

Reader Letters



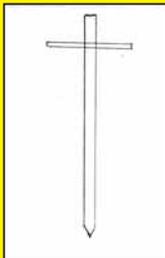
We found a use for worn-out skid steer rubber tracks. Just stand them on edge and fill with dirt. Makes a good flower or vegetable garden that's easy to work on. **(David A. Steeby, Wayland, Mich.)**

I've noticed a few articles on wood splitters in recent issues. There's a simple way to split wood with an axe that's much better than the regular way. On a bigger piece of wood, bring the axe down so it sticks into it. Then lift the axe with the log on it like you would to make another strike and, on the way down, flip the axe upside down so the log is on top of the axe. Bring the back of the axe head down flat onto your splitting block to transmit the most force. The force of the log coming down on the axe head splits itself. This method takes a little practice to master but works great. **(Ben Morgan, Deutz-fahrtractor@hotmail.com)**

Here's how I get rid of groundhogs. I just spread moth balls around the areas where I see them and they disappear. I came up with the idea because I live in town and can't shoot them. **(Jerry Allison, Dallastown, Penn.)**

As a small Christmas tree farmer, I choose and cut about 2,000 trees every year. The demand for trees more than 10 ft. tall is small so for the last few years I've been cutting off all the branches below 7 ft. on trees as tall as 15 to 16 ft. That leaves me with 8 to 9-ft. trees for sale. Cutting off the bottom branches also makes it easier to mow and walk through my trees. **(Oscar A Gustafson, Ill., Callahan, Fla.)**

To fertilize trees I take a 1-in. dia. steel stake about 3 ft. long and weld a 1/2-in. dia. by 1-ft. long handle across the top. I drive the stake down about 18 in. in 4 spots around the tree drip zone, then wiggle the stake around to enlarge the hole. Then I put a funnel in the hole and pour granulated fertilizer in. For a 20-ft. tree, I use about 1/4 cup of fertilizer in each hole. **(Bob Moty, Crystal Lake, Ill.)**



I made a 3-wheel cycle out of an old bike without a motor. I got an electric



start engine from Harbor Freight, a transmission from Nothern Tool, and some parts from Tractor Supply Company. I put them all together to make a funny road bike. It runs as fast as you want to go. I enjoy it even if it looks funny. **(Hiram W. Wilson, 315 Bonnaridge Dr., Hermitage, Tenn. 37076; ph 615 883-1177)**

I needed to dig a trench and didn't have a backhoe so I just mounted a 6-in.

wide heavy channel iron 4-ft. long on a front-end loader bucket. It's pointed forward like a spear so I could use it to dig. Worked well for the 100-ft. trench I needed to dig, was easier than a pick and shovel, and much less expensive than renting a trencher. **(Anonymous)**

Some time in the late 1950's, my uncle bought a new Minneapolis Moline tractor and got a free White 655 sewing machine with it. My sister used it for a few years and put it in the attic, where it has been for 40 years. It's like brand new except for the timing belt, which disintegrated. I can't find a new one anywhere. Can anyone help? **(John Lake, 5054 Greystone Lane, Tyrone, Penn.; ph 814 632-8629)**

After 35 years of gardening, I had several rake heads around the farm that were



missing handles. I made new ones out of electrical conduit that I had laying around the place. I cut off half the pipe about 4 in. up from one end to form a tab. Then I slipped the rake head into the pipe and folded the tab back down against the pipe to hold the rake head in place. A band clamp holds it in place. Now I've got a pile of rakes I can use again or give away as gifts. **(E.D. Kramer, bruland@yahoo.com)**

My husband, Hans, made a portable fire



pit out of an old wheelbarrow that I can use anywhere. I removed the rubber tire and tube, wrapped the rim in sheet metal, and removed the wooden handles. I added a removable grate for cleaning out ashes. In the winter, we roll it out into the driveway to burn paper and cardboard and then roll it back under cover when we're done. **(Rachel Hepburn, South Bruce Peninsula, Ontario)**

This tool is called a Tension Indicator and is used to show tension on a fence



wire as it is stretched. The tension is calibrated in kilonewtons (Kn) – from 0 to 2.5 Kn. It lets you build fence that is consistently tight. I have had this tool for over 20 years and now have need for another one. It was made under the Allflex name and was probably made in New Zealand, but no one at Allflex recognizes it. I've done a lot of searching



After reading the story in your last issue about the tractor-mounted "gasser" that kills gophers and ground squirrels, I headed out to the shop and made a lightweight, simple unit that I can run off small engines like a lawn mower. I cut off the top of a 20-gal. drum and screwed some pipe into the threaded opening in the top. Then I attached some flexible steel tubing to make it easy to use. I just put the barrel cap over the tunnels and run gas down into the holes. **(Lamar B. Fahnestock, 300 S. Ramona Rd., Lebanon, Penn. 17042; ph 717 866-4802)**

with no luck. Any chance a FARM SHOW reader could help? **(Stephen Gault, ph 575 548-2443; meiragault@gmail.com)**

I recently repowered my Cub Cadet 129 hydrostatic garden tractor with a 10 hp., single cylinder, air-cooled diesel engine.



The tractor was originally powered by a 12 hp. Kohler. I often take the tractor to antique tractor shows, and it's pretty noisy, so people look twice when they hear me coming.

I had to modify the tractor's frame to make room for the engine, which came with both electric and recoil start. I took the recoil start off. I also removed the coupling from the Kohler engine and set things up so the diesel engine shaft-drives the tractor's hydrostatic transmission. **(James G. Bagley, 7649 Doorley Rd., Hornell, N.Y. 14843; ph 607 324-3242)**

I own a company called Sadies Hand Painted Tack that offers a wide variety of hand-painted leather products for horses,



including headstalls, breast collars, spur straps, bronc halters, nose bands, wither straps, saddle crosses, clovers and ribbons. Non-horse related products are also available, including belts, hat bands,

and dog collars. All products are sealed with a high quality leather paint sealer.



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Contact me by email with a message about what you'd like to order and I'll work out all the specifics, including an estimated date of completion and price. **(Sadie Simmons, 3686 148th St. W., Rosemount, Minn. 55068 (ph 612 807-7105; sadieshandpaintedtack@gmail.com; www.sadieshandpaintedtack.com)**

I have a long history of making things with horseshoes, so when I accidentally crushed the tailgate on my pickup I



decided to make a replacement tailgate out of horseshoes.

I used 1 1/2-in. sq. stock to weld together a frame and then welded the horseshoes onto the inside. Expanded metal, which is painted white, serves as a back plate so the horseshoes really stand out. **(Chris Brighoff, Stonebrook Farm, 2712 Sams Creek Rd., New Windsor, Md. 21776; ph 410 875-2673)**

Last year a reader wrote in suggesting that it was okay to use starting fluid to clean greasy hands. My advice is, don't do it. Starting fluid uses ether, which is an organic solvent. The dissolved grease will go through your skin and into your blood stream. **(James Davis, 328 Woodfield Cir, LaGrange, Ga. 30240)**

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