

Pillow Cradles Sleeping Toddlers

Have you ever cringed while watching your little guy or gal sleeping in a car seat, neck twisted at what looks like a painful angle?

If so, you'll like the ToddlerCoddler invented by Susan Dunk.

Designed for children ages 12 months and older, the pillow consists of two 16-in. long, 6-in. wide "wings" connected by a tether that attaches to the seat's headrest, not the child's car seat.

"It doesn't inhibit the car seat's function," she says.

The wings on the pillow, one fitted to each side of the child, hold the upper body in place as the child falls asleep.

ToddlerCoddler is not attached to the bottom so the child can mold it into the most comfortable position.

ToddlerCoddler is machine washable and dryer safe. It's filled with hypoallergenic polyester stuffing.

Adults can use ToddlerCoddler as well to stay upright when snoozing in a car.

ToddlerCoddler's popularity astounds Dunk, a mother of two, who came up with the idea on a fluke and needed to take sewing classes to learn how to create the design she's now patenting. "I had zero intention of turning this into a business," she says. Now, along with her husband and kids, it's her full-time job.

They sell for \$29.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Susan Dunk, 115 Copper Court, Potomac Falls, Va. 20165 (ph 877-CODDLER; email: susand@toddlercoddler.com; website: www.toddlercoddler.com).



Conventional car seats for toddlers often force necks into what looks like a painful angle (above). Inventor of Toddler Coddler says she solved the problem (below).



Downspout was made by screwing together three sections of 4-in. sq. PVC tubing. Each section has a 45 degree elbow in it. Holes were drilled into tubing, allowing water to seep out and lose its force.

"Slow Release" Downspouts

"It slows water down to keep the soil around my house from washing away," says Lloyd Troendle, about the homemade downspouts he made.

The New Prague, Minn., man recently stopped in at FARM SHOW to show us photos of his idea. He came up with the design after he built a new house on a hillside and tried to seed the yard surrounding the house.

"Soon after I seeded the lawn, we had a couple of rains, and the force of the water coming out of the horizontal downspouts washed away much of the soil below. As a result, most of the grass seed ended up at the bottom of the hill. I had beautiful grass down at the bottom of the slope, but bare ground on top," says Troendle. "Putting in sod on such a big area would have been too expensive. So instead I decided to replace the horizontal downspouts with my own design."

He built his 3-ft. long spouts by screwing together three sections of 4-in. sq. PVC tubing. Each section has a 45 degree elbow in it. A series of 3/8-in. dia. holes - six in all - were drilled into the front section of tubing: two on front, two at the bottom, and one on each side. The entire spout rests on a patio block "splash plate."

"The water loses a lot of its force as it exits through the holes, and the elbows cause it to bubble upward out the end of the spout instead of racing out in a straight line," says Troendle. "There are enough holes that the water bubbles out the end of the spout only during heavy rains."

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Pickup-Mounted Hoop Provides Basketball To Go

When Jason Parr's employer wouldn't let him put up a basketball hoop for games at breaks, the West Bloomfield, Mich. man went mobile.

"I was going to just buy a portable hoop and put it in the back of my pickup but that wouldn't work," explains Parr, who notes that many neighborhood parks aren't putting up hoops anymore because they're afraid of kids hanging around.

With the help of an engineer uncle, Jason developed, patented and is now marketing a pickup-mounted hoop. He and his uncle have also developed a trailer-mounted prototype.

Pickup Hoops sets up and folds down in 24 seconds and features a standard basketball backboard and breakaway rim. It is adjustable from 6 to 10 ft. to accommodate children or adult players.

Parr is currently looking for a corporate sponsor to take over production and marketing. In the meantime, he continues custom production, having sold two units to sportswear giant Nike for \$1,000 each. He is also renting units for \$75 per hour for picnics and parties.

"Once we get into commercial production, I expect they will sell for between \$600 and \$1,000, depending on accessories," says Parr.

Parr recently completed a six-mile parade with wheelchair-bound players, shooting hoops down the entire parade route. Since then, he reports getting invites to lots of other parades and corporate events.

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Pickup-mounted hoop folds down for transport. It's adjustable from 6 to 10 ft. high.

Lawn Furniture Repair

Got an old lawn chair that's falling apart? You might want to call Debbie & Steve Martz of Dallas, Texas, who turned a furniture repair hobby into a full-time thriving business.

Other companies repair lawn furniture, but the Martz's also provide extensive "do-it-yourself" information for working on quality "heirloom"-type lawn and deck furniture.

"When you're talking about high-end furniture, it's more economical than buying new," Debbie says. They sell vinyl straps, fabric slings, and a variety of other parts.

You can order just a few straps to make minor repairs or refinish entire chairs, she says.

Although they offer 50 different colors of vinyl, they can't match everything. The straps are made of commercial grade, 100 percent vinyl with no fillers so they're thicker than many straps produced overseas.

One 200-ft. role of vinyl, which is enough to rework four chairs or two chaises, costs \$70 plus shipping.

Debbie says repairing sling furniture is also very popular. With a few simple measurements, they can create replacements with fabric of the customer's choice.

"The problem with sling furniture is that we see so many different variations that it's hard to give them specific installation instructions because each manufacturer makes their chairs a little different," she says.

"It makes me feel good because people can repair their furniture, get more use out of it and not be filling up the landfills," says Martz, noting that they also do custom powder coating of frames. For them to sand blast and powder coat a chair frame, it's about \$85 per chair. They'll also restrap a chair for \$3 a strap.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ChairCarePatio.Com, 8804 Sovereign Row, Dallas, Texas 75247 (ph 214 638-6416; email: sdmartz@flash.net; fax 214 638-6756; website: www.ChairCarePatio.com).



Debbie and Steve Martz provide extensive "do-it-yourself" information for working on lawn and deck furniture.



They sell vinyl straps, fabric slings, and a variety of other parts.



You can order just a few straps or get material in bulk for big repairs.

Reader Recipes

(Continued from page 30)

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1 cup whipping cream

Cook sugar, corn syrup, and whipping cream to soft ball stage. Pour over first three ingredients. Mix well and press into buttered 9 by 13 pan. Cool and cut into squares.

Chocolate Popcorn Pie

2 quarts popcorn
Light glaze recipe (see below)

One 6-oz. package of chocolate pie filling
Whipped cream

Drizzle glaze over popcorn and stir until uniformly coated. Press into 9-in. pie plate, building edges higher than pie plate edge and allow to cool. Prepare pie filling according to package directions. Spoon into popcorn pie shell. Garnish with whipped cream.

Jones Popcorn

Popcorn Glaze

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup butter

Cook to 260° (hard ball stage). Pour over popcorn and mix thoroughly.

Dandelion Syrup

- 6 cups freshly-picked dandelion flowers
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 qt. cold water
- 2 lbs. sugar

Bring dandelion flowers to a boil in water for about 30 seconds, then let cool several hours. Strain excess water. Discard blooms and save liquid. Mix this with lemon and sugar and simmer on low until most of the water has evaporated. Do not boil. Let mixture cool, then simmer again until thick in consistency.

Apple Pie In A Glass

- 1 cup low fat milk
- One 4-oz. container Mott's Apple Sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar

Shake all ingredients in a container with tight-fitting lid or stir in glass until well-blended.