

# Reader Letters



Thank you for the article in the 2015 Best of FARM SHOW on my new "Air Propagator" for fruit trees, shrubs, and vines. Unfortunately, our complete website was left off the article - [www.airpropagator.com](http://www.airpropagator.com). The Air Propagator is a plastic ball that comes in two halves filled with a rooting medium that's placed around a branch after you remove a ring of bark from the stem. Then you just keep it moist until there are enough roots for transplant. (**Hong Park, Parkway Greenhouse, 13605 Memorial Parkway S.W., Huntsville, Ala. 35803 ph 256 650-4644; 256 694-2169; www.airpropagator.com**)

I invented a device for cars and trucks that light up the rear brake lights when you let up on the accelerator, so cars can tell when you're slowing down before you hit the brakes.

I would like to find someone to help develop the idea to get it on the market. (**M. Reichert, #18 Rolling Hills, Kearney, Neb. 68845 ph 408 293-7260**)



I built a barbeque grill out of an antique seeder with a propane tank mounted on front. I cut the tank open and installed a handle, hinges, and a grill. It looks pretty nifty and we can roll it around to wherever we want to use it. (**Joel Lawler, 282 PR 265, Bowie, Texas 76230 hillbilly265@att.net**)



A friend of mine gave me a Kawasaki Mule that had burned up in a garage fire. The only salvageable part was the drive axle so I cut off the frame right ahead of the axle and then started building a miniature fire truck. Kids love it. Comes complete with a ladder, flashing lights, and a siren.

I also built a scale model semi truck out of two riding mowers. Many of the parts on it were tossed away by the trucking company I work for. The tractor measures 6 1/2 ft. long and 5 ft. high. The back of the cab is open to make room for a driver. Fuel tanks were made from R-134 AC cylinders. The trailer pulls a 13-ft. trailer with working lights and



landing gear. I have a lot of fun driving the rig in parades and at car shows. (**Wayne Metcalf, New Auburn, Wis. ph 715 931-8170**)

I lowered my electric air conditioning bill by at least \$25 per month by painting the dark red asphalt shingles on my house all white. It reflects heat, keeping the house cooler. Over the years I've put 5 coats of paint on the roof using Home Depot exterior white paint. If you look at my house on Google Earth, my white roof really stands out. (**Charles Hawkins, 2313 Dovehill Drive, Austin, Texas 78744**)

I heat with wood and got tired of buying 2-ft. pieces of stove pipe that burn out in a year. So I bought a 20-ft. piece of 6-in., 9-ga. steel pipe. I made a T-fitting for an elbow that also serves as a cleanout. Cleaning is now easy. Just get a stiff piece of wire, make zig zag bends in the end of it, and feed it up the flue pipe attached to a cordless drill. Turn the drill on for about 5 min. to clean. No more burned-out pipes and it improves safety because it's so much easier to keep the flue clean. (**Mark Yakubec, McMinnville, Tenn.**)

Since publication of my "jail vault" in the last issue of FARM SHOW, I've been hammered by scoffers who say "it ain't burglar-proof". I know it isn't 100 percent burglar-proof but it'll be a lot harder to get in than breaking through a tin wall. The photos you showed were incomplete in that they showed the project before the inside walls were completed, hiding the jail bars. Anyone who tries to break through these walls will probably find it's just not worth the time and effort. That's all I was aiming to do. (**Dave Nicholas, Peebles, Ohio**)

Thank you for featuring my walnut huller and cracker in Vol. 38, No. 6. You had a good picture of the rotating cylinder-shaped cage that separates hulls from nuts, but no picture of my "Nut Buster" cracker, which is made from steel plates placed parallel to each other. One plate inside is pushed back and forth by a belt-driven eccentric to crack nuts. It works like a rock crusher. Nuts come out the bottom. About 85 percent of meat is out of the shells in nice big pieces. (**Larry Palmby, Dover, Minn. ph 507 273-4206**)

We do not have electricity at our greenhouse so in order to circulate hot water to heat it, we use a 5 1/2 hp. Honda engine. I'm attempting to design a pumping system that would be powered by a heavy weight winched high up on a pole outside the greenhouse. As the weight slowly drops, it will pump the water. The problem is coming up with a mechanism to control the speed of the

weight coming down. My goal would be to have it take about 8 hrs. to drop before it would need to be winched back up the pole by hand. Anyone have an idea? (**Rufus Hostetler, 4969 Nightingale Ave., Northwood, Iowa 50459**)

I almost lost a slow moving vehicle sign on back of my tractor while driving on a rough road. The back side of the sign comes with a tapered metal strap



on it that fits into a holding bracket. The problem is that on bumpy roads the strap can easily bounce out of the bracket, and the driver won't even know. A replacement sign costs \$10 or more.

To solve the problem, I removed one of the strap's mounting bolts and replaced it with a 1/4-in. eye bolt. I tie a short length of rope onto the eye bolt and attach it to the tractor. With the rope attached the sign will never fall onto the ground, even if it does bounce out of the bracket. (**Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Manhattan Road, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 ph 815 342-0743**)

Worn-out winter vests can be made into nice, warm tractor seat covers. Just slip the sleeve arm holes over the seat arm rests and lay the vest on top of the seat. It's a cheap, simple form of cowboy ingenuity. (**Richard L. Lien, 12852 Bulger Flat, Haines, Oregon 97833**)



I modified an old Jeep snowplow to mount on my old Ford 9N tractor. I added braces under the tractor from back to front and also added braces on front to hold a hanger that supports a hydraulic cylinder, which is used to raise or lower the blade. The cylinder operates off the tractor's hydraulics. A shut-off valve is used to raise or lower the blade. (**Jerry Brandt, 610 Webster St., La Grange, Mo. 63448 ph 573 655-2260**)



A few years ago FARM SHOW published a story on how I motorized a 1965 Deere Pedal Trac pedal tractor (Vol. 35, No. 3). Since then I've motorized several other brands of pedal tractors, including a pair of Deere 5020's, an Oliver, and a Western Flyer. All are powered by a 1981 Echo 21 cc weed trimmer engine that's hooked up to the transmission off



a Troybilt rototiller. The transmission chain-drives the tractor's rear axle, except on the Western Flyer which uses the gearbox off a cultivator attachment.

An add-on, spring-loaded throttle lever is used to control tractor speed. The weed trimmer engine has a built-in clutch and the rototiller transmission has a worm gear drive with a 36:1 ratio, so when I let off the throttle the tractor stops. There's no need for brakes.

The 2-cycle weed trimmer engine doesn't have much torque unless it's revved up, and would have run too fast for the pedal tractors so I had to gear it down. To do that I cut a tine shaft off



the rototiller transmission shaft and cut another shaft down to make it shorter.

I bought the Oliver pedal tractor new in the box from a friend and motorized it right away. The tractor came with a side cover over the entire engine, just like on the real Oliver, which made it easy to cut out an opening for the weed trimmer engine. (**Tom Demers, 267 Hard Hill Rd. N., Bethlehem, Ct. 06751 ph 203 266-6297 or 203 266-5767; tdemers350@hotmail.com**)



My little home-built tractor with V-plow will go through 4-ft. snow drifts. It travels at up to 20 mph - and down to 1/2 mph - thanks to 2 transmissions hooked together. A hydraulic pump from a 55 Deere powers the loader. I made the cylinders from 1 1/4-in. shafts inside pipes with O-rings. I can lift the plow up to 5 ft. high. I made the plow from steel forms used to make concrete culverts, with worn grader blades welded to the bottom of the wings. (**Lawrence Goll, Box 72, Blue Hill, Neb. 68930 ph 402 756-2266**)

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