

## How To Build Your Own Posthole Auger

"I'm a hobby minded person who's always looking for something to make. It's too easy to go downtown and buy it," says Ken Voigt, Wausau, Wis., who made his own drill-powered auger that digs 6-in. dia. holes.

"Making an auger with continuous spirals is difficult and takes a lot of time, so I figured out how to make an auger from paddles. It was relatively easy to make," says Voigt.

He uses a large electric drill to drive his homemade auger, via a 1/2-in. adapter that connects the shaft to the drill chuck.

He started with a 1-in. dia. steel shaft and lag screwed a replaceable ice auger blade on the bottom that goes 3/4 of the way around the shaft. The ice auger blade serves as the auger's cutting edge. Then he added a series of paddles that are angled upward, so that each paddle passes dirt on up to the next one to keep the material moving.

"The paddles are easy to make," says Voigt. "First I cut a circle in the diameter that I want the augered hole to be, and then I cut the circle into four quarters. I round one edge between the two points and remove material from the third point to compensate for the diameter of the shaft. Then I weld the paddles onto the shaft, each one positioned at an angle so that



Ken Voigt figured out how to make an auger from paddles attached to a 1-in. dia. shaft.

it's taking material from the paddle below it.

"The auger can be used for making holes in either ice or dirt. I use it in dirt. An auger like mine could be made for any size hole you want."

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Ron Hanen converted this fertilizer cart to fill his bean planter. A gas engine is used to belt-drive a hydraulic pump, which operates a hinged auger that he added to one side.

## Modified Fertilizer Buggy Makes Soybean Handling Easy

Ron Hanen, Montevideo, Minn., was looking for a cheap way to easily fill the hoppers on a bean planter using an auger to deliver the beans. The buggy that he converted gets the job done fast and eliminates manhandling of bean bags.

Hanen bought the stainless steel fertilizer cart used. "It holds 4,500 lbs. of beans in two compartments," says Hanen. "I use my pickup to pull it which frees up a tractor."

The system is entirely self-contained and uses a Briggs & Stratton gas engine to belt-drive a hydraulic pump that operates the auger. He removed the spread-

ers from the back of the buggy and added a home-built 6-in. dia. auger on one side. The auger is hinged in the middle and swings back out of the way when not in use. The end of the auger is fitted with a 10-ft. long pvc pipe to ensure a gentle landing for seed and to help prevent spills. When not in use, the unloading tube folds back out of the and is secured with a tarp strap.

The top of the buggy is fitted with a hand-cranned plastic tarp.

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## Perfume Your Moles Away

Ross Hingston discovered that the sweet smell of cheap perfume can drive moles out of his family's farm yard. He got the idea after buying \$90 mole bait that didn't work.

"We recently discovered huge mole tunnels and hills," says Hingston. "I tried the bait and then remembered there were discount outlets for perfume and cologne in Toronto where I live most of the year."

On his next trip to the farm, Hingston brought along several bottles of cheap perfume. He found that an average bottle could be mixed with 2 to 3 gal. of water

and still have a potent smell.

"I pour a little over each hole, then go back and repeat like you do when watering plants," he says. "You want it in the holes not around the sides."

Hingston finds warm soil works best at absorbing the perfume and spreading the smell. After a couple of applications, the moles retreated out of the lawn.

"Gasoline and warm motor oil mixed together might work just as well," he says.

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## New Snow Tires Have Retractable Studs

Tires with on-demand, retractable studs are in development with test marketing expected in early 2009 and full sales by the end of the year. Q-Tires may be just the answer to driving on ice and snow without damaging road surfaces, the reason many states have outlawed tires with studs.

"So far we have been 100 percent successful in getting states to approve our tire concept, even where studded tires are illegal," says Sean Charirkar, director of marketing, Q-Tires. "We have concentrated on California and the Pacific Northwest, followed by the northeastern U.S."

