

Reader Letters



Editor's Note: If you tried to contact John Strickland, (better known as the "G" man), who was featured in the last issue, you most likely had a problem. The contact information that we ran was wrong for John, who specializes in rebuilding Allis Chalmers "G" tractors to near new condition. Here's the correct information: John Strickland, 12717 NW 75th Terrace, Alachua, Fla. 32615 (ph 386 462-4685; fax 386 418-4627; website: www.dieselacg.com; jj seng@v8bike.com)

I've read with interest the stories in the past couple issues on guys who turned old combines into snowplows. Thought your readers might be interested in the one I built.

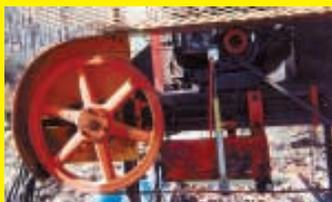


I turned a 55 Deere combine into a plow. We stripped off all the grain cleaning components. The engine's mounted at the back to counteract the weight of the plow up front. We also fitted it with a cab so we can work in comfort. Works very well.

I also converted a Case 600 combine into a combination snowplow and 45-ft. self-propelled spray rig. (David J. Reust, 450 E. State St., Huntington, Ind. 46750)

I found an easy way to plant potatoes. I just put a small cultivator shovel on the back of my rototiller where the brake stick would normally mount. The shovel opens up a nice furrow. We just drop the potatoes in and cover. (Wayne Miller, 575 2nd St. E., Westhope, N.Dak. 58793 ph 701 245-6556)

Anyone with a bandsaw-type sawmill might be interested in my Bandsaw Blade Tension Monitor. It consists of a spring



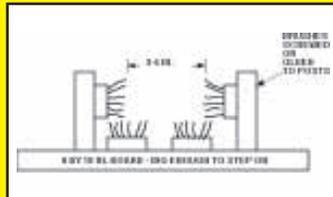
and a segment of measuring tape. You read the tape where it sticks out of the spring. It lets you check the relative tension of a blade and tell at a glance if a blade needs to be tightened or if it should be replaced. It simply hooks temporarily over the blade so if you marked where it was when you installed the blade, you can monitor it.

I sell this monitor for \$26 U.S. postpaid. (Milo Rifenberg, HC 37, Box 51C, Frankford, W.Va., 24938 ph 304 497-3224)

We truly enjoy our subscription to FARM SHOW and all the things your readers

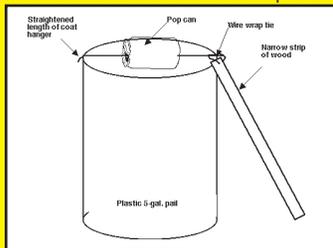
come up with. We have had a small engine repair shop in Northern Ontario for 33 years. If any of your readers are looking for old parts, we have a fairly large collection of parts for Deere lawn and garden tractors and snowmobiles; Stihl chain saws; Homelite chainsaws, pumps, trimmers; Husqvarna, Partner, Pioneer, Poulan, McCulloch chainsaws; Chrysler, Johnson, and Evinrude outboard parts. (Guiho Saw Sales & Marine, 950 Riverside Drive, Timmins, Ontario P4N 3W2 Canada ph 705 264-9596; e-mail: guiho@ntl.sympatico.ca)

I've made several different kinds of boot cleaners over the years but my latest is the best. I mounted four brushes on a



wood stand. The base is 18 in. long and 8 in. wide. The vertical brushes are spaced 5 to 4 in. apart at the bristles. The sides of the base extend out past the brushes so you can stand on it to hold it in place. You can buy good brushes for about a dollar apiece so overall cost was less than \$5. (John Porter, 26494 C Dr. N, Albion, Mich. 49224)

Here's an idea that's been around but really works to catch lots of rats or mice. Slip an empty pop can onto a straight piece of coat hanger wire by poking a hole in the bottom of the can and passing the wire through from top to bottom. Melt holes on either side of the top of a 5



gal. bucket to run the wire across the top of the bucket. Run a small piece of wood up to the top of the bucket. Drill a hole in the end of the wood and in the side of the bucket and tie it in place.

