



“One-handed branch cutter” lets Jacobson hold a tree branch in one hand and chop it with the other.

## One-Handed Branch Cutter

“It speeds up the process when cutting up branches that won’t quite fit into a tree chipper. It also eliminates a lot of bending over,” says Dan Jacobson about his “one-handed branch cutter”.

He bolted a curved metal tube onto a 12 by 20-in. metal base, and attached a 28-in. long branch cutter to the top by drilling holes through the handle. The corners of the base are bent down at a 90 degree angle so they bite into the ground and won’t slip.

To operate, stand with one foot holding

down the base. Then hold the branch in one hand and chop it with the other hand, and throw the branch right into the chipper.

“The big advantage is that instead of squeezing the handles together you’re pushing down on just one handle, which requires less mechanical leverage,” notes Jacobson.

Sells for \$145 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Dr., Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472 (ph 218 543-6623).

## He Puts Discarded Cable Spools To Work

Larry Majerus is more than happy to take empty cable spools off his local utility’s hands. He gets as many as 15 to 16 at a time and has put them to use for everything from hay storage to making chicken fence and even a mineral feeder for his cattle.

“The utility has to pay to dump them at a landfill, so they are happy to give them to me at no cost,” says Majerus.

Majerus has a slick way to dismantle the spools. He uses a skill saw with a carbide blade to slice through a couple slats on the spool center. Then he uses a bolt cutter to cut the long bolts holding the two ends in tight, leaving him with the two laminated plywood discs, steel bolts and wood slats.

Majerus uses the long steel bolts for plant supports. “I’ve also made miniature picket fences by sharpening one end of the slats and using them around plantings,” he says.

The spool ends are placed edge to edge in double rows for hay storage. “I set bales on them end to end,” Majerus says. “They keep the bales off the ground. I get less spoilage,

and they are easy to pick up.”

To make the mineral feeder, he left the spool in one piece. He fastened one face to two 4 by 4’s with beveled ends for skids. Four 2 by 6-in. boards were nailed to the skids and to the edges of the spool ends as uprights.

“I nailed a roof to the uprights and covered it with recycled tin,” says Majerus. “The mineral box was formed by 1 by 8-in. boards nailed to the uprights.”

He used liquid nail to fill in cracks on the spool and wrapped metal flashing around the lower 2/3 of the spool center to protect the wood.

“I bolted an old track chain to the skids,” says Majerus. “To move it, I just toss the chain over the ball hitch on my truck or ATV.”

It gets double duty as a cattle rub too. Majerus made the roof 8 ft. square so he can hang cattle rubs from the rafters. The top of the spool even makes a handy storage space for extra cattle rubs. All it took was some 1-in. boards nailed to the uprights. Like the hay bale rests and the chicken fence, the price



Home-built muffler was made by cutting 16 in. off a 4-in. dia. grain auger and welding a length of flanging inside. A curved exhaust outlet is bolted on at bottom.

## “Grain Auger” Tractor Muffler

“When the muffler broke off on my 1970 Case 18 hp garden tractor, I found it would cost more than \$200 to replace. Instead, I used part of an old 4-in. dia. grain auger to build my own muffler. It works fine at no cost,” says Loren Kalkwarf, Garner, Iowa.

He cut 16 in. off the auger tubing and welded a length of flanging inside. He drilled 2 holes into one end of the auger to make room for a pair of intake pipes that come off the engine manifold. Then he tach welded both ends of the tubing shut and drilled a hole

into one of the end caps where he bolted on a curved exhaust outlet.

To attach the muffler to the tractor, he bolted on a chrome bracket – part of the hand railing off an old bathtub – between the tubing and the tractor.

“It’s kind of fun to save money if you can get something to work as good as new without spending any money,” notes Kalkwarf.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Loren Kalkwarf, 2020 225<sup>th</sup> St., Garner, Iowa 50438 (ph 641 923-2708).



Larry Majerus puts empty cable spools to work, using them for everything from hay storage to mineral feeders for his cattle.

was right and so is the maintenance.

“The bolts on the chain are the only things I have had to replace,” says Majerus. “The cattle drop salt on them, and they rust through.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Majerus, 2246 Double Bridges Rd., Spout Spring, Va. 24593 (ph 434 352-2921; rmajerus@region2000.org).

## Simple Barrel Stove Heats His House

Joseph Dreifus found a simple way to heat his house. He set up a barrel stove outside and built an aluminum housing around it to gather heat off the stove. Insulated flexible heat ducts carry the heat inside.

“I’ve used it for 6 years, and it works great,” says Dreifus. “It runs from November 1st through April 1st.”

Initially Dreifus used two barrels. The smoke from the lower firebox barrel was directed into the second barrel before exiting the chimney. Although more heat was captured, so was creosote, which dripped back into the barrel from the cooler smoke.

“It gave off a terrible stink, so I took the second barrel off,” says Dreifus.

He built the furnace housing using metal studs for the wall frames. The walls are made from aluminum recycled from an old pickup topper. He used cement board for the floor and sandwiched fiberglass insulation between the walls.

Heat is pumped to the house through insulated flexible tubing that attaches to a plenum on the side of the furnace. A squirrel cage fan from an old air conditioner mounts between the plenum and the barrel stove to pull and push air through the system.

“I had trouble finding a diode to turn the fan on and off, but finally found one at a place that sells cast iron stoves,” says Dreifus. “When the temperature hits 85 degrees the fan shuts off. When it drops below, it goes back on.”

Dreifus packs the firebox twice a day with scrap wood, mostly from oak and pecan trees in his yard. He has a gas furnace inside the house that kicks in if the house temperature drops below 65 degrees.

“I bought the stove kit at Northern Tool for \$40,” says Dreifus.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joseph E. Dreifus, 18360 24th St., Live Oak, Fla. 32060 (ph 386 362-2018).



Barrel stove is surrounded by an aluminum housing that gathers heat off the stove. Insulated flexible heat ducts carry the heat inside Dreifus’s house.