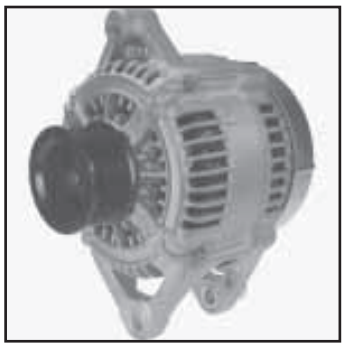

Physically they're the same size as OEM alternators, but the output is double or even triple, says PA Performance about its heavy duty alternators.

High-Performance Alternators

High-performance vehicles, whether you're talking muscle cars or off-road trucks or even snowplows, require heavy-duty components. PAPerformance says when it comes to heavy-duty alternators, they have what many Ford, Dodge diesel and GM owners need. While the units are the same physical size as OEM alternators, output is double and triple.

"We don't deal in rebuilds; everything is new with quality and reliability built in," says Rick Harmon of PA Performance. "For example, our new 136-amp alternator for Cummins-powered Dodge diesel trucks produces 60 amps at idle and 90 amps at 1400 engine rpms. That's a big improvement over the stock 110-amp unit that produces only 45 amps at idle. A 200-amp, high output version of our unit cranks out 125 amps at idle and 185 amps at 1,400 rpm's."

The company follows OEM designs; however, they use new technology to make their alternators more dependable with higher output. Alternators for Dodge trucks are available with output from 136 amps to 200 amps and are priced from $249 to $329. Ford replacements range from 130 amp to 240 amp outputs and are priced from $259 to $369. Replacements for GM Duramax alternators range from 120 to 200 amp outputs and are priced from $129 to $349.

Harmon says the company got its start supplying upgrades for Ford Mustangs. Since then, the business has gradually expanded. The company maintains a cell phone number for customers with installation or tech calls at night or on weekends.

He adds that where possible, their products streamline the process faced by customers making installations. "We came up with a way to make a one-wire application for guys wanting to put a 5.9L Cummins engine with our alternator in a Ford truck," says Harmon. "It's just a key-on, key-off source where the alternator fields itself and turns itself on. It eliminates the need for a regulator box."

The company also looks for niches where OEM weaknesses have created demand. "Older Dodge truck alternators are known for failure, with some guys replacing them two or three times during the life of their truck," notes Harmon. "Our units definitely eliminate those issues."

PA Performance alternators are available in nine colors including red, white, blue, silver, black, plain, polished and chrome. The company markets a wide range of heavy duty electronic components, including battery cables and ends, cable conversion kits, solenoids, starters and voltage regulators.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, PA Performance, 704 East 4th Street, Boyertown, Penn. 19512 (ph 610 367-0770; toll free 877 471-8010; fax 866 235-5253; sales.dept@paperformance.com; www.paperformance.com).

To "shine up" used oil field pipe, Brenden Janssen drags the pipes down a gravel road. His homemade threaded inserts screw into ends of pipe.

Cheap Way To Sand-Blast A Pipe

Brenden Janssen is a fabricator and inventor who often builds with used oil field pipe "flow lines", which measure about 30 ft. long and 2 3/8 to 3 1/2 in. dia. Instead of using a grinder or a sandblaster to remove any rust and debris, he drags the pipes down a gravel road.

To do the job, he uses homemade threaded inserts that screw into the coupler end of each flow line. Each insert has a metal "tab" at one end with a hole in it so that a length of chain can be attached. Then he uses his tractor or ATV to pull the pipes along a gravel road, weaving back and forth so the pipes will roll around for maximum exposure to the gravel. Sometimes he pulls up to six pipes at a time.

"It's a simple idea but it saves time and money. In most cases it eliminates the need for sand blasting," says Janssen, of Vega, Alberta. "The gravel works like a big sand blaster and scrapes the pipe super clean. I can go a quarter mile down the road, and when I come back the pipes are as polished as if they had been chrome-plated. All I have to do is wipe them off with a dust rag and I'm ready to build something. I think the same idea would work with any kind of pipe."

