



Kansas feedlot owner Dale Goetz weaved tire strips together to come up with this soft, non-slip tire mat design. The mats work well in walkways, crowd pens, etc.



A 10-gal. tank and pump mount on a wheeled metal frame that attaches to zero-turn riding mower. A spray nozzle is located just outside mower's left front caster wheel.

Cows Like These Woven Tire Mats

As long as tires wear out, Dale Goetz and his family will have plenty of material for their mat business. The Kansas feedlot owner came up with the tire mat design when he needed soft, non-slip mats in the processing area where he vaccinates and works with his cattle.

"I figured tires are tough, and I started weaving strips together. It worked better than I imagined," Goetz says.

He developed a machine to cut the tread part off steel-belted car and small truck tires. The strips are hand-woven. (The sidewalls are used for weight to hold down the plastic on feed bunks, so there is little waste.) Cattle hooves easily slide over the woven areas.

"What I'm finding is that our mats have the best traction," Goetz says, noting most other mats are soft, but have smooth, slick surfaces. Besides providing good traction to reduce crippling injuries, the tire mats are

soft and quiet.

Demand has been good from feedlot owners, and businesses such as sale barns, livestock auctions and packing plants. There has also been interest from hog breeders and dairy operators. The mats work well in walkways, crowd pens, ramps, scales and other locations.

The most popular sizes are 6 by 6-ft. and 4 by 10-ft., but Goetz's business, Double D Family Mat Shop Inc., makes them in any size. They have created curved mats and mats as long as 50 ft. for customers. The mats weigh 5 1/2 lbs./sq. ft. and can be shipped anywhere by freight carrier.

Price varies depending on the cost of tires, fuel and other factors, so call Goetz for cost.

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Weed Sprayer Mounted On Mower Deck

James Matthews came up with a nifty way to do two jobs at once. The King, N.C., farmer mounted a 10-gal. tank and pump on a wheeled steel frame that attaches on front of his Gravelly zero-turn riding mower. It lets him spray weeds with herbicides along buildings and driveways as he mows his lawn.

"I can spray weeds by activating a nozzle about 1 1/2 ft. outside the mower's left front caster wheel, or I can use a handheld wand," says Matthews, whose Gravelly is fitted with a 50-in. deck.

The electric sprayer is built in 2 parts. One part is a metal subframe that holds the tank, electric pump, a coiled-up 15-ft. long hose, and a wand. The other part is a 4-wheeled metal "dock" that's used to hold the subframe and position it for attachment to the deck, which rides on a pair of big caster wheels.

Male plugs on the dock fit into female sockets on the subframe and are pinned together. The subframe is contained inside a pivoting mechanism that's controlled by a vertical, spring-loaded metal rod attached to a horizontal bar on one side of the dock.

To attach the sprayer, Matthews pushes the dock up close to the deck and then presses down on the bar to lift the subframe up about a half inch, enough to clear brackets above the axle that supports the deck's caster wheels. Then he releases the bar to let the subframe down into place on top of the brackets, inserts a pair of metal pins into existing holes in the brackets, and backs the dock away.

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Simple Carryall Fits On Lawn Tractor

Manny Escobar's simple homemade carryall is perfect to haul tools or debris when cleaning up a yard.

The Portsmouth, R.I., property owner needed something to carry items when he used his LT150 Deere lawn tractor. Since he drives it to work in his Christmas tree grove, he didn't have room to haul a trailer. Instead, he recycled a 15-gal., 15-in. dia. by 20-in. tall, plastic drum that had held detergent used on dairy farms.

The round container works well, Escobar says, because he still has complete access to the free-wheeling lever on the back of the tractor, and he didn't have to drill any holes on the tractor to mount it.

Instead, he extended the drawbar with a 2 by 2 by 14-in. piece of aluminum that he slid over the end of the drawbar and secured with a 1/2-in. bolt. To mount the barrel, he drilled two 3/8-in. holes in the bottom of the container to bolt to holes on the drawbar extension. Another bolt, 2/3's of the way up the back of the container, secures a chain that's bolted to existing holes on both sides of the lawn tractor frame.

Escobar also made a plywood lid secured with cotter pins, but he notes he usually leaves the lid off.

"I use it to carry garden tools, and during Christmas tree trimming it hauls a chainsaw, gas-powered and manual shears, lopping tool,

pruning shears, sharpening tools, lubricants, fuel, food, drink, etc.," Escobar says. "I can also haul rock, grass, small branches and twigs."

His carryall has been so handy that he's only taken it off once, when the lawn tractor needed to be serviced.

Escobar notes his girlfriend likes it too. "When she mows, she uses it to carry a wiffle bat because she doesn't like spiders," he laughs.

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Escobar uses this 15-gal. plastic drum on back of his Deere lawn tractor to haul garden tools and debris.

Walk-Behind Stump Grinder

"After seeing a home-built stump grinder in FARM SHOW, I was inspired to build my own walk-behind model. My total cost was less than \$600," says Tim Gasser, Prairie du Sac, Wis.

The stump grinder rides on wheelbarrow tires and uses the handles off an old rototiller. It's powered by a 13 hp engine that Gasser bought at Harbor Freight. The engine mounts on a 2 1/4-in. thick by 12-in. wide piece of elm wood and is used to double belt-drive the grinder's teeth.

"I tried to build it as simple as possible and used off-the-shelf parts so it can be easily fixed," says Gasser. "The wood frame is light and rigid and absorbs a lot of vibration. The entire unit weighs about 200 lbs. and is only 24 in. wide so it'll easily fit into tight spots."

He bought the stump cutter teeth at Baileys (www.baileysonline.com) then bought a 6-in. gear, drilled holes in it, and bolted the cutter teeth to it. He welded the gear to a hub that he installed on a shaft with a couple of pillow block bearings.

"If I did it over again, I'd use a bigger gear because it would give the belt pulley more clearance. It would also let me use a bigger belt pulley on the cutterhead, which would gear it down a bit more. And it would improve

the belt's traction on the pulley," says Gasser.

"At first I used a single V-belt, but it didn't last more than a few hours so I switched to double V-belts. They'll last more than a year before they have to be replaced. I sharpen the cutting teeth every 4 hours or so."

He uses his car and 4 by 8 trailer to pull the grinder around. "The car gets more than 30 mpg so it saves a lot of fuel compared to hauling it in my truck," says Gasser.

The home-built stump grinder has already paid for itself many times over, says Gasser. "It works best on stumps less than 2 ft. in diameter, although I've used it on stumps up to 3 ft. However, those big stumps aren't much fun to tackle with a grinder this small. I get pretty sore if I operate the grinder for a whole day, so if anyone wants to build a stump grinder like mine I'd recommend using the biggest motor possible. Also, it would be nice to have adjustable height handles."

Gasser says the grinder is built so it'll rest on its handles when he tips it all the way back, "which makes changing cutters a lot easier".

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Tim Gasser built this walk-behind stump grinder that rides on wheelbarrow tires and uses the handles off an old rototiller.



Stump grinder is powered by a 13 hp engine, which belt-drives the grinder's teeth.

