



Bob Unger replaced the original gas engine on his rototiller with a 1 hp electric motor. "I've used it for 10 years and I've never cut a cord," he says.

Electric-Powered Rototiller

"It worked so well I could hardly believe it," says Bob Unger, Mena, Ark., who converted his rototiller to electric power by replacing the original 5 hp gas engine with a 1 hp electric motor.

Unger mounted a 4-in. pulley on the 1,700 rpm electric motor that bolts on in place of the engine. He runs a heavy duty electric cord to the tiller.

"I've used it for more than 10 years and it works absolutely fantastic. I've never cut a cord," says Unger. "I don't have the expense or hassle of adding oil and gas, there's no battery to maintain, it never needs a tune-up, and I don't have to worry about water getting into the gas during the off-season. The motor starts right up with the flip of a switch, without the hassle of using a choke and a recoil rope. The electric motor vibrates far less than a gas engine, so I don't get 'tingly fingers' any more. The rototiller also weighs a lot less which makes it much easier to handle. It's easy to flip it over to pull roots, vines, and weeds out of the tines and you don't have

to worry about gas or oil leaking out. I even mounted a light on the handle so I can use it after dark."

Unger uses the rototiller to do everything that he did when it was equipped with the 5 hp gas engine. He plugs the cord into an outlet inside his garage, which sits next to his garden. He uses a 100-ft. cord.

"I start out using the rototiller in the corner of the garden that's closest to the outlet," says Unger. "I hold the cord in my right hand as I walk toward the other end of the garden. When I get there, I turn around and come back so that the cord is laying in the row where I just tilled. You probably wouldn't want to try this idea if your garden was 300 ft. from the nearest outlet. However, you could install a weatherproof outlet next to the garden and run a buried wire out to it, then use a cord off the outlet. If you wanted, you could also run a buried water line next to the wire so you could add irrigation water."

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Horseshoe.Com: Everything You Need To Know About Horseshoeing

Whether you're a professional farrier, a horse breeder, or simply the owner of a Shetland pony you'll find everything you need to know about horseshoes and hoofcare at www.horseshoes.com.

It's the official Website of the International Equine Resource Center, with support from associate members The Farrier and Hoofcare Resource Center and The Horseman's Advisor and The Anvil online.

The site guides you through more than 50,000 pages of information and gives the names, addresses and Websites of local, state, regional, national and international farrier associations.

There's information on about four dozen schools and institutions in North America and

around the world that offer training and certification on every aspect of horseshoeing. Would you like to study horseshoeing abroad, maybe in Japan? The details are there.

Novice farriers can find apprenticeships or beginners' jobs through the site's extensive help-wanted listings. There are also classified ads for established businesses and used equipment.

If you want new equipment and supplies, you'll find links to pages of those, too.

In addition, there's a resident farrier and a veterinarian to answer shoeing and health questions.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-mail: cyberfarrier@horseshoes.com; Website: www.horseshoes.com.

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Simple post puller uses a 14-in. dia. pressure plate off an old clutch. Allard welded one end of a chain to edge of plate and hooks the other end to his front-end loader.

Easy Post Puller Is Simple & Cheap

There's a much faster, safer and easier way to pull out old fenceposts than wrapping them with chains hooked to a front end loader, according to Francois Allard of St.-Isidore, Alberta.

He designed a simple post puller using a 14-in. diameter pressure plate off an old clutch. The plate is 5/8 in. thick and has a 7.5-in. hole in the center of it, which works well on 3 to 7-in. dia. wood posts.

He welded one end of a chain to the edge of the pressure plate, and hooks the other end of the chain to the top of his tractor's front-end loader.

"It works best with two people... one to toss the plate over the post, and the other to

lift the loader. The plate just leaves little nicks on the posts unless the posts are really tough to pull," Allard says. "This method is much safer for the person on the ground because he spends almost no time under the loader."

He says the unit weighs only about 10 lbs. and is probably twice as quick to use as the traditional chain-wrapping method.

"It's very simple and cheap, but it works well," he says. "This way, you can also do the job alone if you wish."

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Howard Blakely used the back end of a 1973 VW Beetle, which let the operator ride in comfort.

Do You Remember This Beetle Mower?

A reader recently asked us to dig out an old story on one of the most unusual "riding" mowers we've ever featured in FARM SHOW.

After pulling the story out of the archives we were curious to find out if the one-of-a-kind VW Beetle mower was still being used (the original story was in Vol. 6, No. 1).

Howard Blakely, of Lecanto, Fla., used the back end of a 1973 VW Beetle and the rear axle off a 1973 Chevrolet Vega to build the comfy mower. The rider sat in the VW's back seat. The mower was carried by a chassis that supported the front end. It featured hydro-

lic drive, infinite speed range, and instant forward-reverse controls.

A separate motor powers the 3-bladed mower. The frame is made of 3-in. channel iron and the wheels and tires are from a golf cart.

Howard is 90 years old now. He had a stroke eight years ago and has been in a nursing home ever since. His son-in-law used the car-powered mower up until 1 1/2 years ago, when he died. Since then the "car mower" has sat idle. "It's still in good shape and could be used," says Howard's daughter Lois.