

“Water-Powered” Rotary Scrub Brush

Driven by water pressure from any ordinary garden hose, this new rotary scrub brush saves time and does a better job cleaning than stationary brushes. The piston-driven scrubber helps you do the work even when submerged under water.

The T-Scrub requires no electricity or batteries and weighs only 5 lbs. It requires a minimum of 50 psi of water pressure.

“A control valve regulates the amount of water deposited on the brush and there’s a built-in speed control and sprayer for rinsing. It has both inlet and exhaust hoses. Water from the return line can be run out onto the lawn or whatever needs watering,” says Thomas Vrhel Sr., vice president of Vrhel Inc. in Texas.

Vrhel says the oscillating action of the rotary brush is more than just a rotary motion – it’s the same scrubbing motion as a washing machine. Because it generates so much scrubbing power, Vrhel doesn’t recommend it for use on car, tractor or truck paint finishes, but the unit is ideal in hundreds of other applications such as scrubbing horse trailers, farm equipment, vinyl or aluminum siding, windows, walkways, RVs and airplanes. Because the pistons generate so much scrubbing power, the unit works well underwater, making it ideal for swimming pool, boat or hot tub cleaning.

A sponge within the center of the brush minimizes the required soap, and retains it



Rotary scrub brush is driven by water pressure from garden hose to create the oscillating motion of a washing machine.

for an extended period, eliminating the need to soap frequently.

The T-Scrub comes with 25 ft. of paired hose and a 54-in. extension handle.

The T-Scrub sells for \$179.95 plus \$14.25 S&H.

“We’ll soon be releasing a new option as well,” Vrhel says. “It’s a re-circulating pump that will allow water to be re-used on large jobs.”

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“I use it during the summer to haul ground corn out to my calves on pasture,” says Wilburn Lemons, who mounted a 40-bu. hog feeder on top of a pickup steering axle.

Hog Feeder Converted Into Portable Feed Hauler

Wilburn Lemons of Wentzville, Mo., made a low-cost portable feed hauler by mounting an old 40-bu. hog feeder on top of a pickup steering axle.

“I pull it behind my pickup and use it during the summer to haul ground corn out to my calves on pasture,” says Lemons. “A slide door at the bottom dumps feed into a 5-gal. bucket which I then dump into bunks. I use it three or four times a week. I already had the hog feeder and I got the axle for free.”

The bin’s four steel legs bolt onto a steel frame that mounts above the axle.

He uses a modified hammer mill to load the feed hauler. He mounted the hammer mill

on top of a 250-gal. oil drum laid sideways. A tractor is used to pto-drive the hammer mill. An auger powered by an electric motor loads feed into the mill and another auger, also powered by an electric motor, delivers feed out of the oil drum and into the feed hauler. A hinged door on top of the drum can be opened so that Lemons can scoop feed directly out of the drum, if desired. The entire unit rests on a steel sled, allowing it to be moved out of a shed over to nearby corn cribs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wilburn Lemons, 2880 Jackson Road, Wentzville, Mo. 63385 (ph 314 673-2946).

Cut Costs With Phase Converter

If you haven’t checked out 3-phase motors for your electrical power needs, you may be paying more and getting less than you could. Not only are 3-phase motors as much as half the cost of their single phase counterparts, but they are considered more reliable, too, with fewer parts to fail. What’s more, used 3-phase equipment is cheaper due to the limited availability of 3-phase power. The only catch is getting 3-phase power to your farm.

You could pay the \$15,000 to \$30,000 per mile that utilities charge to bring in a 3-phase line but another solution is to buy a converter to produce your own 3-phase power from a single phase line.

Karam Manufacturing, Madelia, Minn., has been making and selling Phase-O-Matic™ 3-phase converters since 1975. They received UL approval in 1992 and will soon be UL approved in Canada. Company owner Tom Jorgensen reports that 25-year-old units are still running with virtually no maintenance since they were first purchased.

“They are practically bullet proof and 96 percent efficient at converting single phase power to 3-phase,” says Jorgensen. “About 90 percent of our business is ag related, powering irrigation rigs, grain dryers, elevator legs and air systems.”

“With single phase power, 15 hp motors are about as big as you can go,” explains Jorgensen. “Some farmers feel they can’t expand because they don’t have 3-phase power, but 3-phase motors cost enough less that you can pay for the converters with the savings. I have one customer who has a 40 hp motor operating his manure handling equipment.”

Much of the cost savings on 3-phase motors comes from their simplicity. A single phase motor requires switches, capacitors, relays and governors, none of which are needed on a 3-phase motor. Another big sav-



Converter allows you to produce your own 3-phase power from a single phase line.

ings comes when used 3-phase equipment comes on the market. Jorgensen tells of one customer who bought a 3-phase 450 amp welder for \$500, while a single phase welder of the same size would have sold for \$4,000.

While other converters are on the market, they aren’t all equal, cautions Jorgensen. He recommends checking for reliability, simplicity of operation and output. While some converters can only be used with a single motor, Karam’s Phase-O-Matic can handle multiple motors as long as no single motor is rated higher than the horsepower rating of the converter and the horsepower needs of all the motors combined doesn’t exceed twice the rating of the converter.

“In a drier setup, you might have two 20 hp motors, a 15 hp wet auger, and another 5-10 hp motor on the side,” explains Jorgensen. “All of those could run off a 40 hp converter.”

Karam converters start out at \$700 for a 3.5 hp converter and top out at \$8,000 for a 100 hp unit. Units are available for either 230 or 460 VAC, 60 Hz power source and are prewired ready for installation.

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In order to cut through 3-in. dia. phone cable, Walter and Philip Miller added a 2-ft. sq. steel shear plate to the bucket of their IH payloader.

Bucket Cable Cutter Solved Big Problem

When Walter and Philip Miller yanked a 5-ft. deep AT&T transcontinental phone cable out of the ground on their farm, their biggest problem in handling the unused 3-in. dia. cable was figuring out how to cut it up.

The men had decided to sell of part of their farm for building lots, but AT&T had an easement across it which was not being used but which contained the old cable. They worked with AT&T to move the easement to another section of the farm but they needed to pull the cable out of the ground.

AT&T would have done the work but at a pretty stiff price. They decided to do it themselves.

Pulling the cable out was not much problem. They dug down 3 ft. or so with a backhoe and then pulled it out with a front-end loader. The biggest problem was disposing of it.

The cable could not be sawed up because

it contains lead. The only method allowed is to shear it.

The men hit on the idea of adding a shear to the bucket on their IH payloader. They bolted a sharpened 3/8-in. thick piece of 2-ft. square steel plate to the side of the bucket. They also sharpened the edge of the bucket so that as the cutting plate scissors back and forth, both sharp edges shear through the cable. They also welded a cross piece of angle iron to the bucket to rest the cable on as it was cut and fed through.

The 4-ft. long cut-up sections were then dropped to the ground as the bucket opened up for the next cut.

“We cut up 1,300 ft. in six hours, saving more than \$2,000 in company charges,” notes Walter.

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