Word Processor Keeps Things Simple

The Classic Word Processor is a simpler, "behind the times" way to get work done in the 21st century. It was developed for the so-called "Plain People", religious groups who still travel by horse and buggy.

Designer Allen Hoover runs Hoover Repair LLC, a Pennsylvania business that retrofits woodworking tools for people who use alternative power sources - particularly the Amish. He got the idea for a simple word processor when other companies quit making them about 10 years ago.

Many Plain People accept word processors, Hoover says. Computers aren't acceptable because of their connectivity to the world through the internet, and their ability to add programs and store photographs.

"When I designed the Classic Word Processor I met with individuals from church groups to see what is acceptable," Hoover says. He also found out what they wanted - the capability to make spreadsheets, do word processing and simple drawings.

"Spreadsheets is the part of it that drove the whole project," Hoover says, explaining Amish business people use it for everything from inventory to tracking to creating receipts.

Hoover installed open source programs. Working with computer programmers he adapted them by removing features such as an address book, which links to e-mail. Programs can't be added, so drivers for more than 600 printers are installed in the word processor at the factory.

"This is 10 times as fast and has 100 times the memory of old word processors," Hoover says, adding they function similar to 5-year-old computers. The Classic Word Processor accepts old floppy discs and flash cards to transfer files, but it also has a USB port.

Classic Word Processor is a "behind the times" way to get work done in the 21st century.

An ad for the Classic Word Processor sums it up well: "Made specifically for the Plain People. Unequalled safety: no modem, no sound, no photographs, no games or gimmicks. Service provided by real persons."

Response has been great since the word got out about it last fall, and sales have been good at the introductory price of $798.

Hooper subcontracts parts and assembly to local businesses. The Classic Word Processor has an old-fashioned style and is 12 by 19-in. and 6 in. tall when the 8-in. screen is folded back.

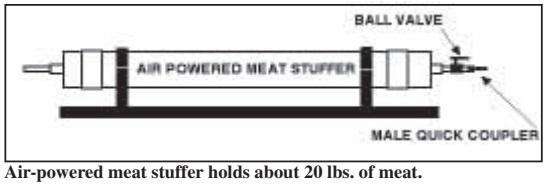
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allen Hoover, Classic Word Processor, 263 Kurtz Rd., Ephrata, Penn. 17522 (ph 717 354-2583).

Air-Powered Meat Stuffer

"I thought the sausage stuffer attachment we were using with our meat grinder worked too slow. So one day while I was using it I came up with a better idea," says Floyd Plank of Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

He started with a 4-in. dia., 4-ft. long pvc pipe with a threaded coupler and threaded plug at each end. He drilled a 3/4-in. dia. hole in the square part of both plugs and screwed a 3/4 by 2-in. nipple into the holes, letting the nipples cut their own threads. At one end he installed a ball valve and a quick coupler air hose male nipple to fit his air hose. At the other end he installed an 8-in. long clear rubber hose.

He cut four 12-in. long 2 by 6's, making notches in them to fit the pipe, and screwed them together around the pipe. Then he screwed two 4-ft. long 1 by 6's on the bottom to keep the unit from rolling. "To operate the meat stuffer, I unscrew the end of the pipe with the air hose fitting and stand it on end, then drop the ground meat in. Then I put a 3-in. dia. pvc cap in (with round end down), screw the end of the pipe back on, connect an air hose to it and let one of my kids operate the valve while I fill the bags or jars, etc., with meat. Then I unhook the air hose, relieve the pressure, unscrew the other end of the pipe, add a little air again to push the 3-in. plug out, and start over.



Air-powered meat stuffer holds about 20 lbs. of meat.

"It'll hold about 20 lbs. of meat. The first time we used it we ran about 150 lbs. of baloney through it in only about one hour," says Plank.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Floyd Plank, 1953 310th St., Mt. Ayr, Iowa 50854.

Build-It-Yourself Bathtub Lift

Getting out of a bathtub can be painful and dangerous for older disabled people, even with help. Ed Hanyzewski knows just how difficult it can be. His wife had multiple sclerosis most of her life.

"As we get older, most of us have trouble getting up and down," he says. "My wife and I wanted to make equipment for handicapped people, but it's difficult to do due to liability. So I figured I'd design some things that people could build for themselves."

When Hanyzewski designed his people lift for getting out of bathtubs, he made sure to use components that were easy to find locally. "The tubing I use is easy to get and easy to weld," he says. "The nylon netting is widely available and can be sewn with a standard sewing machine. The linear actuator is DC-powered, running off batteries. It can be purchased from any number of suppliers as can the switches and cables."

Hanyzewski estimates the cost of a lift would be around $350 to $400. That is cheap compared with a walk-in tub that runs $5,000 to $7,000.

