



Marshall Litchfield converted an old detasseling machine into a small, 4-WD hydrostatic drive tractor. It's shown here pulling a big home-built lawn mower.

## 4-WD Tractor Built Out Of Corn Detasseling Machine

"Our local seed corn company was liquidating old detasseling machines so I was able to buy one for only \$100. It became a challenge to see what I could build out of it," says Marshall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., who converted the rig into a small, 4-WD, hydrostatic drive tractor. It's powered by an electric start, 2-cyl. motor.

"I call it my 'donkey' because it isn't big enough to be a mule. It works well for pulling a big lawn mower that I built out of an old Woods belly-mounted mower. I also use it to pull a homemade lawn sprayer. Our yard has a slope to it so the 4-WD is a real advantage," says Litchfield.

The mower deck's rear wheels are the gauge wheels off an old corn planter. Litchfield added a tongue on front. Power is provided by an 18 hp vertical shaft Briggs & Stratton gas engine. The engine slides forward and backward to tighten and loosen the belt that drives the mower blades. Up-and-down adjustment of the deck is accomplished



This is what the corn detasseling machine originally looked like before Litchfield made the conversion.

with an electric trailer jack. The battery box is an old toolbox, and there's a gas can that lifts off to fill. The fuel line disconnect is from a boat motor. "The mower pulls harder than I had anticipated, but it works well," says Litchfield.

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## High Volume Portable Ice Maker

You can make ice cubes any time and anywhere with this new portable, self-contained ice cube maker. It can make up to 29 lbs. of ice cubes per day.

"It works great for entertaining large groups of people. You can make the ice right on location," says Ron Baerwitz, WindChaser Products, Marina Del Rey, Calif.

The "Ice Man" operates on 110-volt electricity and has a stainless steel body that measures 16 1/4 in. high, 14 in. wide, and 15 1/2 in. deep. It consists of an insulated storage compartment covered by a hinged lid. A metal basket in the front part of the compartment holds 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. of ice, with a water reservoir located under the basket. The machine is fully automatic - all you do is plug it in, flip the lid open, and pour in a little under a gallon of water into the reservoir. Water is pumped from the reservoir into a tray equipped with a series of 12 rods on which the ice forms.

Three different sized ice cubes can be made, with the size determined by pressing a button on front of the unit. The longer the water freezes on the rods, the bigger the cubes become. It takes 6 to 10 minutes to make 12 cubes, depending on cube size. Then the tray drops down and the rods heat up, allowing the cubes to slide off into the basket which can then be lifted out.

"It's well made and weighs only 44 lbs. so it's relatively easy to move around," says Baerwitz. "Once the basket is full the unit automatically shuts off. It also shuts off au-



You can make your own ice right on location with this portable, self-contained ice cube maker.

tomatically if the reservoir runs out of water. It isn't refrigerated but it's well insulated so the cubes will last a long time without melting. If any ice does melt, the water drips back down into the reservoir and is made into ice again."

Sells for less than \$600 plus S&H.

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## "Frog Legs" Smooth Out Wheelchair Ride

Avid bicyclist Mark Chelgren couldn't understand why wheelchairs don't come equipped with shock absorbers. His mountain bike has full suspension and he doesn't even spend all of his time on it.

It was this observation that spurred the Vinton, Iowa man to invent "Frog Legs" shock absorbers that replace the castor forks on the small front wheels on wheelchairs. He is also working on a rear suspension system.

In early 2003, Frog Legs were approved for Medicare coverage. This is a huge triumph, he says, since it proves that his product has medical value and is no longer considered just a luxury item.

Chelgren's invention reduces vibration of wheelchairs by 76 per cent, reducing back pain, fatigue, cutting down on spasms, and eliminating being pitched forward when the chair encounters bumpy conditions.

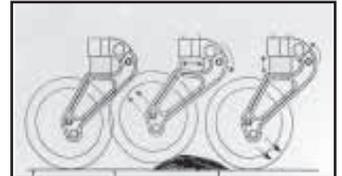
"I had talked to wheelchair users who complained about vibrations being transmitted from their chair to their bodies, and I decided to do something about it," Chelgren says. "Now they can go places they never imagined they could. The looks on peoples faces the first time they try them out is amazing. They're thrilled with the improved ride."

He says wheelchair users can continue to use their own wheels, or obtain new wheels from Frog Legs, Inc. when they order shocks. He manufactures and sells four styles of wheels designed especially to work with the shock absorbers.

The four models of Frog Legs shock absorbers are priced as follows: Flex Forx (designed for institutional-type chairs) - \$129; Frog Legs Classics - \$299; Ultra Sports - \$329; and Bull Frogs Power Chair Shocks - \$399.



"Frog Legs" shock absorbers replace the castor forks on the small front wheels on wheelchairs.



As wheel encounters bump, hinge gives way and vibration is absorbed by polymer "shock".

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Revolving door is built into one end of shed. To gain access to saddles and other supplies, Evans pushes on one side of door and it flips around.



## "Lazy Susan" Storage Shed

"It eliminates the need to carry everything in and out of a door all the time," says Evan Evans, Lebo, Kansas, about the "Lazy Susan" revolving door he built into one end of his home-built tack shed.

With the revolving 36 by 74-in. door closed, the building looks like a regular shed. To gain access to saddles and other supplies, Evans simply pushes on one side of the door and it flips around.

"It quickly brings everything you need to the outside, ready to place on your horse. A big advantage is that two people can grab their tack at the same time, then push the door to close it and ride off.

"I think the same idea could be used inside a barn with an alleyway, or any other place where you keep your tack or other products. For example, a plumber/electrician told me he might use this same idea on one side of his shop. A revolving door would allow him to put whatever he needed for a job in



With revolving door closed, building looks like a regular shed.

his service truck without having to carry everything in and out of the shop."

The door simply pivots on a 1 1/2-in. dia. steel pipe.

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