

Reader Letters



I was at an auction recently and spotted a Farmall with an unusual set of rear tires. They were about 8 ft. tall and had tractor tread attached to the outer rim of the big steel wheels. No one at the auction seemed to know what the tractor had been used for. Any ideas? **(Ben Cowling, 7201 Roca Rd., Roca, Neb. 68430)**

Are you tired of smashing your thumbs cracking black walnuts? I use a pair of 10-in. vicegrips with curved jaws. Just get them set right and you'll have the best nutcracker money can buy. You can crack, rotate, and crack again. Doesn't smash the meat or your thumb! **(Larry Hilliard, Sandy, Ore.)**

Years ago my stepdad, David Russell, worked for a Massey Ferguson dealership in Clarence, Mo. They needed a crane-like device that would help their



mechanics work on combines. So, David built this shop crane for them from a 1917 Ford truck. As far as I know, the machine still has the original engine. The levers that control the crane's movement are located on the right side of the driver's seat.

Not only was the crane used to lift combine engines, but David also used it to load and unload implements from trailers. The crane served well for 30 years.

The dealership closed back in the 1990's, and David was afraid that maybe the crane had gone to the scrap yard. But about four years ago he was happy to find out it had been donated to the Northeast Old Thresher's Club in Shelbina, Mo. The photos show David demonstrating how the crane works at a recent show. **(Melanie Boone, 605 S. Missouri St., Macon, Mo. 63552)**



I enjoyed reading the story in your last issue about the walk-behind, ground-

driven sickle mower that's designed to cut grass, grain crops and even brambles and light brush. The story says it's the first man-powered sickle mower on the market. However, we have an old push-type sickle mower out in our garage that we've had since 1965. It's called the Lawn Mower Clipper. It mows 18 in. wide and was used to cut buckthorn on golf courses. It was patented in the early 1900's. **(Robin Byers, Pataskala, Ohio, cutiepiechick18@aol.com)**



I thought your readers might like my idea for an arbor. All older baby cribs are now illegal because of the rails and drop bar. We made an arbor from an old crib for our garden.

We put a 2-ft. length of angle iron into the ground on each side, then screwed it to the crib to keep the wood parts off the ground. **(Carolyn Litscher, 12301 S. Shore Dr., Suring, Wis. 54174, ph 715 276-3076)**

My homemade, hand-powered mini baler is modeled after old-time stationary balers. It makes 4 1/2 by 5 1/2 by 9 1/2-



in. bales and is made almost entirely out of poplar.

Hay or cedar shavings are fed into a black metal funnel on top of the baler. A 3-ft. long pipe handle compresses the hay inside a long wooden box that forms the body of the baler. Each bale is hand tied with baler wire. The baler bolts to the top of a wooden sawhorse so I don't have to bend over. The wire is stored on a spool on one side of the sawhorse.

I belong to a local antique tractor club and often demonstrate the baler at our shows. I've also taken it to local schools where I let kids make their own bales. **(Bob Evans, 6337 Whispering Pine Rd., Harrison, Ark. 72601, ph 870 743-0555; bobevans@windstream.net)**

Shortly after buying a new Sears Craftsman 1000 21 hp tractor, I decided to make some modifications. I replaced the original rear tires with quick grip



Thanks for the story in your last issue on our repeating gates designed to trap multiple wild hogs. The gates can be used on either pens or portable cages. Unfortunately, you didn't show a photo of the gate. All you showed was a cage with a misleading outline describing how the gate is designed to slide over



a T-post. Here's a photo of the gate with a pen built around it using livestock panels. **(Forestry Suppliers, Inc., 205 W. Rankin St., P.O. Box 8397, Jackson, Miss. 39284, ph 601 354-3565 or 800 647-5368; www.forestry-suppliers.com)**



tires. To increase the traction I mounted a wheel weight off an old one-way disk on back and bolted a strap iron equipped with a 1 7/8-in. trailer ball onto it. I also mounted brackets to hold my walking stick and an umbrella on back. On front, I mounted a 1,500-lb., 12-volt winch and a 30-in. blade off a Polaris 250 4-wheeler. This little tractor now works great for spreading dirt, sand or gravel and for pulling a small trailer around our yard. **(Gerald Thorsen, P.O. Box 360, Christopher Lake, Sask., Canada S0J 0N0)**



When the body rusted off my 1975 Chevy 4-WD shortbed pickup, I replaced it with the body from a 1971 Chevy El Camino car. I had to build 8 new body mounts. It works perfect and turns a lot of heads. **(Shane Myrick, 17758 Vail Rd., Pleasanton, Kan. 66075, ph 913 757-3309; cell 913 671-9812)**

Thanks for the article in your last issue on our hot water furnaces that burn big bales and help local chicken and turkey growers cut their heating bills. Unfortunately, the

phone numbers listed in the story were wrong. The following information is correct. **(B&D Heating Systems, LLC, 2819 Panda Rd., Diamond, Mo. 64840, ph 417 540-4896 or 417 540-3058; bdheating_agriflame@live.com; www.agriflame.com)**



Here's a home-built "tractor planter" that I built. I plan to come up with other colors, too. People really like them. **(Bill Hinckley, West Bend, Wis., williamh921@charter.net)**

I had this very elusive mouse in my kitchen. I tried using glue traps, conventional traps and a variety of "offerings", but to no avail. Then I came up with a bright idea. I went to my garden shed and placed a few drops of antifreeze on a plastic lid, then added a little peanut butter and mixed it up with the antifreeze. I also placed a few saturated crumbs of bread on the lid. The concoction killed the mouse the very first night. **(Linda Meyer, meyerl@centurylink.net)**



I built this dump wagon out of an old manure spreader. I cut off the spreader's frame behind the axle and made a box to fit inside the frame. The box hinges on the spreader's axle and is raised and lowered by a hydraulic cylinder. **(Russell David, Hadley, Penn. 16130)**

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