

T-Post Driver Doubles As A Puller

This new T-post driver can also be used to pull posts.

The Post-Mate weighs 28 lbs. and, unlike conventional post drivers, is designed to be used at waist level. A pair of handles drive a square steel tube that fits inside a larger tube. There's a U-shaped bracket at the top of the larger tube and another bracket at the bottom. To attach the unit to the post, you place the top bracket behind the post and then insert a metal pin through the bottom bracket. To pound the post down, you simply lift the handles up about 1 ft. and then let go. The same handles are used to pull the post out.

"It's simple and safe to use and doesn't damage the top of the post," says the company.

Sells for \$195 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Specialty Converting and Supply, Inc., Box 913, 1114 E. Marion Ave., Nashville, Ga. 31639 (ph 800 524-7567; fax 229 686-7751; email: scsinc@alltel.com; website: www.scsincorporated.com).



Post-Mate uses a pair of handles to both pound the post and also pull it out.

Hand Pump Fits Existing Wells

Steve Cockerham, Colville, Washington, put together a manual pump for his well so he can get water in the event of a power outage.

"It fits into a 6-in. well casing, right alongside the submersible pump," he explains.

To market the idea, Cockerham and his sons formed Hydro-Slide Industries.

Cockerham says the pump works something like an old fashioned well pump. He uses two PVC pipes - a 2-in. pipe with a 1 1/2-in. pipe inside it that both extend down to the water level.

"The inner pipe brings water up and acts as the sucker rod. The pump works on the down stroke rather than the upstroke so the weight of the water column helps to move the water up," he notes.

The add-on pump requires at least a 6-in. well casing. Cockerham recommends it for wells where depth to water is 200 ft. or less. "If you have to go deeper, the natural flex in the PVC pipe could make it less effective or even lead to breakage," he says.

Several models are available, with prices



Manual pump works something like an old fashioned well pump and is made from two pieces of PVC pipe.

ranging from \$279 to \$399 for the all-PVC pumps and pipe to reach a static water level of 35 ft. You'll need more pipe if your water level is lower than that. Details are available at his website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hydro-Slide Industries, Steve Cockerham, 653-C Mosby Rd., Colville, Wash. 99114 (ph 509 684-2185; email: scockerham@plex.com; website: www.hydrslide.com).

Latest New Accessories For ATV's

ATV Parts Depot specializes in parts and accessories for ATV's. Here are a few of its newest offerings:

ATV Light Bar with Mounting Base - It's equipped with a pair of 55-watt bulbs that mount behind and about 2 ft. above the



driver's head. The bar is made from steel tubing and bolts onto the rear rack. The bulbs are said to deliver up to three times as much light as standard high intensity bulbs found on most ATV's, and are also equipped with an optical lens. The result is a 20-degree wide horizontal beam of light with up to 2,600 ft. of reflective range. The lights are turned on or off with a switch. All wiring is included.

Sells for \$229.99.

Switch From 2-WD To 4-WD - This front-end disconnect system for 4-WD



ATV's allows you to switch from 4-WD to 2-WD and back again, all on-the-go. Disengaging the front wheels makes the ATV a lot easier to steer, says the company. It also saves wear and tear on front-end parts. The entire unit replaces the ATV's front driveshaft and is controlled by a spring-loaded cable.

The control system bolts onto the side of your ATV, next to the handlebars. Pulling on a handle puts you in 2-WD. To switch back into 4-WD you simply push a button.

The system is designed for all Honda 4-WD models as well as the Yamaha Wolverine.

Sells for \$275.95.

Titan 589 Tires - These lugged 6-ply tires are said to be one of the lightest high-performance mud and snow tires on the market today. They provide a much smoother ride than most of the other ATV mud tires on the market. The lugs are about 1 in. deep and are curved to run lengthwise down the center of the tire which helps smooth the ride.

"These tires provide good traction yet give



a good ride. And, because they're 6-ply, you don't have to worry about puncturing tires on corn stalks," says a company spokesman.

The tires are available in sizes ranging from 25 in. high and 8 in. wide to 28 in. high and 12 in. wide. All tires are designed to fit 12-in. wheel rims. They sell for \$64.95 to \$94.95.

"High Lifter" Kit - This kit for 4-WD ATV's bolts onto the machine's shocks and



control arm and is designed to increase ground clearance by about 2 in.

Available for Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Polaris, Kawasaki, and Arctic Cat models.

Sells for \$89.95 to \$159.95 depending on the model.



Farm AG Kit - This "kit" consists of super-tall 27-in. tires that turn your 4-WD ATV into a mini tractor, says the company. The 4-ply tires have self-cleaning "super lug" tread for slow-speed agriculture usage. Works great in very wet conditions. According to the company, no other ATV-type tire can match this tire's pulling power.

In most cases, the tire will increase ground clearance by 2 in. or more. When combined with the "high lifter" kit, the ATV's ground clearance increases by about 4 in.

Sells for \$559.80.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ATV Parts Depot (ph 800 945-1850; email: atvpartsdepot@mindspring.com; website: www.ATVPartsDepot.com).

Crashedtoys.com Sells "Totaled" ATV's, Motorcycles, Boats, Etc.

A Minnesota company is doing a booming business on the internet selling damaged equipment that insurance companies said was too damaged to repair.

Many of the boats, motorcycles, ATV's and snowmobiles don't appear to be badly damaged. For example, if you twist an ATV frame 1/4-in. in a rollover you may never notice it. But if you file an insurance claim, it may be totaled out.

"Ninety per cent of the time, it is the cost of labor that kills repairs," says Joe Peltier, owner, St. Croix Specialties, Inc., Stillwater, Minn. "If parts and labor exceed 60 to 70 percent of the value, it's totaled out."

The result can be a good deal for buyers, whether they're looking for parts, something to repair or something to jump on and ride.

"If an ATV frame gets bent 1/4-in., it doesn't affect how it drives one bit, but the insurance company says the frame has to be

replaced," explains Peltier.

He cites a used Honda Rubicon ATV that sold for \$6,000 new and has a used value of \$5,000. If the frame had to be replaced, it would cost approximately \$1,200 for parts. Labor at a skilled shop would run about \$60/hour and take 30 hours. The insurance company looking at a \$3,000 bill totals it out and writes the owner a check.

Once, the insurance company might have recovered 20 percent or less of the totaled-out machine's value selling it for parts. Peltier, an independent accident investigator and damage appraiser for insurance companies, saw an opportunity. Today, he markets totaled-out machines from his website. He auctions 20 to 30 rigs each week. The Rubicon described above might sell for \$3,000. As a result, insurance companies are recovering 50 percent or better of their costs. A buyer is getting a good deal, and Peltier

collects a commission. Such potential deals have attracted interest from both buyers and insurance companies.

"We have had buyers from Maine to Seattle and down to Miami, Florida," he says. "And we are now doing business with 12 different companies, including five of the biggest insurance companies in the U.S."

Peltier's website - www.crashedtoys.com - had 3.2 million visitors in March alone. He had revenues in 2002 of \$360,000 and projections of \$600,000 in revenue for 2003.

Peltier encourages other entrepreneurs to look for opportunities like the one he found. In this day of big and super big business, it's easy to think there is no room for the little guy.

"It's easy to think that these huge companies are so big they don't need anybody," says Peltier. "Our philosophy is that even a small company in Stillwater, Minn., can help ma-



This 2003 Suzuki hit a tree and was totaled out by the insurance company. The frame has a small kink in it, but the machine itself runs great.

nor companies save money."

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