

Car Care Product Keeps Vinyl Siding From Fading

You can keep vinyl siding from fading, and also prevent mold and fungus growth, by coating the siding with a common car care product called "Son of a Gun," says Paul Berger, Brewster, Mass.

"I live on Cape Cod so there's a lot of salt in the air. Paint doesn't stick very well in this environment so a lot of people have houses with vinyl siding. Unfortunately, I had a problem with mold and fungus growing on the shady side of the house. I tried power washing the house with bleach and a water mix or a good vinyl cleaner, but within a month the mold and fungus was back again. I decided to try using Son of a Gun Protectant which is made by STP. It's designed to shine vinyl, rubber and plastic. It comes in a 1-quart plastic aerosol bottle. When it comes out it looks something like milk.

"First, I used a power washer to clean off the house. Once the vinyl was thoroughly dry, I sprayed Son of a Gun on all the siding as well as on the house's vinyl shutters. At the same time, I used a big terry towel or car wash mitt to wipe the product into the vinyl. Son

of a Gun has a built-in ultra violet light blocker, which seals the pores in the vinyl to keep mold and fungus from growing on it. The wetter the towel gets the better it works.

"When I was done the siding looked shiny and like new. In fact, one guy thought I had just painted my house. Wiping it in probably isn't necessary, but it gives the vinyl that shiny look.

"My house measures 28 by 48 ft. with a 12 by 24-ft. breezeway and a 24 by 30-ft. garage. My son and I waxed the entire house in 12 hours. I used about seven quarts of the product.

"I made the application five years ago and haven't had any problems with mold or fungus since then. The house still beads up whenever I spray it with a hose."

He adds that another product called R2000 may work even better because it has an ultra UV protector that would keep the vinyl soft and pliable and prevent it from cracking.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Berger, 124 Satucket Rd., Brewster, Mass. 02631 (ph 508 385-9038).



A 12 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine powers three decks that cut a 100-in. swath at a time. Side decks fold up when not used.

Bat Wing Rotary Mower

Ken Voigt's bat wing rotary mower covers the ground fast and can handle just about anything he sends its way. Mounted on the front end of a Gilson lawn tractor, it even sports its own motor. All Gilson has to do is drive.

"I picked the Gilson up about five years ago for \$90," says Voigt. "I got it for the wheels, but when I brought it home and fired it up, it worked fine, so I mowed with it. The deck mower mounted on it was so heavy duty that I could jack the whole tractor up with it to sharpen its bevel gear blades."

He needed a bigger mower, though, so he rebuilt it using 3-in. angle iron for the main frame. Big caster wheels mount to legs that extend down from the frame.

The center mower deck hangs from the frame corners by cables, which feed to a ratchet wheel at the right corner. The two wing decks are hinged to the center deck. To raise or lower all three decks, Voigt simply releases the ratchet dog and turns the wheel. A gear reduction system makes it easy to raise the decks.

Two upright posts welded to the front and rear of the middle deck act as stabilizers. They ride between sets of nylon rubbing blocks and prevent excess movement from side to side.

A 12 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton engine mounts on a steel plate on rollers on two tracks over the center deck. A handle that Voigt can reach from the driver's seat allows him to engage the mower drive by moving

the engine. This tightens the drive belts in a straight line. Two sets of belts run to each deck.

"Belts last a lot longer if they are tightened by pulling them in a straight line," says Voigt.

Spring-loaded rods run from uprights mounted from the outside edges of the wing decks to uprights on the left and right sides of the center deck. When down, these rods help support the decks on rough ground as do skid bars underneath the decks. The rods also allow the two deck wings to be folded up when not needed.

The center deck has three blades, while one wing deck has two blades and the other a single blade. Voigt mounts special homemade blades on the center deck when chopping up garden residue or heavy weeds.

"They have cutting edges made from corn chopper knives and can go into corn stalks, brush or anything," says Voigt.

To fabricate the blades, he has to score the chopper knives and break off sections about 1 1/4 in. wide. He then welds them to the mild steel centers and grinds them down.

Voigt cautions that welding high carbon steel to mild steel requires a low hydrogen welding rod. This prevents formation of a layer of gas between the two metals.

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Attachment Turns Gator Into Golf Cart

It takes just a few minutes to convert a Deere Gator from farm use to golf use, thanks to a new Quick Caddy conversion kit.

The molded plastic attachment consists of a piece that attaches to the Gator with two pins.

The caddy holds two bags and has a couple of compartments for refreshments.

Tom Boe and Terry Zwart of BZ Products developed the idea after helping Deere design the Gator. When Deere didn't pursue it, they did. "It just seemed that a lot of people we were talking to were asking about it," Boe says.

Sells for \$580.

BZ Products also sells a pedal start system and brake/taillight kits.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BZ Products, Inc., 2520 Melrose Drive, Suite L,



Caddy kit holds 2 bags and has a couple of compartments for refreshments.

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 (ph 319 553-0684; email: sales@bzproducts.com; website: www.bzproducts.com).



Handy 2-WD rig has a 30 by 36-in. box and is powered by an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine.

Cheap Utility Vehicle Built Out Of Riding Mowers

"I call it my cheap Gator because my only expense to build it was welding rod and some bolts. My grand kids have a lot of fun driving it," says Cleo Brown, Nashville, Mich., about the inexpensive utility vehicle he built out of riding mower parts.

The 2-WD rig has a two-passenger padded seat and a 30 by 36-in. wooden dump box on back. It's powered by an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, which was moved to the back to give the rig more traction. The engine belt-drives a 6-speed transaxle. The engine, rear wheels and axle, hood, pedals, and front fenders are all off a Sears Craftsman riding mower. The front fenders were originally the Craftsman mower's rear fenders and were turned around to fit. The belt that drives the transaxle is from the power steering unit off a 1955 Chevy car. The battery is under

the hood.

To lengthen the rig, Brown removed the frame from a Dynamark riding mower, turned it around 180 degrees, and then welded it onto the Craftsman's rear axle. "By reversing the Dynamark's frame I was able to mount the engine using the same bolt pattern, without having to drill new holes," says Brown.

He wanted to move the Craftsman's steering wheel and column toward one side of the rig in order to make more room for passengers. However, the steering arm was on the wrong side which meant turning the wheel one way would have caused the machine to go the other way. So he replaced the steering system with one off a Century riding mower.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cleo L. Brown, 11861 Carlisle Hwy., Nashville, Mich. 49073 (ph 517 852-0738).

Big Bale Spears For Pickups

TRI-L hydraulic-powered bale spears let you quickly and easily haul big round bales with a pickup.

"They can be mounted directly to the bed or attached to an existing gooseneck ball, recessed or not," says Robin Lynch, TRI-L sales.

The 40-in. long spears mount to a steel frame. When the hydraulic cylinder is extended, the spears are horizontal to the ground. Back into a bale, retract the cylinder with the in-cab switch, and the bale is tilted back onto the pickup bed for the trip home.

The Hydraulic Pickup Spears have a 2,500-lb. capacity and can be mounted in half-ton or larger pickups and trucks. Retail price for the unit is \$1,328. The package includes the hydraulic cylinder, pump, cab operated switch, hoses, fittings and bed mounts. Initial installation can take up to three hours. After the mounting brackets are in place be-



Pivoting bale spears on a steel frame mount to truck bed or attach to gooseneck hitch.

neath the bed, removal and installation is a matter of removing a few bolts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, TRI-L Manufacturing, P.O. Box 2029, Ozark, Mo. 65721 (ph 417 581-8999 or 800 759-7856; email info@tri-l.com; website: www.tri-l.com).