

Dump Trailers Made From Fuel Tanks

A few years ago Arthur Baker of Fillmore, N. Y., made a utility trailer from an oval-shaped, 275-gal. fuel storage tank. It worked so well that neighbors started asking him to build units for them.

"They're built heavy and are just the right size for towing with any garden tractor or ATV. And they're much cheaper than bigger commercial models that cost up to \$5,000 or more," says Baker. "A lot of people don't need a big trailer to haul stuff. My trailers can be made street legal and are rated to haul a 2,000-lb. load. And they can be custom-built. For example, I used the spoked wheels and the front axle from a 1934 Chrysler to build a trailer for one customer."

The 2-wheeled trailers measure 5 ft. long by 44 in. wide and ride on big 23, 26, or 30-in. tall wheels and have a manually-operated dump that's activated by pulling a lever mounted on the tongue. By pulling four pins the entire end gate can be removed. Or, by removing two bottom pins, material can be dumped through the tailgate.

Baker reinforces the edges and sides of each tank with 1-in. bar stock and the bottom back edge with 1-in. bar stock and rebar. The tank is welded to a frame made from 2 by 3 by 1/8-in. tubing. The tongue is made from 1 1/2 by 3-in. tubing and supports a ball hitch. A hitch can be added on back so several trailers can be hauled in-line. A trailer jack is welded to the tongue.

"These trailers really come in handy for hauling firewood, rocks, gravel and so forth," says Baker. "Each trailer will hold a 3/4th cord of wood, or 1 1/4 cords with railings added. I can paint them any color the customer wants including Deere green and yellow, Massey Ferguson red and gray, or IH



"They're just the right size for towing with any garden tractor or ATV," says Arthur Baker about the dump trailers he makes from oval-shaped fuel storage tanks.



Trailer's dump is activated by pulling a lever mounted on the tongue.

"On my next model I plan to add an electric linear actuator for automatic dumping, and torsion spring axles rated for a 1-ton load."

The trailers sell for \$700 to \$1,000, depending on accessories.

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Homemade Device Makes Corn Shelling Fun

Ryan Underwood likes to keep his five kids busy and entertained. His handy field corn sheller does both.

"They love to shell corn to toss to the chickens," says Underwood. "With this board, it's easy for them to do and fun, too."

The shelling board consists of an ear corn-sized hole with six dowels protruding into the opening. Underwood cut out the center hole and then drilled three holes from each side of the board, one at a right angle and two at a 45 degree angle on either side.

"I tapped in dowel sticks and tried them at different lengths until I got the right lengths and glued them into place."

On the underside of the board, he cut slots 1/2-in. wide and 1/4-in. deep to fit over the rim of a five-gallon bucket.

When an ear of corn is twisted against the dowels, the kernels fall into the bucket. After noticing that a few kernels were often left at the tip, Underwood added two 1-in. screws in a V-shape to one edge of the board.



Six wood dowels protrude into ear corn-sized opening. As cob is twisted against dowels, kernels fall into bucket.

"They can rub the cob against the screws to get those last kernels," he says. "Every kernel counts when you pick your corn by hand. The boys go out into nearby fields after their grandfather has chopped them for silage and find ears that were missed."

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Wire Twisting Attachment

Jerry Cooley, New Virginia, Iowa, came up with a cordless drill attachment that he uses to attach barbed wire to posts.

"I came up with the idea when I had to rebuild a barbed wire fence. I decided to place a 4-ft. tall hedge post between existing posts, to serve as a stiffener," says Cooley. "The hedge poles were about 2 in. in diameter and I wanted to wire them to the barbed wire. I needed about 90 poles and, with five strands of barbed wire on the fence, I would've had to do a lot of wire twisting before I was done."

To make the job easier, he developed an

attachment for his cordless drill that consists of a 3-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. bolt and a 3/4-in. dia. flat washer. He ground the bolt head down a little, until the washer would slide over it, and then welded the bolt head and washer together. He drilled two 1/8-in. dia. holes in the washer about 1 1/4 in. apart. The holes are in line with an equal distance from the center of the bolt head.

"I pre-cut some 12-ga. wire and bend it into a U shape, then place the U-shaped wire around the hedge pole and the barbed wire," says Cooley. "Then I stick the two ends of



J-wheelz hubs bolt onto ATV's existing wheels, widening them in a way that helps in deep mud without affecting the road drivability.

Bolt-On "Hubs" Boost ATV Traction

If you get into a lot of mud with your ATV, you'll like these new bolt-on "hubs".

J-wheelz hubs fit any 23 to 26-in. tire and are designed to contact the ground only in off-road conditions. Rubberized traction blades that fit into slots on the hub are flexible to absorb impacts and can be easily replaced as they wear. Made from impact-resistant copolymer, the hubs bolt onto the existing wheel, widening it with a unique shape that allows it to handle deep mud without affecting the drivability of the vehicle.

"They work great for flooded fields, feedlots, deep snow, and any muddy area," says inventor Jake Mills, Brookings, S. Dak. "They're lighter weight and lower cost than dual wheels, and they don't affect the vehicle's steering or top speed on the road. The hubs weigh about 7 lbs. each so they add a minimal amount of weight for the extra traction they provide."



Replaceable rubberized traction blades fit into slots on hubs.

Kits are available for almost every ATV, says Mills.

A kit of four J-wheelz sells for \$590. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jake Mills, 1323 Main Ave. S., Brookings, S. Dak. 57006 (ph 605 692-1590; jake@j-wheelz.com; www.j-wheelz.com).

Firewood "corral" measures 12 ft. sq. with 4-ft. high hog panel sides. The floor is made from 4 by 5-ft. shipping pallets laid side by side.



Firewood "Corral"

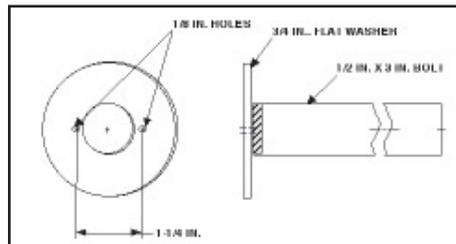
Max Dunlap, Zearing, Iowa "corrals" his firewood by using hog panels, which surround a floor made from 4 by 5-ft. shipping pallets laid side by side.

"It saves a lot of work because it completely eliminates the need to stack wood," says Dunlap. "The shipping pallets reduce any problems with ground moisture."

The "corral" measures 12 ft. sq. and has 4-ft. high hog panel on all four sides, held secure by metal posts spaced 6 ft. apart. Dunlap sets his log splitter up next to the corral and simply throws the split wood into it.

"I built it because I didn't want to spend a lot of time stacking firewood. I unload the wood by hand onto my pickup," says Dunlap, who heats his house entirely with wood. "When I'm done filling the corral the firewood is stacked 8 to 10 ft. tall at the center, making a crown much like a big pile of corn. A corral full of wood will heat our house for an entire winter."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Max Dunlap, Max's Auto, 73962-130th St., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 641 487-7733).



Wire twisting attachment for cordless drill consists of a 3-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. bolt and a 3/4-in. dia. flat washer.

the wire through the holes in the flat washer. With the 1/2-in. bolt engaged in the drill chuck, I slowly pull the trigger. The two wires twist together, fastening the barbed wire to

the hedge post." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Cooley, 21100 95th Ave., New Virginia, Iowa 50210 (ph 641 449-3755).