Kit Turns Wood Splitter Into Multiple Can Compactor

Crushing aluminum cans is quick and easy for Joe Parnell of Rocky Point, North Carolina, who made a can compacting attachment for his wood splitter that makes the job easy.

What makes his crusher unique is that it has a hopper that crushes a bunch of cans at once, rather than one at a time.

"Aluminum prices fluctuate, but if you keep checking the internet, and then sell when prices are high, there's money to be made. I've sold cans for as high as 50 cents per pound," says Parnell.

"It lets you make better use of the investment you have in your wood splitter, which would otherwise sit unused for a good part of the year.

"When I have 25 to 30 cans stored up, I batch feed them into the hopper above the compaction chamber," he explains. "Once they're compacted, I shut it off and wait until the next time I have that many cans. The compaction chamber will hold 250 cans before it's full and the ram won't be able to move. The compressed cans come out in a nice, uniform stack that's 12-in. tall by 12-in. diameter."

Parnell knew that the recycling depot would not take his stacks if they were compressed so tightly that they were molecularly bonded. They needed to come apart so staff could check for foreign material. So he puts the stacks into nylon net backs, where they break apart but still take up very little room.

Parnell, who's a mechanical designer by trade, builds and sells the wood splitter conversion kits and has also built a prototype of a more home-friendly electric, self-contained unit for people who may not own a wood splitter.

"I made back my investment within the first year on each unit by spending only a few minutes per week. My neighbors now drop off their cans at my house," he says.

Parnell sells the wood splitter conversion kits for between $700 and $1,200 (plus shipping), depending on which wood splitter model they fit.

A complete electric compactor unit will be available by February or March at a price of $2,500, plus shipping.

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Log splitter attachment has a hopper that allows it to crush a bunch of cans at once, rather than one at a time like most crushers.

After watching barbeque competitions on TV, Joe Rosenberg decided to build his own barbeque cooker out of 30-in. dia. gas pipe.

Big Barbeque Roaster Made Out Of Gas Pipe

Old gas pipe can be used to make low-cost barbeque cookers, says Joe Rosenberg, St. Ansgar, Iowa, who converted a big piece of 1/2-in. thick gas pipe into a giant roaster that rides on a tandem axle trailer.

The 30-in. dia. roaster measures 9 ft. long and has a separate firebox at one end.

"I like to eat good food, which is why I decided to build my own roaster," says Rosenberg. "I don't go to restaurants as often as I did before because I can do a better job at home."

Rosenberg says he got interested in building his own cooker after watching barbeque competitions on TV. "I already had a small barbeque but I decided I needed something bigger. So when I made a business trip down South, I took photos of several commercial cookers that I happened to see. I engineered my own ideas as I went along."

He first built a brush fire inside the pipe to burn off any remaining tar residue. Then he used a cutting torch to cut out holes for a fire door, two hinged food rack lids, and a pair of 8-in. dia. smoke stacks with dampers on top of them. He had Wold Rim and Wheel Service in St. Ansgar, Iowa, square off the ends of the pipe.

Cooking is done on four removable grills. Three cylinder-shaped metal counterweights are used to help raise the lids and hold them in place. A drawer at the bottom of the firebox is used to collect ashes and can be pulled out for easy cleaning.

"It really works well and was cheap to build," says Rosenberg. "I paid $300 for the pipe. My total cost was only about $1,800. I've been offered $8,000 for it but I won't sell it.

"I entered two competitions with it last summer and plan to do some cooking for special events this year. At one competiton I cooked two beef briskets, two pork shoulders, ten racks ribs, two turkeys, 15 lbs. of chicken, and a couple of pork loins at one time and still had room left over."

The smoke stacks on his cooker come out the ends of the cooker. That way the smoke and heat have to swirl around inside before exiting, as opposed to the smoke stacks being on top and the smoke and heat going straight out the top.

"I can adjust air inlets on the roaster and also adjust the damper to control the temperature of the roasting chamber. There are six temperature gauges on the roaster," says Rosenberg.

Since the doors are made from 1/2-in. thick steel they're quite heavy. The counterweights make the doors much easier to open," says Rosenberg. "They also hold the doors open so they don't accidentally fall down on someone's head."

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Driver approaches spring-loaded post with shock cord and "diverter bracket" attached to it. Diverter bracket keeps post and shock cord from catching on ATV.

Drive-Over "Pivot Post" Gate For ATV's

"Our new patented post and gate system lets 4-wheel ATVs drive right over an electric fence gate without ever having to get off the machine. It makes checking livestock a lot easier because you never have to open and close gates," says Adam Gates about his company's new Pivotal Post ATV gate kit.

The kit consists of an electrified shock cord with a gate handle on one end and an insulator on the other end that screws onto the fence post. It also includes a fiberglass post attached to a spring-loaded cast aluminum base that's anchored to the ground by a short length of steel post. The shock cord attaches to the fiberglass post with an I-bolt. A "diverter bracket" bolts onto the post to keep the post and shock cord from catching on the ATV while driving over the gate.

The shock cord stretches as the gate is being driven over and, once the 4-wheeler has crossed the gate, the spring-loaded post simply stands back up and the shock cord retracts back into position. You can attach as many shock cord assemblies as you want.

"You can drive across the ATV gate in either direction and never worry about breaking wires," says Gates. "Most farmers use two shock cords to make sure smaller livestock won't get through."

The ATV Gate fits openings from 20 to 37 1/2 ft. wide and can be used either as a permanent or temporary gate. "When used in existing gate openings, the original steel or barbed wire gate can be swung around and left in the fence line until needed for future use, while the ATV Gate is used in its place," says Gates. "If you want to install the gate in larger fence openings, you can leave room on either side of the spring-loaded post to allow the passing of a pickup or larger vehicle such as tractors or trucks," he notes.

Shock cord stretches as gate is being driven over and, once 4-wheeler has crossed gate, spring-loaded post simply stands back up and shock cord retracts back into position.

The kit includes one shock cord, spring-loaded post, the diverter bracket that bolts to the post, insulators, and gate handle for the shock cord. Sells for $105.13. Additional shock cord assemblies sell for $21.25 each and can also be used separately for other electric gate applications.

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