Do-It-Yourself Foam Marker

"I farm less than 100 acres, so I couldn't see myself spending $300 to $400 on a commercial foam marker for my sprayer. Instead, I took an idea I saw in FARM SHOW and adapted it to my own situation," says Lynn Stephenson of Angier, North Carolina.

The article that inspired him was about a mini foam marker made for a lawn sprayer. He has a sprayer with a 24-ft. boom, and decided to make one for that.

Stephenson made a small frame out of scrap metal and secured it to the back of his sprayer. This is what holds his 5-gal. soap mixture reservoir. He says the 5-gal. bucket's lid must be screwed down once the unit is built.

He then used styrofoam to line a surplus army ammo box to hold a small air compressor he had bought for $14 at Wal-Mart. The styrofoam lessens the noise and vibration of the air compressor, which is run off the tractor's battery power.

A 3/8-in. rubber air hose runs from the compressor to the bucket. Stephenson says he made sure the air hose reached to the bottom of the bucket, and then inserted a 2 to 3-in. long plastic tube into the end of it. He closed off the end by heating and pinching it, then drilled about 30 small 1/64-in. holes.

Foam comes out of a long piece of flexible plastic tubing, which connects to the spout.

"The foam is just like what you'd get when blowing through a straw in milk as a child," Stephenson says.

Through trial and error, he found that it was necessary to place a baffle inside the bucket. This slows down the water movement and keeps it from sloshing up in the pail, disintegrating the foam in the hose.

He says it's necessary to leave 3 to 4 in. of air space in the reservoir, so it works best to use about 4 gal. of water and one cup of liquid dish washing detergent.

Lynn Stephenson made his own foam marker for a sprayer equipped with a 24-ft. boom.

The path of foam markings is left down the center of each of Stephenson's sprayer passes, so he can visually judge the 12-ft. distance he needs to allow for the next pass.

To create bigger globs of foam that last longer, Stephenson cut off a two-litre plastic pop bottle and shoved the spout into the end of the flexible tubing, creating a funnel-like attachment. This causes the foam to collect there until a 4 or 5-in. glob has formed.

The whole system cost only $35.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lynn Stephenson, 3625 Abattoir Rd., Angier, N.C. 27501 (ph 910 897-8201).

Covered Riding Rings

Whether you're training horses or just exercising them, a riding ring is a handy thing to have. Atlas Systems, Inc., Alapaha, Georgia, says it has a relatively inexpensive way to set one up.

For just $2,795, they'll sell you everything you need to erect a 50-ft. dia. covered ring. All you have to do is assemble it.

The build-it-yourself ring is made of galvanized steel. Posts are 2 by 3-in. rectangular tubing. Rails are 1 by 2-in. tubing, and bracing is done with 1 3/8-in. round tubing. Included is one 6-ft. gate with latches and hardware. Additional gates are available.

The structure bolts together quickly and easily. A green shade cover shades out the sun and protects from rain.

Without the cover, the 50-ft. ring sells for just $1,095.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Atlas Systems, Inc., Box 558, Hwy 82 East, Alapaha, Ga. 31622 (ph 229 532-2905 or 800 346-9902; website: www.atlashorsestructures.com).

Build-it-yourself, 50-ft. dia. covered riding ring bolts together quickly and costs less than $3,000.

Take Us To Your Barber

We need your help! One of the most challenging aspects of publishing a magazine like FARM SHOW is getting the word out. Here's an idea: When you're done reading this copy of FARM SHOW, instead of tossing it out, why not leave it in a public place where others might find it? Your barbershop, doctor's office, equipment dealership, favorite restaurant, or anywhere else you think people might enjoy it. If you don't want to part with your copy, just send us the name and address of those local establishments (FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or Email: circulation@farmshow.com) and we'll send them a couple free issues.

Carl Ruby modeled his homemade mini tractor after an IH 2 + 2 tractor. It's built roughly to 1/4 scale and powered by an 11 hp Yanmar diesel engine.

