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Corp. A-Systems is designed for construction companies of all sizes, and comes in three versions to suit even the smallest construction company. A strong Job Cost module makes this an excellent product for construction companies small and large. Ben Rudick & Son, Inc., dba National Fire Repair, Inc., specializes in residential and commercial building damage repairs usually paid for by insurance, including fire, water, storm and other types of damage. The business was started in 1913, is based in Youngstown, Ohio, and currently has between 30 and 40 employees.

Jerald D. Rudick, the company's president, says he's happy with several aspects of JobView, including support, automatic updates and a clean and consistent user experience.

"The program is put together in such a fashion that it is easy and logical to use," he says, "and we can get almost any report we want from the system." Rudick also appreciates the ability to export and import data for use in Excel or Access. When it comes to financial reports, Rudick notes that he's able to print weekly financial reports that include work in process adjustments. He also adds, "We are able to close out the month in a matter of hours, close out our fiscal year two to three days after the year end, and close out the calendar year and get W-2s out in just a few days."

LEARNING CURVE — 5 Stars

Installation of A-Systems was quick and problem free. You have the option to install training data onto your hard drive or just start training directly from the CD. There is also an option to print "getting started" instructions.

Installing the sample company allows you to enter data prior to going live.

When ready to setup your own company, you can opt to use the New Company Setup Wizard. For those new to both A-Systems and accounting, Bean Counting 101 is worth taking a look at, as well. The main screen of A-Systems features a drop-down

menu at the top of the screen with function icons below. To the left is a vertical

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of several trend reports, the capability to now forecast profits and cash flow up to 36 months, and the ability to convert reports to *.PDF format and e-mail them to recipients. There were also various enhancements made to system reports. A-Systems is available in three different sizes: The Small Builder Advantage Edition, The Standard Edition and the Preferred Edition, which is reviewed here. The Preferred Edition comes bundled with GL, AP, AR, Job Costing, Payroll, Subcontract Management, Sales Quote/Order Entry, Fixed Asset Management, a Report Generator, and Contact Management. Optional modules include Inventory, Purchase Orders, Equipment Costing, DataView Customer Report Writer, Electronic Import and Export functionality, and a PDA Interface for off-site communication.

The Job Cost module allows up to 10 alphanumeric characters for job and cost codes. A code type is given after each number to further identify the job type. You can also add a Group Code to the end of each cost code. Job phase codes can also be up to 10 characters long and can be customized to fit your company needs. When adding or changing a new job, you can track job budgets, insert any change orders, enter the job site information (including beginning and end dates) along with estimated completion dates. Payroll certification reports can be run when required, and you can list the architect and financing contact information. Billing phase information can be entered and method and rates assigned.

Also available is an area for entering user-defined information. The AR module can easily generate AIA billings and draw requests. And the Job Viewer lets you view a variety of reports vital to your company, without formatting or printing a report.

IMPORT/EXPORT/INTEGRATION — 4.5 Stars

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answers many of your questions, as does the FAQs page found on A-Systems' web site. Toll-free support is available during regular business hours, and those who purchase a technical support agreement have unlimited access to the support hotline and will receive software updates.

REPORTING — 4.5 Stars

Various standard reports are found throughout each of the modules. The DataView custom report writer allows the creation of custom reports, along with modification of existing reports. You can also create custom forms using DataView. Reports can be exported to spreadsheet programs, and you can e-mail reports directly to recipients.

RELATIVE VALUE — 5 Stars

A-Systems JobView is an excellent program for small to midsize companies that are looking to expand in the future. A five-user system will cost \$7,495. An excellent reporting module and an easy-to-navigate user interface make this a program that even new users can feel comfortable with very quickly.

2006 Overall Rating — 5 Stars

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