

Milk Jug Makes Handy Berry Picker

If you have berries to pick from bushes - like raspberries or blueberries - you'll like this berry picking idea we spotted recently in a gardening magazine.

Just cut an opening in the side of a gallon-size milk jug, leaving the top and the sides next to the handle intact. Make the openings big enough to comfortably drop in berries.

To use, simply slip your belt through the handle and start picking.

Cut an opening in the side of a 1-gal. milk jug, slip your belt through the handle, and you have a berry picker.



"Jump" Seat's Safe For Young Horseback Riders

Kids are safe and feel a lot more secure on this add-on "jump" seat that straps in place behind any saddle.

The "Tend-Um Rider Pad" is a 5/8-in. thick felt base with nylon straps sewn all the way through. The child sits in a 1-in. foam seat. There's a 4-in. front roll and a 4-in. cantle that both go from side to side, surrounding the child.

Two straps in front fasten to the saddle's main rigging ring. Two straps on back hook to the cinch strap. Stirrups can be adjusted to size.

The Tend-Um is recommended for kids from 2 to 11 years. Under age 3, the company makes a safety vest that lets you attach the child to you.

The Tend-Um Rider Pad sells for \$149 plus S&H. The safety vest sells for \$10.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ro-



Add-on "jump seat" straps in place behind any saddle.

deo Etc., P.O. Box 1923, Fair Oaks, Calif. 95628 (ph/fax 916 962-3936; E-mail: mayleen@rodeoetc.com; Web site: www.rodeoetc.com).

Pea Sheller Makes Fast Work Of Tedious Job

By Janis Schole

Leopold Valcourt built a small-scale homemade pea sheller that can process 1 1/2 gallons of peas at a time and cost him very little to make.

"I had seen a picture of a pea sheller and decided to make my own," Valcourt explains. "Instead of sitting down for hours to shell peas by hand every time, I thought it was well worth a few hours to build a machine that could do the job quickly on an on-going basis."

Valcourt's pea sheller cost him under \$20, since he was able to use scrap plywood and an old washing machine motor. The only parts he had to purchase were a belt, some electric wiring, and a small piece of 1/2-in. galvanized mesh wire.

The pea-shelling drum is enclosed in a six-sided wooden case that stands on four legs and has a hinged door at the back that can be locked closed with a hook and eye. The motor sits on the edge of a shelf on front of the machine. A belt runs from the motor to a pulley located on the side. This pulley turns a wooden axle with four offset plywood paddles centered inside. The pea drum itself consists of a round wooden frame covered with wire mesh. A section of the frame can be removed to load peas or unload empty shells.

While the motor is running and the paddles are turning, the operator slowly turns a handle on the opposite side from the pulley. This rotates the mesh drum, keeping the peas falling against the spinning paddles. As the paddles beat the pods and break them open, the peas drop out and fall to the bottom of the drum, eventually falling through the wire mesh. They then roll down an angled plywood board and fall into a collection box on the ground in front of the machine.



Pulley turns a wooden axle with four offset plywood paddles centered inside.

wood board and fall into a collection box on the ground in front of the machine.

It takes only a few minutes to shell a drum-full of peas and it does a clean job as long as the peas aren't over-ripe.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leopold Valcourt, RR 1, Pickardville, Alberta, Canada, T0G 1W0 (ph 780 349-2349).



Operator slowly turns a handle to rotate drum.

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Lanterns come in different models. They burn for between 11 and 75 hours, depending on size of lantern.

Dietz Lanterns Have Stood The Test of Time

With a 160-year history, Dietz lanterns have survived depressions, wars, fires, and competition from upstart innovations like rural electrification. Through all that time, the company has been under the management of five generations of the Dietz family.

Today, the lantern comes in many different models, all with original Dietz tooling.

The company's history is long and colorful. Robert E. Dietz, grandson of a French-German immigrant, gave up a job in a hardware store at the age of 22 to buy a small lamp and oil business in Brooklyn in 1840. In 1850, he received a highly prestigious contract to light the premiere American performance of P.T. Barnum's Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind. At that time, this was the greatest musical event in the history of New York.

Fabled showboats gliding down the old Mississippi knew the dependability of Dietz lights. And so did hard-bitten New England seamen, gold-hungry miners in California, Civil War soldiers, woodburning locomotives stuttering across the plains, as well as horse-drawn trolleys.

Lamps and burners were the mainstay of the growing Dietz business until 1896, when the company began making automobile kerosene lamps patterned after buggy lanterns.

With the coming of rural electrification, lanterns no longer played such a crucial role in daily life, and third world countries became larger users than the U.S.

In 1956, a subsidiary, R.E. Dietz Company Ltd., was established in Hong Kong and to this day, the plant continues the company's lantern manufacturing traditions.

The lanterns have been sold in more than 80 countries and are carried by many dis-

tributors around the world.

One of the distributors is Yellow Creek Products in Monroe, Indiana. Owned by Marvin Schwartz, who is Amish. The historic lights have been particularly important to the Amish community, due to the simple lifestyle its members lead.

"In recent years, we've been importing a much larger number of these lanterns. Of course, the Amish use them for indoor lighting as well as on buggies, but people in general are also doing more camping and recreation," says Schwartz. "Also, as people are preparing for what might or might not happen with Y2K, demand has increased dramatically. This year our lantern sales have quadrupled."

Schwartz says the heavy construction of the Dietz Lantern, combined with high quality paint and finish, has drawn a loyal following of customers over the years.

The lamps burn kerosene, citronella, lamp oil, or charcoal lighter fluid, and they burn for between 11 hours and 75 hours, depending on the size of the lantern.

Prices range from \$13.95 for the compact and rugged no. 50 Comet, to \$39.95 for the solid brass model no. 20B. At \$22.95, the "Air Pilot" model is one of the largest Dietz Lanterns and has been the most popular one at Yellow Creek, Schwartz says. Some of the lanterns come in a variety of colors. Replacement parts are also available, even for many older lanterns no longer in production.

There's a \$5 flat fee for shipping and handling in the continental U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marvin Schwartz, Yellow Creek Products, 1081 W. 100 S., Monroe, Ind., 46772 (ph 888 775-7493; fax 219 692-6290).