



All-Tie Anchor Post has a 4-bladed spear point with a sliding pounder on the post that's used both to pound in posts and pull them out.



Anchor Post Has Its Own Pounder

No post driver is needed with the All-Tie Anchor Post. What started out as an idea for grazing horses has grown into an all-purpose anchor for animals, signs, boats, fences and more.

"I wanted to graze my horse in different areas," says Nathaniel LeBaron, Good N Useful Supply. "I made one, and it worked great. It evolved into a smaller one for goats that can also be used for dogs."

LeBaron is now making multiple anchor post models, differing in size, material and even the basic design. He offers three sizes of the original design and three sizes of a new compact version ideal for taking dogs to a park or other open areas. He also makes a stainless steel version for use around saltwater, with more styles to come.

"It keeps evolving as people find new uses for it," says LeBaron. "I started only 10 months ago and just got a patent pending in late December."

The basic design is a 4-bladed spear point with a post extending up from the point and a sliding pounder on the post. The driver is used both to pound in posts and to pull them

out.

The pounder is multi-purpose. The hand holds on either side end in points that serve as hooks for hanging food or water buckets or for looping ropes and leads. Rings at the bottom of the handles make it easy to adjust rope lengths and to secure loops.

Because the pounder slides over the post, it also swivels. This reduces the chance that a rope or lead will get wrapped around the post as the animal grazes in a circle.

"The post has now evolved to people using several in the same area at one time," says LeBaron. "We are introducing a new design with a removable pounder so they can buy several posts, but only pay for a single pounder. This will be ideal for temporary pens and fencing."

Prices range from \$125 to \$275 on the four compact models and \$90 to \$250 for the four original models.

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Pedal-Powered Wire Winder

Winding up two strands of electric fencing at a time is easy with Larry Kropf's pedal-powered wire winder. Similar to a stationary bicycle, it quickly pulls in and wraps up a quarter mile of fence at a time.

"Another fellow and I ran sheep, and we used lots of temporary fencing," says Kropf. "We used 17-ga. wire as it was less expensive than poly wire. The pedal-powered winder pulls two wires in at once."

The winder looks like a bicycle because most of the parts came from one. Kropf recycled various pieces of bike frames, often repositioning them or reversing their positions. The main frame is mounted on angle iron to two 2 by 4-in. skids. A saddle recycled from an old tricycle sits on the bike seat tube. The top tube that normally runs from the seat to the handlebars was removed. A support pipe angles back from the seat tube to the rear of one skid.

The drive is reversed with the rear hub sprocket mounted forward of the seat. A shaft extends through the hub to bearings on support plates at either side. The flat bar plates (approximately 2 by 8 in.) extend forward from a joint of tubes that extends up from the front skid cross bar and forward from the bottom bracket shell.

"We welded pieces of 2-in. dia. pipe to the shafts to hold the wire spools," explains Kropf. "We designed it to use with welding wire spools made from cardboard composite. Plastic spools didn't work nearly as well."

He also mounted the head tube that normally holds the handlebars, to the front of the frame. However, instead of handlebars, he mounted a pipe with a cross bar at its top through the head tube. A smaller pipe extends forward from the bottom of the "handlebar" pipe. Wire guides are mounted to a crossbar at the forward end of the lower pipe.

"If the wire isn't wrapping evenly, I can adjust the position of the guides by turning the handlebar pipe," says Kropf. "We also mounted a short crossbar just ahead of the frame. It acts as a stop so the operator doesn't accidentally turn the handlebars too far to either side."

The one thing the wire winder didn't have was a brake to maintain tension on the wires when the operator stepped off the bike. The oversight was handled by attaching a vice grip to lock the spool shaft in position.

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"No Footing" Groundscrew Anchors

"Our new screw-in anchors eliminate the need to dig post holes and pour concrete. They work great for putting up everything from fences to decks, barns and sheds," says Ed Ayala, Eco Foundation Systems, Sacramento, Calif.

The Groundscrew anchor consists of a hollow, tubular galvanized steel tube with large threads at the bottom. The tube screws into the ground by hand or by fastening it to an auger drive attachment on a skid loader. The post bolts onto a steel plate welded onto the top of the tube.

Many different types of Groundscrews are available to accommodate different kinds of posts; everything from 4 by 4's to round steel posts to steel I-beams. Larger Groundscrews up to 6 ft. long can be used for building foundations.

"They eliminate the need to dig holes and use concrete as a foundation for the post," says Ayala. "Unlike with bulky concrete footings, there's no concrete mess to clean up, no water spillage, and no finish grading to complete. It only takes about 3 min. to drive each Groundscrew into the ground."

Groundscrew anchors were invented in Germany, and for years Eco Foundation Systems has been installing the system in the U.S. to set up large solar panel installations. "They work great for that because they go in and out of the ground without disturbing the landscape. As a result, there's unimpeded air flow around the solar panels," says Ayala. "Now we're expanding into agriculture and construction."

He says Groundscrews work great for putting up temporary fencing because both the Groundscrew anchors and the fence posts can be easily lifted out and moved to another location. "They work great for horse owners, who are constantly setting up arena fences and need a quick, temporary way to put them up and take them down," says Ayala.

He says it's easy to keep posts perfectly vertical at all times. "We offer an adjustable foundation system that uses a black plastic ring with an off center hole in the middle. By turning the ring you can plumb round posts up, regardless of how the Groundscrew went in," says Ayala.

He adds that the Groundscrew system is



Galvanized steel tube screws into the ground. Post bolts onto a steel plate welded to top of tube.

far stronger than helical piles and adaptable to many more applications.

Groundscrews retail for about \$40 to \$55 for most fencing applications. Larger screws for building foundations retail for \$90 to \$125.

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Larry Kropf says his pedal-powered wire winder makes it easy to wind up 2 strands of electric fence at a time (upper left). Unit's main frame mounts on angle iron skids (above). Handlebars are used to "steer" wire evenly onto spools (right).

