

“Tricycle” Cord Reel

“It might look odd, but it really comes in handy for running out heavy electrical cord around our farm,” says Graydon Dennis, Peace River, Alberta, about the “tricycle” cord reel he built out of old bicycle parts and a commercial cord reel. By holding onto a handle with one hand and turning a crank with the other, he’s able to let out cord as he walks along.

“It was cheap to build and works unbelievably well,” says Dennis.

The reel holds 300 ft. of cord. It rides between two 28-in. bicycle wheels that are supported by a frame made of steel tubing. A third wheel is located ahead of the wheels. Dennis mounted a bicycle crank mechanism on the frame which drives a bicycle chain

and a 10-speed tightener. A sprocket mounts on the end of the cord reel.

“It’s very light which makes it super easy to maneuver,” says Dennis. “To wind the cord back up I just crank the reel and follow it back to the outlet. It eliminates the need to coil the cord up like a lariat and watch it get all tangled up as you let it out.

“I already had the reel and the bicycle parts. I didn’t want the hassle of having to pump up tires, so I removed the tires from the rims and bolted some old discarded V-belts to them.”

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Graydon Dennis built this “tricycle” cord reel out of old bicycle parts and a commercial cord reel. By holding onto a handle with one hand and turning a crank with the other, he’s able to let out cord as he walks along.

2-Sided Wagon Speeds Seed Handling

“We can fill planters and drills much faster with this wagon setup than anything we’ve ever used,” says John McCall, New Cambria, Kan., who mounted a Parker gravity wagon on a military surplus trailer.

“We bought the 600-bu. wagon at a farm auction and the military trailer at an army base. A local welder mounted the wagon on the trailer and made a partition in the middle so it would hold 300 bu. on each side. Two J&M augers were purchased and attached, one to either side. A new hydraulic pump was installed so we can run the augers separately or together, as needed.

“The floor at the front of the trailer has enough room for two full pallets of seed. When filling the planter, we put fertilizer in the hopper so we can fill the planter with very little moving around. When filling a drill, we put fertilizer in one side and seed in the other.

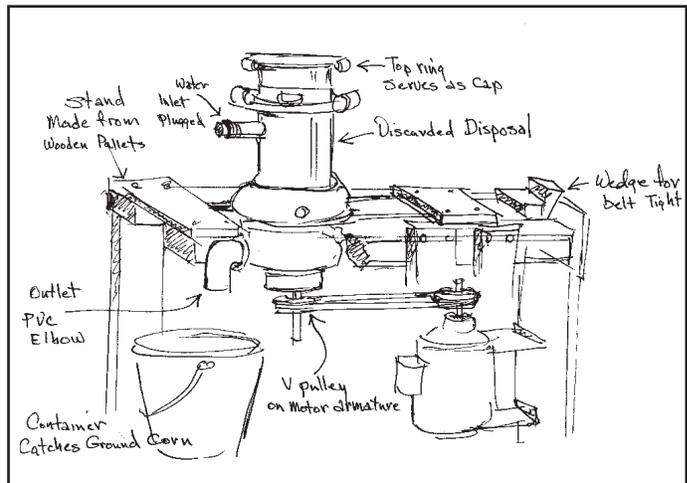
“One thing we discovered when building



Parker gravity wagon is divided in the middle to hold 300 bu. on each side. Each compartment has its own auger. Wagon mounts on a military surplus trailer.

this rig is that the military must use a different electrical system because the wiring would not hook up to the C-90 Chevy truck we use to pull the trailer. So we used the lights on the wagon instead.”

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Alexander made a small-scale corn grinder out of an ordinary garbage disposal.

Mini Grinder Helps Put Corn-Fed Steaks On Table

“I keep a few head of cattle to avoid having to mow a 7-acre pasture and to provide us with great home-grown steaks. I wanted to have corn-fed beef but didn’t want to have to buy ground corn or spend a lot of money on a hammermill or grinder,” says Samuel Alexander, Millington, Tenn.

His solution was to build a small-scale corn grinder out of an ordinary garbage disposal. “I like to feed the cows a little corn with their hay in the winter but if you don’t grind the corn, it’ll pass right on through without being digested,” notes Alexander.

He obtained a discarded stainless steel disposal for free from someone remodeling a kitchen and then made a stand from wooden

pallets. He then removed the casing and electric motor from the disposal and mounted a pulley on the armature shaft, which he drives with a 1/3-hp electric motor.

“At first the corn came out like cormeal. It was ground too fine. But after I drilled some holes in the bottom, it grinds up just right - like a grain crusher.

“No large scale livestock producer would fiddle with something like this but it’s perfect if you just have a few head of cattle or some chickens. Very easy to build and works fast.”

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Kevin Nelson built this portable mineral feeder that’s covered by a roof made from sheets off a Harvestore silo. Cattle oilers hang from either side of roof.

Portable Mineral Feeder Has A “Harvestore” Roof

Kevin Nelson didn’t like the waste associated with conventional tub-type mineral feeders. So the Canton, Minn., farmer built a portable mineral feeder that’s covered by a roof made from sheets off a Harvestore silo.

The wood feeder measures 4 by 8 ft. The roof is 15 by 20 ft. Cattle oilers hang from either side of the roof.

“It keeps mineral and salt blocks dry and keeps animals from defecating in the feeder and ruining hundreds of dollars worth of salt and minerals,” says Nelson, who raises reg-

istered Longhorn cattle. “I used it for the first time last summer, and my cattle didn’t waste a pound of minerals or salt.”

To make the roof, he cut 5 by 9-ft. Harvestore panels in half and bolted the pieces together end-to-end. He bought the silo panels at an auction and paid \$10 apiece for them.

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