

## Compact Well Drill Rig Goes Anywhere

The Aqua Bore well drilling rig has all the features of a full-size rig, but is small enough to take off road. The compact rig can be carried in a pickup bed or towed by a pickup or small tractor. Gray Webber got the idea for the Aqua Bore when he and a group of friends all needed wells drilled at remote camps or cottages.

"We needed a smaller rig and one that was less expensive to drill with," says Webber of Webber Construction and Fabrication. "When it's just a campsite, you don't want to spend \$8,000 per well."

Webber began looking at small drill rigs, but couldn't find one with the major design components of a full-size rig. He decided to build his own. He spent about 6 months working on 4 different designs before settling on a final prototype.

The Aqua Bore is priced at \$19,239 with a narrow-track, single-axle transport kit and 96 ft. of drill pipe. It features a 27-hp, gas-powered, 23-gpm hydraulic pump with a 750 ft./lb. torque power head and a 6,000-lb. hoist.

It has a super duty, full flow spindle with a 20,000-lb. bearing pack, which is 2 to 3 times what competitors offer and is more durable. The 21 hp, true oil field-style mud pump is built to handle larger diameter and deeper wells than others in its price range.

"It can do anything a full-size rig can do and has almost the same capacities," says Webber. "I can drill to 300 ft. and make a 3 to 8-in. bore hole. Most competitors in this price range might go 200 to 300 ft., but leave no more than a 4-in. bore hole."

For ease of operation and safety, Webber located all controls on a single panel. Even the tool-less breakout system is at the driller's control station.

"It's an ideal compact rig for commercial well drillers needing a unit for remote sites," suggests Webber. "It's also suitable for vertical bore, geothermal installations. Safety and simplicity make it well-suited for a starter well business or for groups of private owners needing wells drilled."

Webber suggests prospective customers who are considering drilling their own wells should contact their state health department and review state regulations. While a license is needed for most commercial well drilling, he says most states allow individuals to drill their own wells.

"I've rented my well drilling rig and trained the renter how to operate it," says Webber. "I've assisted with drilling 8 wells, and each one came out just fine."

Webber has also designed and fabricated a portable "snake pit" – a retrieval and settling pond for water and mud slurry pumped out



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of wells. He designed it after working with settling pits dug by hand and with a backhoe.

"The Snake Pit lets you drill a 100-ft. well with only 200 gal. of water," says Webber. "It's more efficient and easier than the alternatives."

The Snake Pit takes only 15 min. to set up and is priced at \$375. You can see an Aqua

Bore video at FARMSHOW.COM.

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## Propane-Powered Lawn Tractor Runs Better, Cleaner

Robert Bodell's lawn tractor works better and runs cleaner since he converted it from gas to propane. The conversion was easy and cheap and can easily be reversed. However, Bodell sees no reason to do so. Although he initially did it because of a challenge, he quickly found LP power superior.

"I only did it because someone said I couldn't," recalls Bodell. "The engine was running badly and had low compression due to carbon buildup on the piston and around the rings. At the end of the first mowing season on propane, I removed the head, and the carbon was gone and compression had risen."

Bodell mounted a small propane tank on the rear of his 13 hp Signature 2000 Elite garden tractor. He attached a stock 8-oz. regulator with a needle valve and a 5/16-in. hose. After drilling a hole in the lawn tractor's

air cleaner, he inserted the other end of the hose.

"The hose is a nice tight fit on the air cleaner, so I don't have a dust problem," says Bodell. "I have no throttle control, but the engine runs at about 3/4 throttle. I adjust the ground speed by changing gears in the transmission."

Even at 3/4 throttle, the LP-fueled engine outperforms full throttle with gas. "It has plenty of power and has no problem mowing 10 to 12-in. tall grass without bogging down," he says. "I run in a high gear and cut higher grass than on gas."

To get a rough comparison of LP performance, Bodell purchased gas equal to the cost of a tank of propane. With the propane disconnected, he mowed on gas until the tank ran dry.

"I mow about 3 times as much grass with



A small propane tank mounts on back of Bodell's lawn tractor, along with a regulator and hose that leads to the tractor's air cleaner.

propane as with gas," says Bodell.

You can see a video of Bodell's propane-powered mower at FARMSHOW.COM.



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## They Make Seat Cushions For Just About Everything

With 57 years experience, the Speer Cushion Company says it makes "seats for everything you sit on" but tractor and construction equipment seats have always been the Holyoke, Colo., company's main focus.

"I'm proud that people can call us up, and 95 percent of the time we can identify what they've got right away," says Debra Dusenbury-Dorren, third generation co-owner of the business with her father Wallace Dusenbury. "Customers can send us old metal (seat) pans and we will put new foam and a cover on it. Or we have many stock items."

Speers custom-makes cushions as close to the original as they can, using quality foam, vinyl and fabrics. They can also replace the seat construction with steel, wood or plastic.

In the past, many orders came through implement dealers, but thanks to the business's website, more orders are coming from individuals restoring old tractors or customizing motorcycle seats, for example.

From weight equipment pads to boat,

aircraft and truck interiors to outdoor furniture, the Speer Cushion Company is open to any project.

"There have been a lot of customers who said they couldn't find cushions anywhere," Dusenbury-Dorren says. "We try our best to make the cushion look like the original. And we use quality materials to make sure our products last the test of time."

Competition from cheaper overseas outfits has been challenging. But Dusenbury-Dorren says more people recognize the value of buying quality products - that last for years - from a U.S. company.

Products and services are listed on the company's website, and Dusenbury-Dorren welcomes calls from dealers and individuals.

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Before and after photos of a bench seat restored by The Speer Cushion Co. They custom-make seat cushions as close to original as possible using quality materials.



Speer says its main focus has always been replacement seats for tractors and construction equipment.