Each flow line has a swelled taper at each end where the coupler attaches. Janssen cuts 8 in. off the threaded section of the pipe, just past the swell. He cuts out a cap from a 3/8-in. thick steel plate and drills a 3/4-in. dia. hole in the center of the cap and inserts a 3/4-in. bolt and welds on a nut.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brenden Janssen, P.O. Box 75, Vega, Alberta, Canada T0G 2H0 (ph 780 674-5920; tubalcaintechnologies.com).

He Made His Own Electric Heater

With kerosene prices at more than $4 per gallon last fall, Eugene Taylor of Topton, N.C., didn't want to rely entirely on a kerosene burning stove to heat his house. So he used the cabinet from a junked electric cook stove and the radiator from an old Toyota pickup to build his own low-cost electric heater.

The heater measures 2 ft. wide, 3 ft. deep, and 2 ft. high and is open on front.

"I use it to heat my 1,200 sq. ft. house. It doesn't take much electricity to operate and it puts out a lot of heat. This winter I was able to cut my kerosene heating bill by more than half," says Taylor, who notes that just about everything he used came from a salvage yard.

He took the cook stove's cabinet apart, cutting up the metal and reworking it to get the size stove he wanted. He also installed 3/4-in. thick furnace insulation around the inside.

He stopped up the radiator's two outlets with epoxy and then filled the radiator with hydraulic fluid. Then he laid the radiator on its side and installed a series of small copper pipes crosswise behind it.

He installed the two radiant heat lights behind the radiator. Then he cut a hole in back of the cabinet and placed an electric window fan inside it. The fan is wired to a senser from a wood stove, so as the radiator heats up the sensor automatically starts the fan.

"The fan blows intermittently 24 hours a day, running for 10 to 15 minutes before it kick off, which saves money compared to continuous operation," says Taylor. "Sometimes three or four days will go by before my kerosene-burning stove kicks on, depending on the outside temperature.

"I used hydraulic fluid in the radiator because when hydraulic fluid gets hot it will hold heat for a long time. I made sure the radiator didn't leak before I brought it inside the house. I also painted the radiator black to do a better job of holding heat. The cabinet is so well insulated that if I lay my hand on it I feel very little heat.

Low-cost electric heater was made from a junked electric cook stove and the radiator off an old pickup.

""The copper pipes don't have any fluid in them, but they do provide a little extra heat from the radiant heat lights shining on them," says Taylor. "I didn't put any fluid in the pipes because I was afraid they might leak and make a mess in my house.

"Most commercial electric heaters use a single 1,500-watt element. The radiant heat lights I use have 250-watt bulbs, so my stove doesn't use nearly as much power as a small electric heater."

Taylor says he used radiant heat lights "because they put out a red glow that looks like fire". He also added shiny metal trim around the front side of the cabinet in order to dress it up.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eugene Taylor, P.O. Box 85, Topton, N.C. 28781 (ph 828 321-4204).

Easy Way To Water Young Trees

Plastic landscape edging can be used to form a water basin around young trees, says Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa.

He curves the plastic into a ring to whatever diameter he wants and then clamps the ends together.

"It's a simple way to control runoff," says Gogerty. "The plastic edging is about 5 in. high and is sold in sections 6 to 12 ft. long. I used the idea last year when I planted a small tree in my yard. I put mulch inside the ring and then poured water out of a 5-gal. bucket. The ring keeps the water from running off and reduces the frequency of watering. New trees can cost $100 or more, so you want to give them all the help you can."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 487-7617).

Plastic landscape edging is used to form a ring around trees.

Propane Tank, Blow Torch Strapped To Hand Cart

John Jamieson uses a propane-fired blow torch to burn brush and weeds. He got tired of having to carry the tank and blow torch around the farm yard by hand, so he mounted both of them on an old hand cart.

The tank is secured to the hand cart by a pair of ratchet straps. The torch fits into a pair of spring-loaded brackets that Jamieson screwed to the handle of the cart.

"It's a simple but handy idea," says Jamieson. "I also place the tank in the bed of my Deere Gator and use the torch to burn weeds along fence lines. I keep an acetylene torch igniter on the cart so I don't have to strike a match."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Jamieson, 11 Yellow Creek Rd., Monterey, Tenn. 38574 (ph 931 335-0211).

Mounting propane tank and blow torch to hand cart makes burning brush and weeds a much easier job.