools are crucially important for any patio job. The Hori shovel suits men and women ($65).

From top: Long level (Empire, 46-inch, $10) and one-inch PVC pipe ($7 for 10 feet).

Snap Edge saver restraints ($9 to $10 for an 8-foot length).

Push broom for swiping sand over pavers and cleaning up at the end of the job (Quickie, $20).

Nicolock concrete pavers look like stone but cost less (Old Cathedral paving slabs, around $9 a square foot; keystone-shaped wall caps, around $10 a linear foot).