Cub Cadet Turned Into Mini "2+2"

International Harvester enthusiast and Cub Cadet collector Carl Ruby had a lot of fun building what he calls his "782 X 2+2." The Baden, Ontario man's creation made its debut at an IH tractor show last summer.

Starting with a 782 Cub Cadet, he modeled the mini tractor after an IH 2 + 2 tractor. It's built roughly to 1/4 scale.

Ruby fitted the mini tractor with an 11 hp Yanmar diesel engine from a Thermoking reefer and 24-in. floater tires. Features include articulated power steering, 4-WD, a Cat. 0 3-pt. hitch, live PTO, adjustable swinging draw bar, AM/FM cassette IH radio, cab hazard lights, two each of headlights, taillights, and midlights, one rear working light, and one auxiliary remote valve.

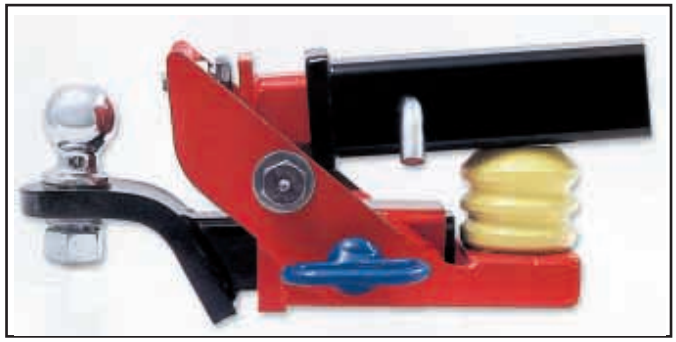
Ruby began gathering parts for the project two years before he started building it. The rear axle and the hood panel came from a 782 Cub Cadet, while the second axle and the hydrostatic assembly came from a 1650 Cub. Other parts were taken from an assortment of IH equipment such as a 303 combine, a 400 corn planter, a 234 corn picker and various trucks. The cab roof interior came from a Ford car, since Ruby couldn't bring himself to ravage a perfectly good IH cab.

It took him a year and a half to finish the unit once he started building, but he used it prior to completion in a trial run, to plant sweet corn last spring. He pulled a two-row IH 250A planter and says that because of its high-torque engine combined with the 4-WD and hydrostatic transmission, it had no problem.

"I owned a real IH 3588, but quit farming for a living 10 years ago, and eventually sold that tractor to a friend. I enjoyed driving it, so I thought it would be fun to build a small scale replica," Ruby says.

Ruby has a collection of 30 Cub Cadets and says he enjoys them because they are the toughest lawn tractors ever built. Many of them are still being used today, he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carl Ruby, 1547 Gingerich Rd., Baden, Ontario, Canada N3A 3J7 (ph 519 634-8032; fax 519 634-8033); email: bartlettsj@rogers.com).



Shocker hitch makes use of an "air cell" to cushion vertical movement of hitch.

"Air Cell" Receiver Hitch

Bob Sagen wasn't satisfied with the shock hitches for pickups on the market. So he came up with his own design that makes use of an "air cell."

The "Shocker" pins into any standard 2-in. receiver hitch. Another pin is used to attach your existing ball mount to the unit. An "air cell" made from high density polyurethane foam mounts between the receiver hitch and the Shocker hitch, which pivots on a bolt. You can adjust the amount of cushion the unit provides by tightening or loosening a nut.

The unit has a 6,000-lb. towing capacity and handles 600 lbs. of tongue weight.

"Conventional shock hitches work on an in-and-out sliding motion," says Sagen. "They work alright to smooth out horizontal jerks but they don't smooth out vertical motion at all. The air cell cushions the up and down movement of the hitch. The unit extends the ball mount only one inch farther back on your pickup.

"I came up with the idea because I build trailers and tow them all over the country. On the highway I could always feel the trailers jerking on back of the pickup so I decided to come up with something better. This really smooths out the ride."

Sells for $129.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Travel-Lite, Box 172, Arthur, N. Dak. 58006 (ph 877 967-8577; email: sales@travel-litetrailers.com).