

Do-It-Yourself “No Truss” Building Saves Space, Lowers Cost

“It’s a do-it-yourselfer’s dream come true,” says Rodger Parry, Socket Systems, Inc., about his company’s building system that makes it easy for anyone to put up building roofs without the need for trusses.

The idea is to use hollow steel “sockets” to join wood frames together to make everything from barns and garages to houses.

“It lets you build solid, long lasting structures without the need for cranes and heavy equipment,” says Parry. “The clear-span design eliminates the need for big load-bearing headers for trusses to sit on. Because everything is above ground, it also eliminates rotting that can occur on posts placed in the ground.

“The design creates more useable space under the roof, leaving room for a second floor, loft, or cathedral ceiling. A big material-saving advantage is that you can have a door opening in your building’s end wall which is higher than your eaves.”

Another advantage of the design, he says, is that machinery sheds can be made virtually bird-proof. “The design eliminates virtually all the places where birds can nest and

roost,” says Parry.

The steel sockets allow you to join dimensional lumber at angles to form rooflines. So instead of using trusses you can have an insulated, ventilated roof made up of wood rafters, which travel “uphill” to a ridge board. Or you can have wood purlins, on 24-in. centers, spanning from one frame to the next. Hinged frame anchors - with built-in moisture barriers - let you assemble a two-legged frame while it’s flat on the ground. The frame can then be pulled, pushed or raised into a locked upright position.

Parry says the building design is comparably priced to everyday pole barns.

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Elimination of trusses provides a building with more usable space (left). Design eliminates need for load-bearing headers for trusses to sit on.



Hollow steel sockets are used to join wood frames together (left). Socket shown at right is used as a tip-up pole building base.

Self-Propelled Magnetic Floor Sweeper

After tearing down several buildings last summer, Rich DeVries had nails all over his driveway. In order to reduce the possibility of costly flat tires, he decided to build his own self-propelled magnetic “sweeper.”

He mounted two DC motor coils on front of his Grasshopper lawn mower in place of the deck, located 1 to 2 in. above the ground. The magnets are powered by a generator he pulls behind the mower. Flipping a switch on the dash sends electricity to the magnets to pick up metal. Turning the switch off drops the metal so it can be collected and disposed of.

“I was surprised by the amount of metal that it pulls out of the ground,” says DeVries, of Forrester, Ill. “I picked up not only nails but nuts, bolts, washers, and lots of rusted metal pieces. The two magnets have a sweep-

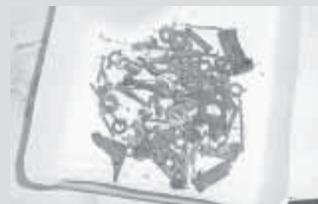
ing width of 20 in. When the magnets are full, I remove the material by driving over a hard surface and flipping the switch off.”

A friend gave him the pair of oval-shaped DC coils which measure 10 in. long by 6 in. wide. The coils are placed end to end and bolted to a 3/4-in. thick plywood board, which is bolted to the bottom side of a castor-wheeled attachment on front of the power unit. He mounted blocking rectifiers in the generator in order to convert the magnets to DC power. The generator is towed by a metal support arm mounted vertically on back of the power unit.

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Rich DeVries mounted two DC motor coils on front of his Grasshopper lawn mower in place of the deck. Magnets are powered by a generator pulled behind mower.



Pair of oval-shaped DC coils are placed end to end and bolted to a plywood board (left). Flipping a switch on dash sends electricity to magnets to pick up metal.



Hand-cranked clean-out auger eliminates need to climb inside truck box.

Cleanout Auger For Dumping Grain Box

There’s no need to climb inside a truck box to clean it out when dumping grain if you make use of this cleanout auger idea.

Donald Shoemaker, Vallonia, Ind., joined up two sections of auger - one right hand and one left hand - and mounted the auger across the back of the box on his 2-ton truck. A 3-in. sq. metal plate was welded to the end of each auger so they could be attached to each other in the center of the truck bed. The shaft turns on bearings mounted in the sides of the box. The shaft extends out one side of the

box and is fitted with a hand crank.

Shoemaker simply turns the crank a few times to clean out the remainder of the grain.

“It’s always been hard to clean out the corners of the truck box. This idea allows me to easily and comfortably unload grain without having to use a shovel or scoop,” says Shoemaker, who was a finalist in the National Farm Bureau Invention contest.

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Pipe Scrapes Snow Off Uneven Areas

Keith Myers’ father, Ray, came up with the idea of putting a pipe on the bottom of his snow blade to skim snow off the grass on his private airfield. Keith says the idea could be used anywhere you have to push snow over yards or other uneven ground.

The problem is that the snowplow blades cut grass and dirt from uneven higher spots.

“This damages the surface and come spring when the snow melts, these ‘scalped’ areas are often muddy. The pipe lifts the plow when it encounters any high spots on the surface yet leaves about the same amount of snow on the surface as a conventional plow with properly adjusted skid shoes.”

Keith attaches a piece of 2-in. dia. pipe split the long way over the bottom edge of the blade. When worn down, he replaces or re-



Pipe on bottom of snow blade is used to skim snow off grass on Keith Myer’s private airfield.

builds it with a welder.

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