

Editor's
Notebook



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Computer-generated photo shows how innovative design automatically switches cars from one side of the road to the other.

Flipper Bridge

In China, cars drive on the right side. But in Hong Kong, they drive on the left, a legacy of British rule. That creates a problem when drivers travel from one to the other. This photo shows a clever new method to switch lanes without disruption or accident. The "Flipper Bridge" lets cars automatically shift lanes without a pause. It's still at the idea stage, say the Dutch architects who came up with the design.

Making Money Off Ideas

Inventors often tell us they have do-it-yourself plans they'd like to sell. However, we almost never offer them for sale in FARM SHOW because the quality of plans varies so much. We prefer to tell you about a new idea and then let you follow up with the inventor. If you like the way they communicate, and they have plans available, you can decide whether or not to purchase them at that point.

But now there's a new way to try to make money selling plans. Inventor Gene Luoma, who has been featured several times in FARM SHOW, recently told us about his new website, www.GizmoPlans.com. It's a one-stop shop for all types of build-it-yourself plans.

You can upload your plans to the website, and list your contact name and phone number, all at no cost to you. The plans will remain on the website for 6 months, at which time they'll be reviewed and reposted or removed depending on sales. You can update your plans or other information at any time.

Luoma is paid a 15 percent commission for each set of plans sold. The buyer pays with a credit card and downloads them onto his computer.

"People from all over the world can look at what you've built," says Luoma. "We're set up for all major credit cards, and we're able to receive international funds. The only time GizmoPlans.com gets paid is when your plans are sold. Another advantage is there are no mailing costs to you or the customer who's buying your plans."

Luoma says just about any type of plan can be uploaded and sold at the site. "Maybe you have a unique birdhouse; a simple tool that you made for a certain industry; plans for a new outdoor game; or even a self-published book. The types of plans or ideas that can be sold are limited only by your imagination."

Once your plans are approved and posted to the website, you're then able to put up any additional photos of your project that you'd like. "The more photos you have, the more people are likely to buy. You can also put a link to any YouTube videos that you may have," he says.

Luoma started the website about 6 months ago and so far has signed up people with plans for a teardrop trailer, log splitter, pedal bike, and more. He also sells plans for his own inventions, including a home-built concrete mixer, wheel crusher, concrete forms and numerous other equipment.

Luoma reviews all plans to make sure they're thorough and complete. "I look at each plan as soon as it's uploaded



Photo courtesy Weekly Times

World's Biggest Grainhead Harvests 69 Acres/Hour

Ever seen a 61-ft. wide header? Most likely not since, as far as we know, this farmer-built grainhead from Australia is the biggest one ever built.

It was put together by Radford Harvesting, a custom operator in Tasmania. The 61-ft. head is mounted on a Claas Lexion 600 combine and harvests 69 acres per hour.

Peter Radford says he built the header for some of his customers who wanted a header to match their controlled traffic planting and spraying equipment. The header has 15-ft. wings at either end to adjust to uneven contours.

The Claas Lexion 600 is the world's biggest combine. The combined rig has a total value of about \$500,000. Radford says the big header lets them reduce ground speed by about 25 percent. To see a video of the header in action, search for Radford Harvesting at www.youtube.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Radford, Radford Harvesting, 23 Collins Str., Hillston, NSW Australia (ph 011 61 419140991).

and sometimes make suggestions to customers on what to include. I make sure there are drawings with every plan, and photos with some," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Luoma, 4423 Normanna Rd., Duluth, Minn. 55803 (ph 218 591-4382; www.GizmoPlans.com).

Rancher Lives Farther From McDonald's Than Anyone

There are more than 13,000 McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. Most people can get to one easily. But that's not true for Jens Hansen, Meadow, S. Dak., who lives farther away from a McDonald's than anyone in the country. According to a recent story in the Tri State Neighbor, Hansen lives in close proximity to the "McFarthest Spot", a point between Meadow and Glad Valley, S. Dak. It's officially the farthest location from the golden arches. He'd have to drive 145 miles to get a Big Mac. Hansen, who's 74, doesn't seem too bothered by his situation. He was born and raised on his 2,040-acre ranch where he has a cow-calf operation and 800 acres of crops. He says he has plenty to do but lots of time to do it. He has no need for fast food.

Strange Conversion Units

- Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
- 2,000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton
- Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 horsepower
- 2 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
- 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
- Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line
- 4 nickels = 2 paradigms

Liberty Quotes

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master." *George Washington*

"To be ignorant of what happened before you were born . . . is to live the life of a child forever." *Marcus Tullium Cicero*

"I think our greatest single enemy is the misuse of information, the perversion of truth in the hands of terribly skillful people." *John le Carre*

"The proverb warns that 'You should not bite the hand that feeds you'. But maybe you should if it prevents you from feeding yourself." *Thomas Szasz*

"It is often safer to be in chains than to be free." *Franz Kafka*

"The freedom now desired by many is not freedom to do and dare but freedom from care and worry." *James Truslow Adams*

"Do not allow to slip away from you freedoms the people who came before you won with such hard knocks." *D.H. Lawrence*

"He alone deserves liberty and life who daily must win them anew." *Wolfgang von Goethe*

"Freedom is the will to be responsible to ourselves." *Friedrich Nietzsche*

"America, my friends, is the only country in the world actually founded on liberty - the only one. People went to America to be free." *Margaret Thatcher*



Map shows Stiefel's route through the lower 48 states.

How To Visit All 50 States In 10 Days

Like road trips? Want to take a memorable vacation this summer?

I recently heard about an interesting trip taken by Barry Stiefel, San Jose, Calif. He had a week's vacation and wanted to make the trip by car, except for two quick flights to Hawaii and Alaska. He spent a lot of time plotting his route, which mostly followed interstate highways. He started in California and worked his way clockwise around the outer ring of border states with occasional forays to the interior to catch states like Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

Stiefel left his office at 5:00 on a Friday afternoon and had to be back 10 days later at 8:00 on a Monday morning. He drove a total of 8,649 miles in a rented Buick Park Avenue at an average speed of 47 mph (including sleep time in motels). Total gallons of gasoline purchased was 324 and he was only stopped once for speeding. For a detailed account of the trip, go to www.barrystiefel.com.

Deep in the back woods, Ole's wife Lena went into labor in the middle of the night. A doctor was called out to assist. Since there was no electricity, the doctor handed Ole a lantern and said, "Here, hold this up high so I can see." Soon, a baby boy was brought into the world.

"Whoa there," said the doctor, "Don't be in such a rush to put that lantern down. I think there's another one coming."

Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered a baby girl. "Hold that lantern up. There's another one coming!" the doctor exclaimed. Within a few minutes, he had delivered a third baby.

Ole scratched his head in bewilderment and asked the doctor, "Yew reckon it might be da light dat's attractin' 'em?"

An office executive was interviewing Lena for an assistant position, and wanted to find out a little about her personality. "If you could have a conversation with anyone, alive or dead, who would it be?" the office executive asked.

"Well, I'd have tew say da living one," answered Lena.

A new elementary school teacher was trying to make use of her college psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!" After a few seconds, little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Johnny?" "No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

The company boss was complaining in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. The next day he brought in a small sign that read: "I'm the boss!"

He then taped it to his office door. Later that day, when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said: "Your wife called. She wants her sign back!"