

# Reader Letters



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plying Gorilla glue to all mating surfaces, I installed a 3/4 by 2-in. stabilizing board by using a rubber mallet to tap it in place. A tarp strap placed around the hopper held it tight while the glue dried overnight. A little black paint and it looks like factory material. Now the spreader does a nice, even job. (Lee de Vries, 43251 Rodgers Mountain Loop, Scio, Oregon 97374 ph 503 394-3088)

When the highway department replaced the guard rail on the road in front of our house, I bought 250 ft. of used rail from



the highway contractor for \$90. I tied into the guard rail with a 90 degree section that runs into my driveway to protect my house. Then I placed several big boulders - 35 tons worth - behind the guard rail. Now if someone accidentally drives anything less than an Abrams tank into my yard, he'll come off second best.

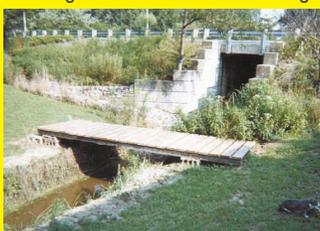
Whenever you have a chance to buy used guard rail, you should, even if you don't have a need for it right away. Set it aside for a rainy day. Most of the time, contractors are happy not to have to carry it away and are willing to sell it cheap.

A stream that runs through my back yard used to get clogged up by muskrats



digging into the banks and kicking up debris. Occasionally it would overflow, creating a small lake that lapped up to my house. I dug it out and then lined it with used chain link fence in order to keep muskrats from digging into the banks. No more muskrat problems.

I bought used treated lumber scraps from a local trucking company and built two bridges over the same ditch. I bought



a 12-ft. high pile of wood for just \$25. It consisted of 2 by 6's, 8's, and 10's in 3, 4, 5, and 6-ft. lengths. I used some old 6 by 6 treated posts for runners under the bridge. The two bridges cost a total of only about \$10. Each bridge can hold about 2,500 lbs., which is enough to sup-

port a riding mower but not a tractor. (Dave Nicholas, Box 146, Martinsville, Ohio 45146 ph 937 987-2710)

Here's a couple photos of a weed and brush cutter that I built from junk parts. I use it to cut away some sagebrush and overgrowth. It's built simple and didn't cost much to build. I used parts from an



old Jacobson push-type lawn mower and borrowed the 16-in. wheels from my welding cart.

The machine is powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine off an old lawn mower. The pulley is from an old Chevy engine shaft and is welded to a 1-in. long shaft that runs through a 1-in. pillow block bearing. The shaft, in turn, bolts to a piece of angle iron that's anchored to the steel frame. I squared the bottom end of the shaft and drilled a hole in that end, then tapped a hole for a 3/8-in. stove bolt. A 16-in. leaf spring, flattened and re-tempered, is used for the blade. I made a square hole in the center of the blade to fit the shaft, and I also made a washer to tighten the blade to the shaft. I sharpened the leading edge of the spring back about 4 in. (Harry Scott, P.O. Box 1265, Walsenburg, Colo. ph 719 738-3847; rockworm80@msn.com)

Anyone who rebuilds antique motors will be interested to know that I sell complete Con-Rod and main bearing Babbiting and machining equipment. This equipment is used to rebuild motors from the 1940's and earlier. Sells for \$3,000 Canadian. (Herb Hauser, Hauser Machinery, Melville, Sask., Canada ph 888 939-4444 or 306 728-2101)

Last year I had a shoulder injury which made it difficult to use my Ryobi weed whipper. So I came up with this simple, two-wheeled lift to support the unit.

The lower part was made from 5/8-in. dia. lightweight sq. tubing welded together in an inverted "T". A 5/16-in. dia. axle and 4-in. high wheels off a grocery cart were welded to the bottom end of the tubing. A 1/8-in. thick, 2 by 4-in. metal plate is welded on top of the tubing, using 3/4-in. sq. tubing cut at an angle as a mating piece. Two small U-bolts are used to attach the plate to the weed whipper's shaft. The vertical part consists of two telescoping tubes that have a series of holes in them, allowing the height to be adjusted to the operator. A series of holes in the two pieces allow me to quickly adjust the height.

I use my two-wheeled weed whipper in a local cemetery with more than 1,000 gravestones. I just hold onto the trigger and push it around on its wheels. I don't have to use the top handle at all. To ad-



Tired of having to drag your small harrow everywhere you need it? I found that an old log skidder, a few pieces of scrap iron, and a small chain can be used to make such harrows portable, allowing me to easily move the harrow from field to field or wherever I need it without tearing up everything in between. Works great for backing the harrow into tight places, and if I need to harrow a little deeper, I can just drop the weight of the carrier all the way down. Best of all, I no longer have to hand rake all the pine needles from around my house. (William R. Fix,



D-Tail Cattle Co., 8005 Old Munds Hwy., Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001)



vance the line, I just bump on the nearest stone. To remove the dolly I just remove the U-bolts. (George Peltier, 1801 4th Ave. N., Menomonie, Wis. 54751)

Here's a photo of a tractor-type machine that my husband rebuilt. We have no clue what the machine was used for. All we know is that it's all hydraulic. I copied the



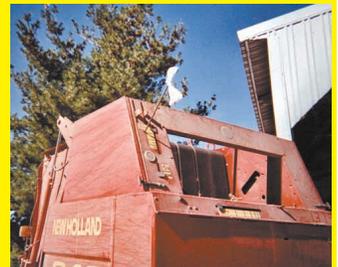
name on a plate inside the tractor and it says "Lessmann Mfg. Co., Des Moines, Iowa". It's a nice tractor and has a front-end loader. My husband installed a 350 cu. in. engine and transmission and plans to give the machine a paint job. We'd like to hear from anyone who knows more about this tractor. (Danny and Pat Amos, 3975 George, Keysville, Va. 23947)



I removed the chains and paddles from an old 15-ft. long, 18-in. wide grain elevator to make this raised flower bed. The elevator mounts on four steel wheels off an old farm implement, which makes it

easy to roll around by hand whenever I mow my yard. I came up with the idea because my wife had both hips replaced and isn't supposed to bend over. This way she can work on her flowers at waist height. She grows the flowers in containers and can bring them in for the winter. A pair of metal rods form the axles.

I came up with this "sight flag" on my New Holland round baler. It lets me know whenever the bale has rolled off the bale ejector, so I can close the tailgate without worrying that it will contact the bale.



A length of angle iron bolts onto the ejector's frame. A 3/8-in. dia. metal rod attaches to the angle iron and extends through the baler housing to the front part of the baler where an old handkerchief is tied onto it.

As I open the tailgate the bale rolls onto the ejector, and as it lowers to the ground it retracts the rod to bring the flag close



to the baler. Once the bale rolls off the ejector, the ejector raises and the rod and flag extend back toward the tractor. I then know that I can safely lower the tailgate. (Perry Hathaway, 4238 W 625 South, Claypool, Ind. 46510 ph 574 491-3448)