Home-Built Utility Vehicle

Steve Haas transforms steel wheels, horseshoes, auto exhaust pipe and flat iron into homemade rocking chairs with a farm equipment “flavor”.

Farm Equipment Chairs

Rock On Steel Wheels

Steve Haas' homemade rocking chairs were so popular as gifts that he quit his job at a hog confinement operation and started making them full time five years ago.

He sandblasts, welds and paints to transform steel wheels, horseshoes, auto exhaust pipe and flat iron into rocking chairs with character.

“I use grain drill press wheels because they are lighter,” Haas says. Chairs weigh about 70 lbs., which he ships through the mail in two pieces. The chair back made with exhaust pipe tubing and batch dryer screen slips off receivers to meet package size requirements. The seat is an implement seat and horseshoes attach the metal rockers to the wheels. Haas customizes with a horseshoe cup holder.

The Seward, Neb., man paints each chair with authentic colors for various dealers from Deere green to Allis-Chalmers orange to International red. Each chair has a company decal.

One Dallas, Texas, customer bought one of each model for his restaurant. “Then he wanted a double-seater,” Haas says. Haas also makes Harley-Davidson and Nebraska Cornhusker chairs, but notes that most of his customers don’t live in Nebraska. He ships many rockers out East and to Texas.

Adult chairs cost $250, children’s chairs cost $225, and the double-seater is $300. Shipping is extra.

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Vertical Lift Gate Folds Out Of Way

Jack Kaspari wanted a gate that wouldn’t get hung up in the snow, so instead of a swinging or sliding gate, he built one that raises up vertically. The 12-ft. long gate can be raised and lowered with a switch at the gate or from a transmitter in his car even from his house 250 ft. away. The gate works smoothly, but it took some effort to work out the details.

“I had to make a model of it to get the cross bars and the channel iron uprights just right,” recalls Kaspari. “Each of the four cross bars had to be offset a little before I pinned them in place so they would fold up on themselves.”

The gate itself was the easy part once he got the design right. It consists of two 4-ft. upright 1 1/2-in. channel iron with one secured to the gate post. The second upright swings free as it rises into the air and folds. The 12-ft. cross bars are 1-in. square tube stock.

“If I was doing it over, I would use 1 1/2-in. tubing and add a couple more feet to the length,” he says. “That would make it more solid. As it is, it vibrates a bit when I drop it down.”

The lift mechanism is an electric winch mounted at the base of the post to which the gate folds. Kaspari used an old power pole for a gate post, giving him the height he needed. The cable runs from the winch to a pulley mounted at the top of the post. From there it runs out to the top corner at the far end of the gate.

The winch is controlled by a 12-volt, three channel receiver powered with a 120 to 12-volt converter that Kaspari picked up at Radio Shack. Since the receiver had a one amp maximum, he installed three relays, one for up, one for down and one for a yard light installed at the top of the pole.

If someone comes to the gate after dark, Kaspari can turn on the light before deciding to open up. Best of all, he doesn’t have to worry about snow drifting against the gate.

“It beats trying to swing a gate or even lifting it,” he says.

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Fold-up gate’s lift mechanism is an electric winch mounted at base of gate post. Vertical lift gate means no worrying about snow drifting against the gate.