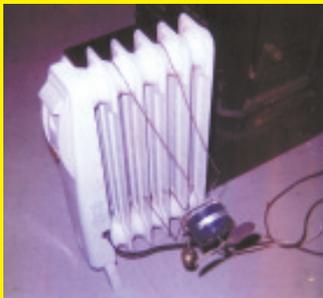


# Reader Letters



Three years ago (Vol. 30, No.2), FARM SHOW featured a story on a leaf blower built by my son, Rick, who recently died in a tragic highway accident. He was an avid inventor who loved FARM SHOW, so I'd like to give the leaf blower - built out of an old silo blower - to any reader who would want to make a donation to a good cause. Just contact me if you're interested. **(Teresa Hensley, 78 Kupick Rd., Port Jervis, N.Y. 12771)**

Since I raise dogs and also have a few head of cattle, I have to open a lot of feed sacks. To make it easy, I keep a tie-down stake handy - the kind that's about 12 in. long and screws into the ground. I simply stick it into the top of a sack, screw it in a few times, and rip it out. Of course, you can also use a scissors or a knife - but this way you don't have to get down and wrestle with the dang thing. **(Buz Craft, P.O. Box 565, Wills Point, Texas)**



I used a coat hanger to mount a small electric fan on the side of an oil-filled radiant heater. It distributes heat from the heater much faster than just allowing it to radiate out to the room. This type of heater is already very efficient - this just makes it work better. **(Francis Diamant, Saint Peters, Penn.)**

My family has lived off grid for 10 years in the Yukon and although we have tons of daylight in the summer, winter days get down to as short as six hours - not enough hours of solar power to supply our needs. So we charge our batteries using a 4 hp Honda gas motor belt-driving a GM alternator.

The motor and alternator mount on a small wagon so it's easy to move around. To make the bracket for the alternator, a friend welded brackets to a steel plate so I could mount a sliding adjuster from a scrap vehicle to the alternator to adjust belt tension. I use an alternator with no regulator but one with a built-in voltage regulator would probably be a safer choice. A couple hours a day is usually enough to supply our needs for electricity in the dark months. **(Doug Martens, dmartens@northwest.net)**

Here's how an amateur Bobcat operator can look like a pro when doing finish work, spreading out loose dirt. We move a lot of cargo around the yard on wood pallets and one day while hauling concrete blocks, I discovered that if I lowered the load onto the dirt and pushed it with my Bobcat 743 that even an amateur like me can turn a mess into a pretty

good looking job. Actually, it gives the dirt a nice broom finish. Because of the open space inside the pallet, the extra dirt is collected and redistributed as needed. Sure, pallets break up after several uses but you can't beat the price. They're free if you keep your eyes open. **(Wayne Fuller, Raleigh, N.C.)**



I made this "train" to pull behind my ATV for kids to ride in. The cars are plastic tubs that contained cattle feed, each mounted on small 2-wheeled axles. The kids love it. **(J.E. Jones, Dongola, Ill.)**

FARM SHOW Magazine is the best publication I've ever subscribed to. My Dandelion Dobber was written up in it about five years ago and has since appeared in the Best of FARM SHOW. The result is that I have sold more than 500 Dandelion Dobbers to every state in the U.S. and every province in Canada. Thank you very much. **(Paul H. Johnson, 203 S. Main St., Lake Crystal, Minn. 56055)**



I pulled the wheels and handle off an old push mower and then bolted the deck to the side of a loader bucket. I just start it up, get on the tractor, and drive around the yard to trim trees and hedges around the farm. Works great. **(John Porter, Albion, Mich.)**

I came up with an easy way to make potting soil using a flatbed wagon, cement blocks, and a two-stage snowblower. At the time I came up with the idea I was working for a small commercial greenhouse.

