Power Steering Kit For ATV's

Electric power steering is the latest option on high-end ATV's. But if you already own an ATV, you’ll like this bolt-on electric power steering kit.

All Terrain Research (ATR) released its first kit for 2003 to 2009 Polaris Sportsman 700 and 800cc models this summer. The first production run was bought out immediately, says Ted Long, general manager for the company. Within a year, he anticipates the company to have kits for Kawasaki, Yamaha, Can-Am, Arctic Cat and Honda.

Long says the power steering kit appeals to a variety of customers: trail riders, farmers and ranchers, women, people with disabilities. Steering a heavy ATV all day long while pulling implements or driving rough terrain can be tiring, and ATR’s kit offers a 40 to 60 percent assist.

“IT’s in-line steering,” Long says. “The kit replaces the steering shaft.” People who are mechanically handy can expect to spend about 3 1/2 hrs. installing the kit following detailed instructions and a troubleshooting guide. You can also have a dealer install it. Installation includes running power from the wire harness and hooking up an LED to the dash to show that the steering is operating.

“The system uses a sensor to read all steering kick-back and the motor absorbs hard impacts that would normally knock the handle bars out of your hands,” Long explains. “It’s also a steering damper, so if you go over a terrain that pulls the handlebars around, it counteracts by stiffening up the steering.”

ATR also offers $995 kits for popular UTV’s such as the Kawasaki Mule, Deere Gator and several other brands and models. The U.S.-made kits have a three year warranty on the system and lifetime manufacture defect warranty. They can be purchased directly from ATR or from dealers listed on the website. Dealer inquiries are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ATV Power Steering, 4504-A Candy Lane, Tyler, Texas 75703 (ph 877 581-0041; www.atvpowersports.com).

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Due to a spinal cord injury, Rick Metheral, Cranbrook, B.C., needed to find a way to garden without bending over. He couldn’t justify the cost of raised wooden beds so he came up with a new approach - growing vegetables in old freezers and refrigerators.

Upright angle irons bolted to the sides of the freezers and refrigerators support wire trellises for growing peas and beans.

“I already had some old freezers in my barn that I had been using to store grain for livestock. That’s what gave me the idea,” says Metheral. “I now have 29 freezers and refrigerators placed in neat, straight rows.”

He removed the lids and shelving and punched large holes in the bottom for drainage, then lined them up in rows. He used a loader to dump 2 ft. of horse manure into each unit and then topped that up with composted soil. He places old window panes across the top of some of the refrigerators to make hot boxes for early or late season growing.

A drip irrigation system is used to water the garden. Discarded carpet is placed between the rows of refrigerators, which makes for a clean, comfortable and weedless work area.

“It works great and grows tremendous vegetables,” says Metheral. “Because of the insulation in the freezers and refrigerators, the soil temperature at the roots never varies more than 5 degrees within a 24-hour period. In contrast, the temperature varied 15 plus degrees in the ground. As an added bonus there are no slug or rodent problems.

“The freezers and refrigerators could be placed on used pallets and moved anywhere to make a mobile garden.”

Metheral also uses an old freezer as a horse watering trough. “It’s easy to clean and is at just the right height for the animals. And because of the insulation, it takes less power to keep water from freezing during the winter.

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