Put a brick in the bottom of the pail for stability if you're going to catch rats. Put about 2 in. of anti freeze in pail. Smear peanut butter on the pop can. You can also smear a little on the ramp to get their attention. Mice and rats will try to get at the peanut butter on the can and fall in the bucket. The anti freeze will not only kill them but it also takes care of the smell. Just empty it out every three or four days. This really works great. (Laurence Edwards, 1053 Sard Ave., Montgomery, Ill. 60538)

There was an article in FARM SHOW about a reader who turned an old barbecue grill into a parts washer. I also converted an old grill but I made mine into a computer desk for my 10-year-old grandson.

I first stripped it down to the framework, then repainted it and added veneered particle board to the three flat surfaces. I left the dropped center section in place so the computer monitor would be lower and at eye level for him. The side panels hold a printer and other accessories while the front fold-down panel provides a low-



To make it easier to fill my IH air planter, I mounted a pipe bracket across the back of the hopper. When I back a grain trucked filled with seed pallets up to the planter, I slide two 2 by 6's with hooks on them out of the truck to hook over the

ered area for the keyboard and mouse. The bottom metal panel holds the computer itself.



We left the wheels on to make it easy to move to relocate or vacuum. (Bob Hudspeth, P.O. Box 51, Era, Texas 76238)

Regarding the story in your last issue, "How To Compact A Trench", there's more to this process than meets the eye. I'd like to run up a "red flag" about the method, which involves flooding newly dug trenches with water to settle the soil in them.

Water will tend to cause the fluidized soil to fill any voids, but it will not compact it even when the soil dries out. In all cases the soil will bulk up or expand when water is added due to the fact that a thin layer of water forms around each particle of soil. Sand, having a large grain size, will bulk up the least while clay may bulk up as much as 30 percent. There will always be some settlement after a period of time.

The optimum moisture content for good compaction is 10 to 15 percent. So adding water may fill the trench in better, but it may actually delay good compaction. When you flood a ditch in heavy clay soil, it can take as long as three years to dry out completely at the bottom. In some conditions, it may work well but it's not a cure-all for all soils and situations.

My observations are based on my 36 years as a civil engineer for a major oil company. (Ivan L. Pfalser, RR1, Box 162, Caney, Kan. 67333 ph 620 879-2938)

Any FARM SHOW reader who needs a special-built planter should look up Bill Meteer at Meteer Mfg., Athens, Ill. They specialize in splitter planters and specialty toolbars that you won't find anywhere else. I've worked with them for years in my travels finding stories for FARM SHOW and other major ag publications.

Here's an example of a recent job they did for Jack Wock & Sons, Jerseyville, Ill. Meteer married a new White 6300 air planter to an earlier model Deere 7100 finger pickup machine to build a 23-row splitter that can switch back and forth between wide and narrow rows. The Deere toolbar hitches up to the back of

pipe. Then I put a piece of plywood over the 2 by 6's to serve as a platform. Then I can walk out of the truck and drop beans into the hopper, instead of lifting them up to the hopper. (Fred Duling, 11653 E. 550 S, Fairmont, Ind. 46928 ph 765 948 3273)

the White when they need narrow rows. Meteer designed some ingenious bridge hitch connections that let the two planters work together as one yet disconnect



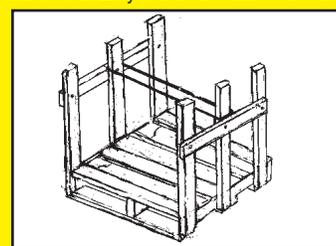
easily when no longer needed. Contact: Meteer Mfg., Rt. 1, Box 221, Athens, Ill. 62613 (ph 217 636-8109; website: www.meteer.com). (C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)

When using a sweep auger in a grain bin, you have to keep your eye on the electric cord as well as the auger. We came up with an electric cord hanger, posi-



tioned 7 1/2 ft. above the auger and motor, to hold the cord and allow it to drop to the motor from the center of the bin. The hanger idea works in bins from 12 to 48 ft. dia. We made it using 10-ft. long, 1-in. dia. tubing. The channel iron base fastens to the ladder or side of bin. A chain braces the hanger. Plastic electric ties hold the cord to the tube so it accordsians back and forth as needed. (Richard Layden, 11443 E. 4200 North Road, Hoopston, Ill. 60942)

You can make handy firewood racks on top of 40 by 48-in. wood pallets. Bolt three 4-ft. 2 by 4's to the sides of each



rack with a cross bar near the top of each side. Then run a steel strap, wire or chain between the two sides to brace he tops. It'll hold three rows of 18-in. firewood,

(Continued on next page)