Bright Propane Lamps Provide Light Without Electricity

You don’t need electricity to get 100-watt lighting. Any cabin or remote cottage can enjoy bright lights with propane-fueled lamps from Midstate Lamp Co.

“Our model 450 is the result of eight years of research,” says Samuel Schrock, owner of Midstate. “Most commercial propane-fired lamps are not bright enough. I knew the secret to bright light from low pressure gas sources was to get just the right mix of air and gas.”

After trying a wide variety of tubes and fittings and introducing two earlier models to the market place, Schrock now has a lamp that will produce light that rivals the 100-watt bulb. It uses the Venturi effect, which recognizes that gas or liquid increases speed as the opening of a tube it is traveling through increases in diameter.

“As the gas moves through our Venturi design, the increase in speed pulls the correct amount of air to create the optimum mix of air and gas,” explains Schrock.

The two earlier models are marketed mostly to Amish farmers, but Schrock anticipates a wider market for the 450. He recently had it certified by the American National Standards Institute. Its price is set at $75 and is fueled with standard propane. With an adapter, it can be run off a 20-lb. or smaller propane bottle.

Schrock says the lamp’s mantle will likely need replacing about once a month. Otherwise, the stainless steel, brass and aluminum fittings should not need maintenance.


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Tired of having the dogs at the local hunt club treat dog feeders like chew toys, Tom Harmon built one to last.

“This is the last dog feeder you’ll ever need,” says Harmon.

Knowing that hunting dogs can and will eat right through most plastic feeders, Harmon builds his with heavy-duty plastic sewer pipe. He starts with a length of 6 1/2-in. dia. pipe and cuts a hole in the side a few inches from one end. A 3/4-in. plywood disc, cut to fit is screwed to that bottom end.

“The size of the pipe you use and the hole size depends on how much feed you want it to hold and how big the dog’s head is,” says Harmon. “I use 1 1/4-in. pipe for ours and put about a 6 1/2-in. hole. We feed our dogs twice a week, and a big coffee can full of food will hold them for three to four days.”

The trickiest part of making the feeder, he says, is cutting a piece of wood to fit inside the pipe. It acts as a baffle to keep the dog food from spilling out of the feeder all at once. “Cutting the baffle is trial and error,” says Harmon.

A much easier task was making tops for his feeders. He has access to a roller and welder and makes his tops out of stainless steel scraps. The caps need to come off easily for feeding so you can’t use a pvc cap. “You can make them out of anything that will fit over the pipe,” says Harmon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Harmon, 2604 Wheeler Lane, Church Road, Va. 23833 (ph 804 265-8658).

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You can turn almost any recliner into a lift chair, thanks to a patented universal lift frame that at-taches to the bottom of recliners.

The electronic seat lifting system is often covered by Medicare in the U.S. The Buzz Corp., at Plymouth, Penn., says its product is an affordable way to convert your fa-vorite recliner into a lift chair, making it much easier for people with arthritis or other disabilities to continue using their favorite chair.

The fully assembled steel frame attaches to chair’s base in minutes with 4 U-bolts. The hand control cord fastens just under the armrest. An electric motor provides the lift without interfering with the chair’s existing features. It works on standard recliners, rocker recliners and wall-saver recliners, but the company doesn’t recommend using the Enhan-Sit on swivel recliners, unless the swivel is removed from the base of the recliner. The Enhan-Sit doesn’t interfere with or damage the chair in any way, and will handle users weighing up to 350 lbs. These models are available – ULF-1, which fits recliner bases up to 19 in. wide, and ULF-2, which fits recliner bases that are 20 or more in. wide, and the ULF-3. The Enhan-Sit sells for $299. It comes with a lifetime warranty on the steel frame and a 5-year warranty on the motor and switch. The unit is equipped with four leveler legs and an instruction manual is included. It uses 115-volt alternating current (AC) to power a 1 1/2 hp motor. An 8-ft. power cord is also included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Enhan-Sit, The Buzz Corp., 526 West Main Street, Plymouth, Penn. 18651 (ph 888 217-1211; buzz174@verizon.net; www.enhsanit.com).

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A-Maize-ing Cake

16 oz. creamed corn
1/2 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup white sugar
3 eggs
1 cup oil
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup chopped nuts
2 1/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
3 teaspoons baking powder

Cream sugar, oil and eggs. Add corn, raisins and nuts. Mix well. Blend together flour, cinnamon, baking soda and baking powder. Add to creamed mixture and mix well. Bake in two 8-in. oiling baking pans or one 9 by 13-in. oiled pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes.

Potato Cakes

6 med. potatoes
2 tbsp sugar
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 egg
1/2 tsp mace
2 1/2 cups milk or 1/4 cup butter

Boil, peel and mash potatoes. Add egg, sugar, mace, nutmeg, milk or butter to potatoes and mix well. Melt butter or lard onto hot griddle. Spoon mixture onto hot, greased griddle and brown both sides. Lay cakes in serving dish. Pour melted butter mixed with a little sugar over the potato cakes.

Tomato Preserves

Add 1/2 lb. of white sugar to 1 lb. of little, yellow, pear-shaped tomatoes; put into preserving kettle, add water barely to cover. Do not use too much water as you can add water if needed. Slice lemons, allowing 1 lemon to every 2 lbs. of tomatoes. Cook until done and the syrup looks thick. These taste almost like preserved figs.

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Propane-fueled lamps produce light that rivals a 100-watt bulb.