The concept for the tires was developed in Oregon where you can be in deep snow one minute and an hour later on dry streets. Charirkar notes that in the Pacific Northwest and northern California, as well as parts of Canada, you can encounter snow year round at certain passes.

The novel tire design uses a remote control to release air from the tire into a bladder beneath the studs pushing them from the tire surface. When the studs need to be retracted, the remote empties the bladder, retracting the studs below the tread face.



Remote-controlled air bladder extends or retracts studs as needed.

"The remote becomes a de facto safety and efficiency backup for the driver," says Charirkar. "It indicates what the tire pressure is, so the driver knows when to add air."

After 25 cycles, the tires will have lost about 2 lbs. pressure. That is well under the 25 percent (8 lbs.) loss considered safe under current tire pressure management systems.

"Retailers will set prices, but we expect Q-Tires to sell at 30 to 40 percent above premium all-season tires," says Charirkar.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Q-Tires, Inc., 250 Commonwealth Drive, Suite 101, Greenville, S.C. 29615 (ph 864 234-9677; fax 864 234-7083; info@qtires.com; www.qtires.com).

## Hose Reduces False Alerts

It's good to be alerted when someone is driving up your driveway. But it's irritating to hear the signal every time a dog or wildlife walks by.

"The rubber hose alert is a better solution," says Amy Thomas, operations manager of Cody Mercantile. "Most other infrared monitors would trigger and sound an alert with every passing person or animal; especially in remote areas with lots of wildlife that wanders through late at night."

The rubber hose alert system is simple to install and operate, Thomas explains. Hang the radio-operated transmitter (powered by a 9-volt battery) on a post or other structure near the entrance. Stretch the 25-ft. rubber hose across the entrance and attach it to the transmitter. Plug the receiver into a 120-volt outlet where you want the alert to sound. It can be up to 600 ft. (greater distances are possible depending upon the terrain) from the transmitter. It takes about 150 lbs. pressure, so some people can step on the hose without setting off the alert.

The system works in all weather situations,



It takes about 150 lbs. of pressure on hose across driveway to sound an alert.

and several rubber hose transmitters can link to a single receiver to cover multiple driveways. Or, additional receivers can be added to other buildings such as a barn, workshop or machine shed.

Cost for the system is \$169. Additional receivers are \$79.99; extra rubber hoses/transmitters can be purchased for \$99.99.

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## Alarm Systems For Center Pivot Irrigators

As copper and metal prices have continued to rise, theft of the copper wire found on center pivot irrigation systems has become a big problem. This new Pivot Guard system protects center pivots from thieves by using a cell phone to call for help as soon as a wire is cut.

The Pivot Guard is operated by a 6-volt battery and wires into the center pivot's electrical box. It uses a cell phone to alert you and the law enforcement agency of theft attempts. You can program in up to three different phone numbers you want it to call and use a prepaid phone card, or just add the phone's SIM card onto your existing cell phone service plan. The system will also call you when the battery is low, to remind you to change it.

The system was invented by a Missouri farmer with center pivot systems. "Every security system we looked at required either a phone connection by land line, or an electrical connection," says Tyler Perkins. "We needed something that didn't require either, was easy to maintain, and yet effective and secure. Center pivot systems have a lot of rubber conduit cord that carries copper electrical wire the length of the irrigation system. It can cost \$12,000 or more to repair.

Cutting any of the wires will automatically activate our system. And it doesn't use any power until it's activated."

Although originally designed to protect center pivots, the system can also be used to protect shops, buildings, remote sheds and hunting cabins, tool storage units, and so forth.

The Pivot Guard sells for \$900.

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Another alarm system for center pivots is also available. The Stettler WireGuard alarm system is a small black box that lets out an ear-piercing howl when anyone tries to snap the rubber conduit cord that carries copper electrical wire. The system also immediately calls the owner of the equipment to let him or her know that the wire is being tampered with. It will also sound the alarm and notify the owner if someone attempts to disable the box.

It sells for about \$3,000.

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