Vise Bracket Slips Into Receiver Hitch

You can take your bench vise out to the field with Ports-Vise, a lightweight mounting bracket that slips into a 2-in. receiver hitch. It can also be used to hold other tools, or even a table for tailgating. At 18 1/2 in. tall, it lines up even with the truck bed, which makes for a handy workbench.

“If you need to know where it is,” says Dell Skluzak, owner of PipeKnife Company, a Colorado outfit that specializes in auto glass and sealant cutting tools.

Porta-Vise sells for $150, plus $25 to $30 more with an Irwin vise that opens to 4 1/2 in. It’s available at a variety of auto glass and tool dealerships.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chemique, Inc., 266 Humblerline Dr., Redxale, Ont. M9W 5X1 Canada (ph 705 208-6111 or 416 679-5676; info@chemique.com; www.chemique.com).

How To Locate Tile Lines, Buried Pipe

A Gen-Eye pipe location system can be used to locate drain tile runs and tell how deep they are.

“These systems have been used by plumbers and electricians for years to locate underground cables and pipes,” says Bill Rawn, Accurate Laser Systems (ALS). “Our system is ideal for a few neighbors to buy together and share so you can avoid hiring an expensive locating service.”

The ALS Gen-Eye system consists of a mini-transmitter that can be attached to the end of a 200-ft. long, push rod cable for use in pipes and tile lines and a battery-powered, handheld digital locator. This system sells for around $2,600. A more advanced system with a video camera can be mounted at the end of the push rod sells for $4,200.

ALS adapted the Gen-Eye with video system to on-farm needs. “While a plumber may need to know where the cable is, if it’s underground then you need a camera, a farmer is more interested to on-farm needs,” says Dana Piel, who owns Piel Enterprises, Hubbard, Iowa. “These systems have been used by plumbers and electricians for years to locate underground cables and pipes.”

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ALS adapted the Gen-Eye with video system to on-farm needs. “While a plumber may need a camera, a farmer is more interested in finding the pipe,” says Bill Rawn. “If a tile draining into a ditch goes under a road, where does it come out and under a road, where does it go from there? If they need to hook up to a main line with a new line, then they need to know where it is.”

Protect Big Trees From Lightning

Want to protect a tall tree from lightning damage? Piel Enterprises, Hubbard, Iowa, installs lightning rods near treetops and cables conduct the electricity harmlessly into the ground.

“There seems to be more trees getting hit by lightning in recent years. In many cases, the lightning splits the tree wide open and kills the tap roots,” says Dana Piel, who owns the tree service care company and is also a licensed electrician. “We’re protecting trees from lightning in much the same way we’d protect buildings.”

They use a boom truck to lift an operator up to the highest point in the tree. There, he mounts the rod and then staples a copper line or braided steel cable from the side of the tree and then all the way down to the ground. At the bottom of the tree, the cable is attached to a pair of ground rods.

The photo shows the company installing a lightning rod about 60 ft. up into an 8 1/2-ft. tall elm tree.

The service typically costs $300 to $500, depending on the size and location of the tree.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dana Piel Enterprises, 120 North Michigan St., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 864-3100 or 641 864-3188; pielenterprises@yahoo.com).

Simple Shop-Built Trailer Mover

Jeremy Row, FFA member from Shickley, Neb., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an idea that FFA students use in their school’s shop.

“When working on trailers in the shop, we needed a way to move them around by hand because usually there’s no pickup available. A couple years ago, we acquired an old push lawn mower from a cleanup project. It didn’t run so we decided to take the motor off and bolt an old flat screen TV hanger bracket on top of the deck. Then we bolted a pipe onto the hanger. First we welded one end of the pipe to a piece of channel iron, and then we bolted the channel iron to the hanger. The top of the pipe is open and simply fits inside the trailer’s coupler like a ball would.”

“It was a simple solution to the problem. Our only cost was for a few bolts. The mower has big 6-in. solid plastic tires, which makes it easy to move trailers.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeremy Row, 913 Road X, Shickley, Neb. 68436 (ph 402 627-3195; shickleffyfa@esu6.org).

“Drive-Through” Trailer Makes Mower-Hauling Easier

“My sons Gunnar and Conrad have a lawn mowing business with 2 riding mowers. The problem was our small 2-wheeled, homemade trailer had room for only one mower,” says Eric Pederson, Englevalle, N. Dak. “As a result, they had to haul one mower in the pickup and the other in the trailer. It was cumbersome to unhook the trailer to load the pickup.”

“Now the boys can drive one mower up onto the trailer and right into the pickup without having to unhook the trailer.”

He used plywood set inside a U-channel frame to build the panel and 3/8-in. steel rod to make the latch system that’s used to release it from brackets on both sides of the trailer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Pederson, 6424 119 Ave. S.E., Englevalle, N. Dak. 58033 (ph 701 973-2000; epederson@dtel.net).