



Danny Goodman and son Logan converted a 1993 Ford Ranger 3/4-ton, extended cab pickup, unbolting the pickup bed and replacing it with a home-built dump box.

Pickup Turned Into Dump Truck

"It looks like a Ranger on steroids and turns a lot of heads," says Danny Goodman who, along with his son Logan, converted a 1993 Ford Ranger 3/4-ton, extended cab pickup into a low-cost dump truck.

They unbolted the pickup bed and replaced it with a home-built dump box, which is hydraulically raised and lowered using a control box in the cab. The dump box measures 5 ft. wide by 6 ft. long and has 17-in. high sides. It has a capacity of about 1,000 lbs. A "headache rack" mounts on front of the bed, and a tailgate slips onto the back.

"It works great for hauling and dumping firewood, gravel and topsoil," says Danny. "We painted the box black, so it really stands out in contrast to the pickup's red color."

The pickup originally belonged to Logan. However, it had sat in their yard for a long time and Danny wondered what to do with it. "I ended up buying the pickup from Logan and then got the idea to convert it into a dump truck. The transmission was bad so

we installed a new one."

They used 2-in. sq. tubing to build the box frame and 3/16-in. sheet metal to build the floor and sides. The self-contained electric/hydraulic system is off a cargo van and was originally used to operate a lift gate. A pair of 1 1/2-in. dia., 17-in. hydraulic cylinders do the lifting.

"The hydraulic pump and reservoir are located in the back seat and are inside a box that doubles as a toolbox," says Danny. "There's a cutout in the front side of the box so I can look through the cab's rear window when backing up."

Danny says he spent about \$1,000 to build the dump box. "I've been asked to build for others. However, I don't have the time," he notes.

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Tire Gator 160 slides onto standard pallet fork tines and is driven by tractor hydraulics.

New Way To Pick Up, Lay Down Tires

No more tossing water-filled tires on silage piles with the Tire Gator 160. The 15-ft. beam with its self-loading bull nose makes picking up tires as easy as point and drive. Raised teeth on the #60 roller chain that runs the length of the bar pull the tires onto the bar and later feed them off as desired across the pile.

A new product from MDS Manufacturing, the Tire Gator 160 is priced at \$1,925. It slides onto standard pallet fork tines whether mounted on a front-end loader, skid steer or telehandler. Once in place, the operator uses

attached chains to secure it to the pallet fork. A stop bar keeps the tires from bunching up over the roller chain motor drive.

"The number of tires it will hold is only limited by the size of the tires," says an MDS salesman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MDS Mfg. Co., 1301 South SD Hwy 37, Parkston, S. Dak. 57366 (ph 605 928-7951; toll free 800 658-4703; sales@mdsmf.com; www.mdsmf.com).

Unit has a 15-ft. beam with self-loading bull nose, which makes picking up tires as easy as "point and drive".



Surplus Immersion Heaters Selling Like Hotcakes

The U.S. military uses immersion heaters to wash kitchen gear in the field. Since the heaters became available as military surplus for just \$50, resourceful citizens are figuring out all kinds of uses for them.

"Customers use them to heat water in stock tanks that radiate heat in greenhouses all night. They also use them in livestock waterers and to heat water for butchering hogs and chickens. Some use them to heat water at remote cabins for showers and doing dishes," says Tim Glance, who sells the heaters through his business, The Old Grouch's Military Surplus.

The 55-lb. heaters are about 3 ft. tall and come with four 2-ft. sections of 4-in. stovepipe. Fill the 2.2-gal. tank with any type of fuel from gas to diesel to biodiesel and hook it on to the unit. Set the valve to drip as little or as much as you want and drop a match to light it. Fuel drips on the cast iron plate in the donut at the bottom, and the fuel feeds the flame, consuming less than a gallon of fuel an hour.

The units are simple with no moving parts and made of heavy-duty steel. They come brand new in original crates, but have some surface rust because the crates were stored outside.

They sell for \$47.95 plus shipping, which ranges from \$20 to \$40 for each 66-lb. crate. The heaters can also be purchased at his N.C. retail store.



Customers are finding lots of ways to use military surplus immersion heaters, says seller Tim Glance.

It's a popular item, he says, and people keep coming up with new ideas how to use it. Some slip them into their "Hillbilly hot tubs", and one customer is experimenting with large scale canning.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Old Grouch's Military Surplus, 82 Main St., Clyde, N.C. 28721 (ph 828 627-0361; http://store.olgrouch.biz/usmiimhe.html).

Mechanical bull consists of a teeter-totter frame built onto a pair of long stabilizing skids. A "barrel bull" attaches to one end of pivoting crossbar.



Home-Built Mechanical Bull

By Rex Gogerty

If you've got your eye set on rodeo competition, you'll like this simple home-built mechanical bull built by Raymond Helmuth, Zearing, Iowa.

It consists of a teeter-totter frame built onto a pair of long stabilizing skids. A "barrel bull" attaches to one end of the pivoting crossbar. There's a handle at the other end along with a pair of heavy springs.

The rider climbs onto the barrel while another person grabs the handle and bounces the bull up and down. To adjust the bounce, the springs can be moved back and forth on a set of holes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Raymond Helmuth, 13455 710th Ave., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 816-547-4379).

"Dump Bucket" Keeps His Ford Tractors Busy

"I welded 3-pt. mounting brackets on back of a big loader bucket. Works great with my Ford tractors," says Willie Thompson, Louisa, Ky.

The bucket measures 7 1/2 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep. He used 3/8-in. angle iron to make the 3-pt. mounting brackets, and then added a hydraulic cylinder for the top link. The cylinder is used to tilt the bucket up or down, while the tractor's 3-pt. hitch is used to raise or lower it.

Bucket height can be adjusted more by changing the position of two pins, one on each side of the bucket.

"It really comes in handy and works great for moving gravel and dirt anywhere on my farm," says Thompson. "I use it with my Ford 4610 56 hp tractor and also with my Ford 4630 60 hp 4-WD tractor. The advantage is that the tractors can support much more



"Works great for moving gravel and dirt," says Willie Thompson, who welded 3-pt. mounting brackets on back of a big loader bucket.

weight on back than on front. "I bought the bucket new at an auction for \$275. I already had the cylinder and the material that I used to make the mounting brackets."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Willie C. Thompson, 10968 Hwy. 32, Louisa, Ky. 41230 (ph 606 652-4354 or 606 624-5736).