



Apples are dumped into a Troy Bilt brush shredder, with the shredded pulp and juice discharged into a 5-gal. pail.

## Rolling Sheds Make Handy Wood Storage

Alan Shelbourn wishes he had built his "rolling sheds" years ago. Last fall he took them to his firewood and kindling sites, stacked them with wood, hauled them home and parked them right next to his house.

The sheds are built on old camper frames. The Kingston, Wash., resident bought the large trailer (8 by 14-ft. frame on a double-axle) already stripped down for \$400. He built the shed frame and floor from rough lumber and recycled boards he had on hand. He bought steel for the shed-style roof. He took apart and sold scrap from a smaller (8 by 10-ft. single-axle) camper to create a shed for kindling.

Initially, Shelbourn built them because he didn't know where he wanted to locate a permanent woodshed. He thought he might use the rolling sheds for other purposes, but has decided to use them for just wood storage.



Alan Shelbourn builds his "rolling sheds" on old camper frames, adding a metal roof.

The large trailer holds 2 to 3 cords of wood and he'll fill it this summer and park it next to his house again in the fall.

Shelbourn's only regret is that he didn't make the sheds sooner.

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## He Drives Fence Posts With A Deere B Tractor

"All it took was some welding rod and a lot of thinking," says Glen Hall, Jr., who used scrap metal to build a steel post driver that mounts on back of his 1939 Deere B tractor.

The home-built system uses a cable fastened to the tractor's rockshaft, which is normally used to raise and lower a cultivator or mower. The post sets inside a piece of channel formed from the axle off a small square baler. The cable runs over a series of pulleys and is connected to a 2 1/2-in. dia., 12-in. long pipe with a hole drilled into it. Hall pushes down on a foot pedal to activate the rockshaft, which tightens the cable and brings the pipe down on top of the post.

A 1-in. thick, 14-in. sq. steel plate that bolts onto the tractor's drawbar supports the channel. Steel bracing runs from the channel to the tractor's rear axle.

"It pushes the post right down into the ground," says Hall. "As soon as I let off the foot pedal the cable retracts and the pipe pulls back up off the post.

"I leave the post driver on the tractor all year long. I welded a 7/8-in. dia. looped metal bar onto the back side of the plate so I can still use the tractor with my 2-bottom moldboard



Glen Hall used scrap metal to build this steel post driver that mounts on back of his 1939 Deere B tractor.

plow for garden work."

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The shredded apple pulp is put into Miller's 24-in. square press made from oak and lined with stainless steel.

## Slick Way To Make Apple Cider

Truman Miller has one of the slickest ways to make apple cider that we've ever seen. His "built-it-myself system" uses an 8 1/2 hp Troy Bilt brush shredder and a 50-ton hydraulic press, equipment that he already had in his shop. Miller first cleans the shredder by running hot water through it while it's operating at full speed. "When there's clean water coming out the spout, we're ready to shred apples," he says with a laugh.

When Miller grinds apples he idles the shredder at a very low speed and runs the discharge chute into a clean 5-gal. pail. "The shredded apple pulp and juice fill the pail quickly, so this is definitely a two-person operation," Miller says. Eight buckets of whole apples will make five buckets of pulp in just 10 min.

His apple press tower is simply built. The base is a 24-in. square box that Miller made from 1 by 4-in. oak. The box is lined with a stainless steel insert that has a spout on one side to drain juice into a stainless steel pail.

Miller's press racks are slightly smaller than the box, made from oak or ash wood laths. To prepare for pressing, a 3-in. layer of

ground pulp is wrapped in fabric and placed on top of each rack. He stacks five racks on top of each other in the box, with a solid cover on top.

The box and racks fit nicely inside the frame of his 50-ton press. He places a 6 by 6 and a 2 by 4 under the press head and on top of the solid top rack so pressure is applied evenly across the racks.

"This setup works great and the best part is it didn't cost hardly anything," Miller says. "Two of us can make 50 gals. of cider in four hours, including cleanup."

Miller filters the juice through straining cloth into a 50-gal. barrel. He says that using a third each of Jonathans, Yellow Delicious and Red Delicious apples produces the best juice. After straining, he bottles the cider in plastic jugs which will keep in a refrigerator for about two weeks. He also keeps cider in a wooden barrel until it ferments to produce apple vinegar.

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## Bed Extension Boosts Capacity On Deere Gator

A 12-in. high box extension on his Deere Gator utility vehicle more than doubled the carrying capacity for Brian Laine of Arlington, Wash.

The 12-in. high, bolt-on box extension consists of a frame made from welded-together 1-in. sq. tubing, with aluminum diamond-plate filler panels pop riveted onto it. The tailgate hinges at the top via a pair of welded-on steel pins that fit into slots. A center-mounted, angle iron bracket at the bottom of the tailgate latches on behind the Gator's tailgate to keep the box shut. Once the tailgate is latched, round tabs at the bottom corners of the tailgate keep it from accidentally rising upward and slipping out of the slots. The tabs slip under square tubing "stops" welded onto the corners of the frame.

To remove the tailgate, Laine lifts it straight up out of the slots on top of both rear corners. The entire box can be unbolted from the Gator with 4 bolts that attach through existing holes in the bed.

"It's a real simple design but it works great," says Laine. "Once I open the Gator's factory tailgate and lift the dump bed, the contents all slide out just like a dump truck. By unlatching the tailgate I can lift it off or put it back on without using any tools.

"I came up with the idea because the box on my Gator was too small for many jobs, as the sides are only about 8 in. high. The low sides were probably designed to limit the amount of weight that can be put in the box. But now I can add a lot more volume of such materials as leaves, wood chips or branches, without overloading the vehicle.

"I paid about \$200 for the tubing and panels. To load heavy materials I just remove



Brian Laine more than doubled the carrying capacity on his Deere Gator utility vehicle by adding this 12-in. high box extension.



Extension tailgate, when unlatched, can be lifted off or put back on with no tools.



Once tailgate is latched, tabs on the frame keep it from moving up so it stays securely fastened in place.

the tailgate and slide stuff in."

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