

Kit Lets You Set Posts Fast, Without Using Water

This new fence post composite backfill system lets you set fence posts in concrete in as little as 5 min. Best of all, the system doesn't require you to use any water.

The Fast 2K consists of a 2-part bag weighing about 3 lbs., with each part filled with a different liquid component. You rub the bag along any hard surface to mix the 2 components for 20 to 30 seconds, then cut one of the corners on the bag and pour the contents into the hole. When mixed together, the 2 liquids form an expanding composite that backfills a post in as little as 30 min. without requiring water. One bag is enough to set a 4 by 4-in. post in an 8-in. dia. by 3-ft. deep hole.

"Not requiring water makes it much more convenient to set posts in remote areas," says Edson Fariello, Chemque, Inc., Rexdale, Ont. "Due to its expanding nature, 3 lbs. of the composite are equivalent to 100 lbs. of concrete. You don't have to handle 50-lb. bags of concrete or a wheelbarrow full of concrete from hole to hole. Because the mixed composite is still liquid when it's poured into the hole, it penetrates the soil better than concrete, providing an excellent anchor to the post. Once cured, the composite has a compressive strength that's much higher than that of tamped soil.

"The technology has been used by utility and telecommunication companies for more



Two-part bag has a different liquid component in each part (left). When mixed together, the 2 liquids form an expanding composite that quickly backfills a post.

than 10 years to set power and telephone poles. We're just now introducing it to agriculture."

Retails for about \$15 to \$18 a bag plus S&H. You can see a video of it working at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chemque, Inc., 266 Humberline Dr., Rexdale, Ont. M9W 5X1 Canada (ph 800 268-6111 or 416 679-5676; info@chemque.com; www.chemque.com).

Vise Bracket Slips Into Receiver Hitch

You can take your bench vise out to the field with Porta-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.

"It's made out of square tube aluminum," 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, PipeKnife, 2155 Tabor Drive, Lakewood, Colo. 80215 (ph 303-232-8788; www.pipeknife.com/pipeknife/portavise.asp).



Receiver hitch-mounted vise turns your truckbed into a mobile workbench.

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 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 a camera, a farmer is more interested in finding where the tile system goes," says Rawn. "If a tile draining into a ditch goes under a road, where does it come out and where does it go from there? If they need to hook up to a main line with a new line, they need to know where it is."

With the simple transmitter on the push rod, a farmer or contractor working on the line can identify direction, turns and depth. Those points can easily be identified by a GPS unit and mapped for future use.

The Gen-Eye digital locator has more than 100 sensitivity levels to choose from. The LCD display provides a clear digital readout, as well as a graphic display and an audible tone. The locator also can detect electric current underground.

Rawn cites customers who have bought the units for their own use and then done custom work for neighbors. "I've had a few customers make some money with theirs," he says. "Having a guy come out to locate a cable can cost \$500, depending on travel time and the job. If you can do it for a portion of that cost, you can drum up some local business."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Accurate Laser Systems Inc., 10660 Andrade Dr., Zionsville, Ind. 46077 (ph 317 873-5611 or 800 444-6859; brawn@accuratelasersystems.com).



Hinged, latch-operated panel on front of trailer folds forward onto pickup's tailgate.

"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, Englevale, 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.

"To solve the problem, I made a hinged, latch-operated panel on front of the trailer that folds forward onto the pickup's tailgate.

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., Englevale, N. Dak. 58033 (ph 701 973-2000; epederson@drtel.net).

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 to 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 85-ft. tall elm tree.

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



Boom truck is used to install lightning rod near treetop.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dana Piel Enterprises, 120 North Michigan St., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 (ph 641 864-3100 or 641 864-3108; 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 bucket 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 wouid.

"It was a simple solution to the problem. Our only cost was for a few bolts. The mower



Push lawn mower has pipe bolted on top that fits inside trailer's coupler.

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; shickleyffa@esu6.org).