The lift consists of a fixed upright with base and ceiling plates. The upright is 1 1/2-in., 14-gauge steel tubing that is welded to a 1/4-in. thick steel plate for a base. A 1/4-in. thick plate is welded to the top of the upright, with a 3/4-in. nut welded to the top of it. A piece of 3/4-in. ready rod is screwed into the nut, with a second 1/4-in. thick steel plate and a nut welded to it screwed down on the ready rod.

The length of the upright depends on the height of the ceiling. Hanyzewski attached a 2 by 6-in. piece of wood to the ceiling with screws and installed the upright with the top plate against it and the base plate on the floor. Making it secure was simply a matter of threading the top plate until it was tight to the wood and bolting both top plate and base plate to the ceiling and the floor, respectively.

The lift itself consists of a netting seat attached to a nylon-webbing sling and suspended from an arm that pivots from the upright. The lifting action is produced by a linear actuator that extends the arm up just enough for the person sitting in the seat to swivel around to the edge of the tub.

"I made the arm from the same material as the upright," says Hanyzewski. "I welded two pieces of 1/4-in. by 2-in. steel plates to the end of the arm to make a clevis hitch and bolted it to the upright, leaving enough space between the arm and the upright that the arm could pivot."

The linear actuator is bolted to a steel plate that is welded to the side of the upright and the base plate at the floor. Hanyzewski drilled a hole in the nose of the actuator and bolted a second fabricated clevis to it. This clevis also pins to the lift arm about 2/3 of the distance from the upright to the sling.

The sling, consisting of seat and webbing sized for the person to be lifted, is suspended from a swivel bar at the end of the arm. A U-shaped clevis is suspended from the end of the arm and connected to the swivel bar by a bolt. Hanyzewski fabricated the swivel bar using a piece of rolled flat steel 10 in. long and 3/4-in. by 1 1/2-in. thick with a 1/2-in. hole through its center. The bolt that extends through it and the clevis allows the swivel bar to rotate freely.

"I took some 3/8-in. round stock, rolled it in a half circle and welded one to each end of the swivel bar," says Hanyzewski. "It makes a hook to hold the sling."

Ed Hanyzewski designed this lift for getting out of bathtubs.

Lift consists of a fixed upright with base and ceiling plates.

To use the lift, a person sets the nylon seat on the side of the tub and sits down on it. A remote control for the actuator is hung from the arm. Activating the actuator causes the arm to rise slowly, lifting the seat and the person up enough that they can swivel around and into the tub. Reversing the actuator allows the person to settle down into the tub for a bath. When the bath is complete, the process is reversed again, and the seat lifts the person out of the tub so they can again be seated on the edge of the tub.

"I use waterproof cable and a flexible cord for the controls," says Hanyzewski. "They are secured so they will never get near the water. I use a toggle switch to control the actuator, so the switch can't be automatically left on. If the hand comes off, the motor stops.

"When I designed this, I wanted it so the average person could do it in the shop," says Hanyzewski. "All you need is a welder and a drill press for major tools. You also need about 1 1/2 to 2 ft. of space next to the bathtub. The upright needs to be about 12 to 16 in. away from the side of the tub."

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Reader Recipes

(Continued)

Dog Biscuits

3/4 cup hot water or meat juices
1/3 cup margarine
1/2 cup powdered milk
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp honey
1 egg, beaten
3 cups whole wheat flour

In large bowl, pour hot water over margarine. Stir in powdered milk, salt, honey and egg. Add flour 1/2 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition. Knead 3 to 4 minutes, adding more flour if necessary to make a very stiff dough. Roll to 1/2 in. thick and cut in shapes or strips. Place on greased baking sheet and bake at 325° for 50 min. Allow to cool and dry until hard.
Ann Harman, Bee Culture Magazine

Liver Pudding & Hominy *(for breakfast)*

1/2 ring of liver pudding
1/2 stick margarine
1 can white hominy, drained

Melt the margarine in non-stick skillet. Cut up pudding in 1/4-in. slices with skin removed. Cook on med heat until slices are melted together. Put the drained hominy into the skillet and stir until heated thoroughly. Serve with eggs and toast. Serves 2.
Claudia Schultz, Wheeling, W.Va.

Protein Hair Conditioner

1 egg yolk
2 tbsp thick coconut milk
2 tbsp honey
2 drops ylang ylang essential oil

For damaged hair. Beat together egg yolk, coconut milk, honey and essential oil. Massage the conditioning treatment into your hair. Cover your hair with a plastic shower cap and leave the mixture on your hair for 30 min. Follow by shampooing and rinsing your hair thoroughly.
Laurel Vukovic