



Baughman cuts pipe as shown (top), and bends the end to a point. To use, he slides pipe over scrotum and pulls tight with two fingers through hole in pipe before pushing off rubber band.

## He Made His Own Castrator

A modified piece of steel pipe can make castration with elastorators a simple affair, says Lloyd Baughman. Baughman has used the design for many years, not only for castration of lambs and calves, but also for docking lamb tails.

"You can pick the size pipe that fits the animal," he says. "It makes it easy to apply the rubber bands."

For lambs, Baughman suggests starting with a pipe about 1 1/2-in. dia. and about 6-in. long. Notch out about half the diameter of the pipe at a point about 3/4 to 1 in. from one end. The size of the notch may vary depending on whether it is to be used for calves or lambs. Baughman recommends about 2 in. for lambs.

After cutting the notch out, start from the other end of the pipe and cut through the pipe wall to within an inch of the notch. Crimp the pipe to a point at the end and weld the

seam.

"The cone shape end makes it easy to slide elastic bands to the working end of the pipe," explains Baughman. "The 3/4-in. space between the pipe end and the notch leaves room for 6 or 7 bands."

He loads the pipe with rubber bands and then slides the pipe over the scrotum or over the tail. He is then able to grasp the scrotum or tail through the notch and pull tight with two fingers and push an elastic band off, tight against the body cavity. Using the pipe helps ensure that a testicle doesn't slip above the elastorator band.

"As one band is released, just roll another forward, and it's ready for the next application," says Baughman.

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## "Furnace Buddy" Boosts Efficiency Of Older Furnaces

Cutting fuel costs on older LP or natural gas furnaces is like finding a pile of money in your basement, say manufacturers of the new "Furnace Buddy", an add-on device designed to boost efficiency of older furnaces. Now marketed only in Canada, the manufacturer, Applied Research in Calgary, Alberta, plans to introduce the unit in the U.S. in 2006.

"We've been selling through dealer installers and have 400 to 500 units out so far," says Duncan Harvey, vice president, manufacturing and production. "We have commitments from two large hardware chains and other Canadian retailers for this fall."

An older furnace turns on when a thermostat reaches a certain temperature. It continues at full burn until the room or house temperature rises sufficiently. In doing so, it often provides more heat than the air exchange can utilize. Excess heat is lost up the chimney. Newer furnaces, on the other hand, will burn for short bursts, providing the most efficient level of heat transfer.

The Furnace Buddy gives pre-1987 furnaces the efficiency of newer units. It controls gas flow, turning the flame on and off as needed.

"It's a closed loop feedback system," explains Harvey. "We have found some furnaces where the calculated savings is up to 45 percent, but those installations often include other adjustments. All our tests indicate a 30 percent savings, and that is a conservative claim."

The Furnace Buddy is priced at \$299 (Can.). The company is also developing a unit for use in mobile homes and one for indus-



Furnace Buddy is an add-on device that turns the flame on and off as needed, cutting fuel use on older furnaces.

trial-size warehouse furnaces.

The unit can be installed on any pre-1987 furnace with 24 to 30-volt controls with relay currents between 0.2A and 0.8A, a temperature operated fan control, a pilot light ignition system and a draft hood.

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Self-propelled splitters are powered by hydrostatic drives that make them easy to move..

## Drive These Splitters To The Wood

Why move big chunks of wood to the splitter when you can drive the splitter to the chunks? Power Split International (PSI) makes self-propelled splitters you can drive around the woodlot and they're designed to take the strain out of lifting log sections to be split.

"With the heavy-duty hydraulic log lift, you roll the log on, and it flips up into place like an extension of the splitting table," explains Louis Lapoint, PSI. "Our double vertical commercial unit is for serious wood splitters. They will do up to 10,000 cords of wood a year."

The Double Vertical Splitter will do up to 10 face cords per hour. The 18 hp engine cycles its 26-ton (force) rams every five seconds. PSI also makes a Single Vertical Splitter and a much smaller 9 hp model. While also outfitted with a vertical splitter, the smaller model doesn't offer the hydraulic log lift, conveyor and other options of its larger siblings.

PSI gets 95 percent of its business from sales of the heavy-duty double splitter. Prices for the various units range from about \$7,000 (U.S.) for the smallest model to \$23,500 for the double splitter with all the bells and



Double Vertical Splitter does up to 10 face cords per hour with an 18 hp engine that cycles its 26-ton rams every five seconds.

whistles, including a 25-ft. conveyor.

All three units are self-propelled. When one pile of chunks has been split, simply drive to the next. A hydrostatic motor with locked axle provides the propulsion.

Other options on the two larger units include a 20 hp engine, a roof, heavy gauge worktables and table extensions.

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Front wheels are held by a cradle that fits into receiver hitch. The back end hangs free, supported by two 5,000-lb. nylon straps that run to the back of ATV.



## "Rampless" ATV Carrier

Frustrated that driving an ATV up and down ramps into a pickup bed was a dangerous job, Herb Hoffman came up with a new-style ATV carrier for the back of a pickup that fits into a receiver hitch.

Hoffman and his family operate several thousand acres of grain and hay near Platte, S. Dak., and often need to transport ATV's between fields.

"One time I was backing my ATV down a pair of ramps when the rear wheels slid off to one side. I nearly tipped over and could have been badly injured. That's when I decided to find a safer way to haul ATV's," says Hoffman.

The carrier simply consists of a pair of wheel wells that cradle the front wheels. The back wheels hang in the air, separated by a pair of 5,000-lb. nylon straps that run from



Arrow points to strap that runs from the back of ATV to back of the truck.

the back of the pickup to the back of the ATV. Ratchet-type winders lift the back end of the ATV off the ground about 10 in.

Sells for \$195.  
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Hoffman, Punch Press Tools, Inc., Box 487, Platte, S. Dak. 57369 (ph 888 243-7311 or 605 337-3512).