

# Reader Letters



I ride my 1963 IH 706 in tractor rides and parades. At 80 years of age, I found it hard to get on because of the two small steps. So I made a set of fold-up steps that go all the way to the ground. The steps attach to a 2 by 6 box beam, with the upper end attached to the tractor's rear housing. The lower one-third is hinged. A cylinder off an IH planter lifts it up after I get on. **(Loren Kalkwarf, Garner, Iowa)**



Our Boardman Quilt Group covered a 1984 GMC Suburban with 10-in. squares to advertise this year's quilt show, which was held in October, in Boardman Oregon. We used it in local parades and to drive around town. We get lots of laughs and our picture is taken often. **(Mildred Baker, 70270 Kunze Ln., Boardman, Ore. 97818 ph 541 481-4215)**



A friend of mine was parting out an old IH cab-over semi truck. I decided to take the doors off it and make a swinging gate that leads to my backyard. I took the glass out of the doors and reversed the hinges. Then I painted it red and hung a couple lanterns where the glass windows used to be. It makes for a unique, eye-catching gate. **(Lester Petersen, Fiddletown, Calif.)**

I needed a trailer to pull behind my mower so I decided to build my own. I pulled the front end off an old mower and made a 17



by 25-in. frame from bed rails. I welded a tongue on it and welded it to the top of the mower front end. Then I made a bed rail frame that was 3 by 4 ft. and 18 in. high and attached door hinges to the frame just above the axle and to the box

frame. I used red cedar from planks that I already had. It dumps easy and trails great. **(Darrel Cambell, 5175 River Mt. Rd., Delaware, Ark. 72835, ph 479 264-3916; dcampbell9999@yahoo.com)**

My friend Henry Woosley of Belvidere, Ill., built this umbrella out of an old aluminum satellite dish. He turned the dish upside down and mounted support brackets on the underside of the dish.



He used a piece of plywood to make a table and ran the pole through it, then stuck the pole in the ground. He welded 4 L-shaped angle iron braces onto the pole to support the table.

The umbrella sets in a walkway between his house and garage. He says he likes to sit outside under the umbrella and listen to it rain. To add some color he also attached Christmas lights to the outside edge of the dish. **(Doug Schiller, 345 Biester Dr., Belvidere, Ill., ph 815 979-4591; flagcaddie@gmail.com)**

Here's a photo of what I call my "Big Boy's Toys". The big tractor is a 1954 Massey Harris 44 Special. The engine was beyond repair so I replaced it with



a Chrysler 318 Industrial. This tractor is a nice conversation piece at tractor shows and is fun to ride on tractor drives. I've used it to plow and spread manure and it works great. The small tractor is a 1/2-scale model that I built using a Chevy Geo Metro engine, the floor shift transmission off an older 1/2-ton pickup, and the narrowed-up rear end off a 1/2-ton pickup. **(Roger Herren, Rt. 1, Box 79, Clayton, Ill. 62324, ph 217 696-2779)**

When I extended my Austree windbreak, I planted branches from existing 20-ft. tall trees rather than buy new seedlings that cost up to \$8 each. I soak the 4-ft. long branches in about 10 in. of plain water, with no fertilizer added, for about 3 weeks to get roots growing on the branches. Leaving the branches in the water too long would cause the roots to tangle. A garbage container with a rock in the bottom keeps the branches in place during the rooting process.

I dig a hole about 8 in. deep to plant each seedling. Commercial mulch covered with plastic helps hold the moisture and

smothers any weeds. **(Jason Gogerty, 33094 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122, ph 641 487-7825)**

My son, George, has been doing some fencing work for me. My fence is quite close to a tree line, so in order to carry the roll of barbed wire between the trees and posts he built a wooden box and mounted it on a 2-wheeled hand cart. Bigger wheels would have made the cart easier to pull.



George also gave me an old golf



bag caddy that I use to carry a tank for spraying weeds. Works great. **(Elsie Matthie, Rt. 4, Stn. Main, Innisfail, Alta., Canada T4G 1T9)**

If a drawbar pin comes out when towing hydraulic-powered equipment, the



hydraulic hoses can get torn off. So I came up with this idea to protect the pin lock. It's simply a short piece of pipe welded to a washer that fits the drawbar pin and slides down to cover the snap lock keeper. After several thousand acres of use, not one pin has been lost. **(Bill Knutson, 29897 Frog Creek Rd., Centerville, S. Dak. 57014)**

I bolted a pair of steel forks on back of my backhoe bucket so I can lift a garden wagon loaded with bundles of roof shingles up to the roof, where workers



can unload them without having to stoop over. I used 4-in. channel iron to make the forks and drilled holes in the bucket to bolt them on. To load the wagon, I tilt the bucket down until the forks are parallel to the ground. A nylon tie-down belt is used to secure the wagon to the forks. **(William Russell, Union, Wash. 98592)**

I made a "backup mirror" for my Plymouth Voyager van to make it easier to hook up trailers.



The mirror measures 16 in. long by 12 in. wide. It has a metal strap that hooks over the van's tailgate. It's angled so you can clearly see the ball hitch. I keep it under the rear seat whenever I'm not using it. **(William Yewell, 1721 K Ave., Ogden, Iowa 50212, ph 515 275-2252)**



Thanks for your article on Lubricheck, our first-of-its-kind digital tester for engine oil (Vol. 36, No. 4). We had a tremendous response from FARM SHOW readers. We're planning to ship our first units at the end of November and be in full production by the end of the year.

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