



Boehmler made this 24-ft. long, 4-ft. wide trough by joining together three sections of precast concrete.



Photo shows steel forms set up with rebar and side panels around them, ready for concrete to be poured.

## Big Water Trough Built In Sections From Precast Concrete

Bob Boehmler, Saskatoon, Sask., couldn't find a water trough big enough for his needs at a cost he could justify, so he built his own 24-ft. long tank by designing a set of concrete forms that let him cast the big tank in sections.

"By forming the tank in sections I can build a water trough to any desired length. It's a relatively inexpensive way to build a big trough," says Boehmler.

His water trough was built in three sections that measure 8 ft. long, 4 ft. wide, and 2 1/2 ft. high. A local company made up steel forms. He laid rebar inside the forms and filled them with concrete.

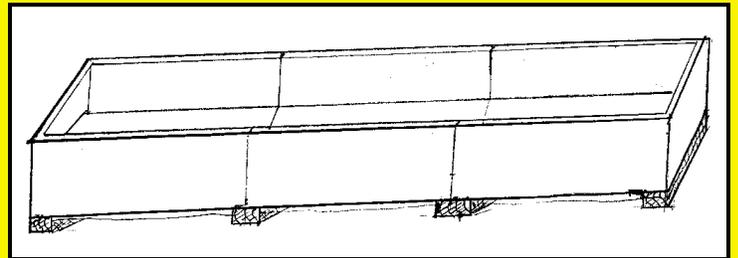
The center section was left open at both ends while the two outside sections are open only at one end.

Once the sections were dry, he set the tank

sections on railroad ties. At each joint he applied a 1/2-in. wide rubber seal in a 1/2-in. notch cut in each end piece.

The trough sidewalls are 2 in. thick at the top but taper to 4 in. wide at the bottom. The floor is 3 1/2 in. thick. The bottom of the trough slopes downward a total of one inch from one end to the other. There's a drain hole at the lower end.

"It offers plenty of capacity for my 50 cows and cost only about \$750 to make," says Boehmler. "It holds about 1,050 gallons. The sections weigh about one ton apiece so the trough is quite heavy. So even when it's empty the cows can't push it around. I use my front-end loader to move the sections. I've made similar troughs for other ranchers in our area. Any number of sections can be put



Concrete trough is supported by partially buried railroad ties.

together. I even put together two 8-ft. long troughs to make a 16-ft. long swimming pool for our grandchildren."

Boehmler says he's willing to help anyone who's interested in purchasing a set of steel

forms.

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## "Lazy Man's" Self-Propelled Fencing Rig

Wayne Rodocker has more than 100 miles of fence to maintain on his ranch near Halsey, Neb. To make the job easier, he built his own self-propelled "fencing rig" using the chassis off an International Harvester 4-WD school bus and the hydrostatic transmission from an IH 915 combine.

The one-of-a-kind rig, which Rodocker calls the International Fencer, can be used to:

- **Dig posts.** A hydraulic-operated lift arm, equipped with an orbit motor, is used to operate either a 6 or 12-in. dia. auger. Rodocker welded a pair of U-joints together on top of the motor and also welded female pto shaft adapters onto each auger so that he can quickly snap them on or off. The U-joints swivel and allow the auger to remain straight up and down even on side hills. The lift arm can be hydraulically raised or lowered and also swings 200 degrees.

- **Supply wire.** A turntable on one side of the machine supports three spools of wire. The bottom two spools are protected from the weather by a circular metal plate, with one spool holding up to 100 lbs. of no. 9 wire and the other up to 100 lbs. of no. 12 wire. The third spool mounts on top of the plate and holds barbless barbed wire. A length of conduit extends from each spool to the side of the machine just in front of the driver. Rodocker pulls wire out from each conduit as needed.

- **Roll up wire.** A pair of wire-winding reels can be snapped onto a shaft that mounts on front of the machine. The lift arm is rotated to the front, and the orbit motor on it is hooked up to a short driveline that rotates the shaft.

- **Store steel T-posts and railroad ties.** Up

to 100 T-posts and five railroad ties can be stored on the sides of the machine. The lift arm is used to lift the ties into place.

- **Pound posts.** At the present time Rodocker pounds posts in by hand. However, he plans to install a lightweight, hand-held hydraulic-operated post pounder that will mount just behind the driver's seat.

- **Dump off old posts.** Old posts can be thrown into a 8 1/2-ft. long, 4-ft. wide hydraulic dump box on back of the machine.

A unique feature is that the seat and platform lower hydraulically all the way to the ground, making it easy to get on and off the rig. The platform also serves as a downrigger to help stabilize the auger.

"A lot of people say I must have been bored to dream up a rig like this, but it's very useful. I call it the lazy man's way of fencing," says Rodocker, who has a cow-calf operation and also runs a 140-acre center pivot irrigation system. "It took me seven years to build it. A lot of people have asked me to do custom fence work for them.

"The bus's 6-cyl. gas engine is used to belt-drive the hydrostatic transmission, which is connected to a transfer case that has a hi-lo range and also a 4-WD range.

The machine can creep along so slow I can walk alongside it, or I can drive at speeds up to 60 mph on the highway. I mounted tow hitches on the rig's front bumper so that I can use my pickup to tow it. I even mounted a tractor radio ahead of the steering wheel.

"Everything I operate is within a 4-ft. reach, including the auger which is directly on my left side. I got the chair out of a Peterbuilt semi. It swivels 360 degrees so I can look at the fence without having to turn.



Rodocker and his self-propelled fencing rig. "I call it my 'International Fencer' because it's built on the chassis off an International Harvester 4-WD school bus," he says.

"The controls mount on a 4-ft. long console in front of my right arm. When I lower the seat to the ground, a cable connected to it automatically engages the parking brake to keep the rig from moving. At the same time, the control console swings out about 1 1/2 ft. beyond the side of the machine which makes it easier to reach."

A rectangular tank with a baffle inside mounts on the right side of the machine. About 3/4 of the tank holds gas and the rest holds hydraulic oil. The lift arm rests on a saddle on the dump box during transport.

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**Hydraulic-operated lift arm equipped with an orbit motor (above) is used to operate auger. Old posts can be stored on dump box at back. Seat and platform lower hydraulically all the way to ground.**

