

Infrared laser on animal live trap detects the presence of animals and activates a solenoid to release a hinged trap door.



First-Of-Their-Kind Laser-Triggered Traps

Randy Hushower says his patent-pending "Laser Bird Trap" and "Laser Animal Trap Conversion Kit" are the first traps to ever use lasers as triggers.

The traps have only been on the market for a few months but he's already had tremendous interest in them.

The Laser Bird Trap system uses an infrared electronic laser to detect the presence of one or more birds. Detection activates a solenoid to release the hinged trap door. The result is a poison and chemical-free way to catch birds live.

Hushower designed the trap so it can be placed either horizontally on the ground or vertically up on the side of a building.

"No weight is needed to trip the trap because the bird silently breaks the infrared beam," he explains. "The door encloses them so quickly they're caught without any chance of escape. A pop-up flag tells you from a distance that a bird has been caught."

To add versatility to the trap's operation, Hushower incorporated a time-delay switch as a standard feature on his traps. It can be set for either a zero, 10, 20 or 30-second delay between the laser beam being broken and the door closing. This makes it possible to catch more birds at once (rather than a single bird, which is first to approach).

The Laser Bird Trap comes in two sizes - a 17 by 17-in. model for smaller birds, and a 2 by 2-ft. version for bigger birds like pigeons. Each unit runs on three double A batteries, which Hushower says last three to four months.

The company also sells a "Laser Animal Trap Conversion Kit," which uses the same electronic technology and can be put on most existing cage traps, from squirrel to raccoon size.

"On regular cage traps, many animals will



Live bird trap can hang on the side of a building.

step over the trip panel and steal the bait. My conversion kit solves this problem and it takes only about 15 to 20 minutes to make the conversion," Hushower says. "Also, the kit allows me to use these traps where I couldn't before - such as on a roof, where they sit at an angle. This system can also operate a trap with a double-ended door. There are many different applications."

The Laser Bird Trap sells for \$229 (17 by 17-in.), and the 24 by 24-in. model is priced at \$259 (plus S&H). The Laser Animal Trap Conversion Kit costs \$125 (plus S&H); however, Hushower says he's working toward an arrangement with a trap company to build the cage traps with this device installed at a more reasonable price.

Visit the Niles Wildlife Pest Control website to see live videos of the traps at work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Niles Wildlife Pest Control, PLLC, 58300 Indian Lake Road, Dowagiac, Mich. 49047 (ph 269 684-1016 or 877 212-7378; sales@nileswildlife.com; www.nileswildlife.com).

Post Pounder Designed For Electric Fence Posts

"I made this post driver to make my job a lot easier," says 19-year-old inventor Kayla Bastin of Golden City, Mo.

Bastin notes that regular post drivers are too heavy to drive electric posts.

She cut a 25-in. length of 1-in. dia. metal pipe and also cut 4 in. from a 2-in. dia., solid steel shaft. She drilled a 1/2-in. deep, 1-in. dia. hole into the shaft and slipped the pipe into it, then welded the pipe and shaft together to form a driver. She also dipped the driver in liquid "gripper" so it isn't slippery when wet.

Bastin made another model that's equipped with welded-on handles made from 1/4-in. dia. steel rod. However, that one didn't work so well because the operator has to reach down too low to drive the post in.

She recently came up with a "new and improved" model. On this one she welded a 1-in. dia. pipe across the top of the driver and slid a pair of rubber bicycle handles over the pipe to provide a better gripping surface.



Electric fence post driver is made from a 25-in. length of metal pipe.

"The only drawback to my invention was that dad found more fence to build!" says Bastin, who was a finalist in the national Farm Bureau invention contest.

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"Low Tech" Auto Steering System

Hands-free steering is gaining ground as more and more farmers discover the savings in fuel and other inputs, not to mention reduced fatigue from not trying to steer a straight line. The only trouble is that most steering systems on the market are expensive and also require that every operation be done with GPS. Scott Longlet, president, Reichhardt Electronic Innovations, Inc., says his company has a better idea.

"Our modular system gives you automatic steering with or without GPS for all field operations," says Longlet. "And you can use our set of equipment in more than one machine."

The Reichhardt system has all the basic components of more expensive systems with the exception of being able to collect and download data. The entire system can be used in up to eight vehicles once each machine is equipped with an interface with the hydraulic steering system.

Reichhardt's basic package runs about \$5,200. GPS adds about \$1,800. A steering motor adds another \$2,000. The system is able to plug into many existing products on the market.

Longlet says the Reichhardt system really excels in fields that haven't been tilled or planted using GPS mapping/steering. Instead of GPS, it can use ultra sound or mechanical "feelers" to steer. Components can be customized for each job.

"I use GPS in my first pass tilling or planting," explains Longlet. "When seeding grain, I plug off two rows with every third pass on



Universal controller adapts to a variety of auto-steer components.

my 30-ft. seeder to give me a tram line for my 90-ft. sprayer. Then when I come back with my sprayer tractor, I use the ultrasonic sensor in the tramline to control the steering. I use GPS for harvest of wheat or beans and the mechanical sensor on the corn head. When shredding corn stalks, I use either ultrasonic or the sensor to guide the tractor."

Regardless of which sensor component is used, the controller receives 100 readings per second for instant response. Steering is accurate at speeds from 0.5 to 30+ mph.

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Converting junked-out deep freezers into mineral feeders saves the cost of a new feeder - and the disposal fee, says Ronald Karo.

Low-Cost Mineral Feeders

"Converting a couple of junked-out deep freezers into mineral feeders saved me a \$350 disposal fee for each freezer. It also saved me the cost of a new feeder," says Ronald Karo, Nucla, Colo. "By placing these units at different locations around our pastures, cows have ready access to minerals."

To make each conversion, he removed the door and stripped the plastic and insulation from the metal. Then he stood the freezers on end, with the motor end up to make more room at the bottom for minerals. A wire is used to secure the top part of the freezer to a post or tree.

A 3 by 12 wooden board is nailed on at the bottom with 40-penny nails. He drills holes through 2 by 6 boards and through the top of the freezer, then bolts the boards on top of the freezer. The freezer's metal lid is then attached to the boards with roofing screws to make an awning. The final step is to apply caulking to the back of the lid to seal the joint.



He stands the freezers on end, with the motor end up to make more room at the bottom for minerals.

"It makes a sturdy, mostly weatherproof feeder. With the wooden board installed it'll hold about 200 lbs. of mineral," says Karo.

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