

Reader Letters



Thank you for printing the article in your last issue on the rear control levers I made for my Deere 4230 tractor. However, there were mistakes in the article. I did not do any welding inside the cab as the article stated. And I gave your writer the name and number of the parts I welded and bolted to but they were not in the article. Both controls were near the rear of each battery box. I bolted an arm to the casting for the throttle. And the clip to hold the center 3-pt. arm is bolted on, not welded. **(Willard Dittmer, Shelby, Iowa)**

Thanks for the story on our electric winch that automatically raises rolls of net wrap into round balers (Vol. 32, No. 2). The Routledge Back Saver consists of an electric winch that operates off the



tractor's battery, and a pair of metal tongs that lift the roll. The tongs bolt onto a center-mounted bracket that's connected to a length of cable. The operator uses a remote controlled switch to lift the roll up into the storage compartment. A round tube bolts onto the side of the baler and is used to store the remote control.



We now have a new Back Saver for loading cargo into pickups. It lifts and lowers with a winch and folds down out of the way over the wheel well for use with a fifth wheel.

I'm 82 years old and am looking for someone to buy the patent. You can see a video clip of the unit by going to www.grainews.ca/multimedia/video.asp. **(Elgin Routledge, P.O. Box 2339, Virden, Manitoba, Canada R0M 2C0 (ph 204 748-3368; routledge@mts.net))**

Here's an easy way to get rid of tree stumps, although you won't get results right away. Just place a black plastic trash bag over the stump and fasten it in place. I use the metal hoops off an old wood barrel to hold the bag on the stump. The bag blocks all the sunlight, so any sprouts that grow up out of the stump will soon die.

I got the idea after talking to a dairy farmer who, to make a pasture, would cut down trees as low to the ground as he could, and then disked the field and seeded it to grass. The cows would chew any sprouts that grew up off the stumps and they would eventually rot away because there was nothing feeding them. A couple of years later, when the stumps rotted out, the farmer would go back and fill in the holes where the stumps had been. **(John Boyd, 3112 Huffine Mill Road, Gibsonville, N.C. 27249 ph 336 621-6379)**

I enjoyed the article "Perfume Your Moles Away" in your last issue. I have the same problem here in south Jersey, but I've found the perfect solution for it and it might work in other places, too. I buy a box of moth balls every spring and drop one or two balls in each hole, which then roll down to the mole's home. The smell is overwhelming to them, and the moles then disappear for about two weeks or so from that area. Moth balls work for other critters, too. Drop one in a starling's nest and they'll leave, too. **(Jack Grunow, 5777 Holly St., Laureldale, N.J. 08330 ph 609 965-2830)**



Thanks for the article in your last issue on the built-from-scratch snowblower tractor (Vol. 32, No. 6). The only problem was that it stated that it was my project when actually it belongs to my brother, Lenard Lang. Also, could you run a photo of the auger fighting on the snowblower? That was all made from scratch and I think is one of the most impressive parts of the whole machine. **(Jeff Lang, ph 757-873-1662; jhunsch@gmail.com)**



I took discarded car and truck tires and made a retaining wall out of them by filling them with dirt. They make a solid wall and you can go as high as you need. Although the labor is intensive, the tires and dirt don't cost a thing. **(Neal Darsby, Red Level, Alabama)**

Here's a simple idea that works well for me. I use a swimming pool skimmer net daily to keep water troughs clean and clear. Just take off the long handle. It's easy to use and it's designed so dirt falls right out when you shake it. **(Donna Johnson, 16 Lakeview Ave., Bellingham, Mass.)**

I was thinking about buying one of those Edenpure quartz heaters that are advertised so heavily until I read the negative reports by a couple of your readers in the "best and worst buys". Thank you for providing a forum for this type of information. I think you saved me a lot of money. **(Wayne Marner, Valparaiso, Ind.)**



Here's a photo of three carnival rides that I made using teddy bears and old side delivery hay rake wheels. The rides are mounted on a home-built trailer that I pull behind my 1945 Farmall A tractor. A slogan on back of the trailer reads, 'Let's all bear our freedom', as I made the rides the year of 9/11. The rides are a big hit at area parades and antique tractor shows where they're enjoyed by the young and old alike. Kids love it when they see the teddy bears in motion, accompanied by calliope music playing out of a boom box on the trailer. I've gone to at least 50 wedding anniversaries and parties, and people always smile and grin from ear to ear when they see me coming.

The rides include a ferris wheel, carousel, and swing. The ferris wheel is belt-driven by a small steam engine (out of a popcorn wagon) that's operated by an air compressor. A small Honda generator is used to operate the compressor and boom box, as well as the other rides.

The bears all ride in homemade wooden chairs made from white oak that I cut down on our farm. The chairs on the carousel go up and down just like they do on a real carousel. A big golf course-type umbrella forms the carousel's roof.

Each ride mounts on a separate wooden frame that rides on four metal wheels. **(Pat Becker, Pat's Old Engine Shed, 117 N. Second St., Waterford, Wis. 53185 ph 262 534-5713; pbmb@tds.net)**



By making use of a counterweight I was able to come up with an easy-open "pit door" for the outside entrance to the basement at our daughter's place. The door is made from 1/8-in. thick deck plate and was too heavy for her to lift. I didn't want lag screws, pulleys, etc. screwed into the house, so I built a counterweight system as shown. It takes all the work out of lifting the door.

The system is simple and balances the door perfectly. A length of 3/16-in. cable

connects to the door and to a pipe that's set 3 ft. in the ground with concrete around the base. There's a 20-in. long, 4-in. dia. shaft weighing 78 lbs. inside the pipe with a pulley welded on top of it. The cable runs up through a slot in the pipe and over a pulley attached to the cap on top of the counterweight.

My only cost was \$12 for the 3/16-in. cable. **(Jerry Stevenson, 56680 295th Ave., Chariton, Iowa 50049)**



I've had a lot of response to your story on the high-lift mini loader I built for my garden tractor (Vol. 32, No. 3). The loader is operated by a 12-volt electric winch that hooks up directly to the tractor battery. A pair of levers or a 2-button control box are used to operate the lift and the power

dump simultaneously. The response has been so great that I wanted to tell your readers I'd be willing to sell detailed plans to anyone interested. **(Larry Walton, Walton Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 110, Fall River, Kansas 67047 ph 620 658-4468)**