We piled cement blocks four or five high on three sides of the wagon to form an enclosure with a backstop. Then we opened bags of potting soil and spread them out on the wagon floor in an even layer. We made another layer of soil amendments such as Styrofoam balls on top of the potting soil. Then we used the snowblower to mix the material together and blow it against the blocks. We made several passes, always blowing the material in the same direction until it was all piled up against the blocks. Then we used trowels to fill planting trays. It works fast because we can mix the potting soil and amendments together in big batches. Also, there's no need to bend over in order to fill the potting trays. **(Bill Holloway, 7940 Bankers Road, Reading, Mich. 49274 ph 517 283-1868)**

I cut down the frames on two old trailers to make six different single axle trailers, which I use to haul firewood. The bed on each trailer is 9 ft. long by 6 ft. wide, and the wood can be stacked up to 4 ft. high. I lined the trailers' bed and endgates with old hog fence panels which allows rain, sawdust, and bark to fall through.



Thanks for the story on my home-built "Snow Cat" in your last issue. I thought your readers would like to see the machine in color. It's built from a 1985 Chevy Chevette 4-cyl. engine and automatic transmission connected to a Chevy S-10

rear end. It rides right on top of the snow, even though it weighs about 1 1/2 tons. **(Joseph Rupinski, 2531 Williams Road, Twining, Mich. 48766 ph 989 873-8213)**



I start cutting wood as soon as the snow melts in the spring and fill all six trailers with wood. Then I block up the frames and leave the trailers out in the sun until October, when I pull them to my house and throw the wood in the basement. **(Peter Hansen, 10984 Pakes Road, Gowen, Mich. 49326)**



I'm a loyal reader of FARM SHOW and was interested in the article in your last issue about the "Snake Slayer" pistol that shoots bullets or shotgun shells. I recently bought a Taurus pistol, which the company calls "The Judge" (ph 305 624-1115; www.taurususa.com). Taurus manufactures a five-shot, 45 caliber revolver that also shoots .410 shotgun shells. It offers the user five rounds in any combination of .410 loads or .45 Colt. For basically the same price as the "Snake Slayer", you can have 150 percent more rounds available before having to reload. **(Anthony Gardiner, Chatham, Virginia; tony24531@hotmail.com)**

Thank you for the greatest do-it-yourself magazine ever. I've been reading it for years and am always finding new stuff in



each issue. Over the years I've even submitted some of my own projects.

I'm currently stationed here in Camp Bucca, Iraq. My girlfriend sends me each issue of your newspaper when it's hot off the press (actually, I'm pretty sure she reads it cover to cover first). It's the highlight of my month to settle in with the latest new issue.

I can't wait to get home and start sending you information on things I've made over here. In a war zone, people like your readers are worth their weight in gold. We don't have a "big box" store to run to if we need something. So often times, it's up to us to make the part or find a way to fill the need with scraps. This is the essence of your paper and I'm grateful for it. More than once, I've employed a trick or technique that I learned from your readers to solve a problem over here. I want to thank each and every one of your contributors for their help. Whether they know it or not, they've helped soldiers here in Iraq. **(1LT Eric Petrevich, 1-102 CAV, Camp Bucca, Iraq APO AE 09375)**

Thank you for featuring our Filt-O-Kleen air filter cleaner in the 2009 Best of FARM SHOW. We've had tremendous response from readers who appreciate all the ways this do-it-yourself filter cleaner can save them money. It uses a blast of air to instantly clean nearly any size of air filter. Cleaning air filters can increase fuel efficiency by up to 20 percent, according to experts. Banging filters on a tire just drives dirt deeper into the filter. Blowing dirt out with an air hose can damage the paper element. The Filt-O-Kleen evenly blows out dirt and dust from the center, and it takes just a minute to use. You can clean most filters several times before you have to replace them. **(Don Wilbourn, P.O. Box 1255, Westcliff, Colorado 81252 ph 719 783-0651 or 719 276-4235; info@filtokleen.com; www.filtokleen.com)**

