



Dan Dodge used a 1,500-watt heat gun to make this “draft inducer” for his kitchen stove, adding a 10-in. length of thin-wall conduit to the end of the gun.

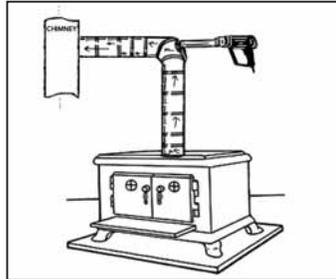
## Heat Gun “Draft Inducer”

“Whenever we started a fire in our kitchen wood stove, it wouldn’t pull a draft. Smoke would pour out and fill the house. So I used a heat gun to make a ‘draft inducer’ to solve the problem,” says Dan Dodge, Camano Island, Wash.

He bought a 1,500-watt heat gun from Harbor Freight and then added a 10-in. length of thin-wall conduit to the end of the gun. He then cut an oval hole in the stove pipe elbow to slip the gun in, and made a flapper valve out of sheet metal to cover the hole after removing the gun.

“Before starting the fire I put the heat gun in the stove pipe and turn it on for 5 min. Then I start the fire. Once it’s drafting good, I remove the heat gun and close the flapper valve,” says Dodge.

“I’ve been using this method successfully for a year now and don’t know of anything



Heat gun slips into an oval hole cut into stove pipe elbow.

on the market that’s so simple to make and use.”

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## Mini-Winch Uses Power Window Motors

When Ron Krentz needed a small winch, he made one using salvaged power window motors. The compact motors drive a mini-winch with a 3-in. long spool and high-strength webbing.

“The motors have gears only 1 in. in diameter, but that’s just right to drive the spool,” says Krentz. “I run the 1/5-in. wide webbing through a pulley and back to the winch to double the pulling power.”

Krentz made the winch to help lift a spare tire back into position under the bed of his 1982 F-150. He mounted it inside a plywood box to the underside of the bed. The box keeps rain and mud off the winch.

The winch itself consists of the two motors mounted to a plate of 3/4-in. plywood with a 1/8-in. thick, 1-in. (inside) dia., 3-in. long aluminum tube between the two gears. Mounting the motors so the gears faced each other ensured they would both drive the spool the same direction. The gears drive against sheet metal screws mounted through the spool ends.

The webbing is recycled from material used by the local telephone company to pull wiring through underground conduit. Krentz says it has 10,000-lb. tensile strength, more than enough to lift a spare tire into place.

“It’s always a hassle to get spare tires back into place and attach the wing nut,” says Krentz. “With the winch, it’s no problem.”

He also uses the idea to lift his riding mower for blade replacement.

“I like to change blades every time I mow my three acres,” he says.

Krentz powers the winch with alligator clamps that attach to the battery in the mower. “When I want to lower the mower, I just reverse polarity on the clamps and hit the switch,” says Krentz.

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Salvaged power window motors drive mini-winch, which is equipped with a 3-in. long spool and high-strength webbing.



Krentz uses the mini-winch to lift spare tires into place, and to lift his riding mower for blade replacement.



Alistair Robert used 2-in. box tubing to build this loader-mounted ATV hauler. The frame slips over 2 forks on loader bucket.

## Loader-Mounted ATV Hauler

Alistair Roberts of Wrexham, Wales needed a way to haul his 4-wheeler home from a sheep farm 12 miles away. “I haul the 4-wheeler on a trailer going out to the farm to round up sheep. But the trailer’s full on the way back so I used to have to leave it there and go back later to haul it home,” he says.

He solved the problem by building a loader-mounted ATV hauler. “With the loader carrying the 4-wheeler I can return in a single trip.”

The hauler consists of a steel frame made from 2-in. box tubing, with wells for the ATV’s wheels. The frame slips over 2 of the forks on the loader bucket and the ATV is then strapped down for safety.

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Two of the ATV’s wheels fit into wells in frame.

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Tim Sweeney converted a 1955 Deere 60 wheeled tractor to a crawler, adding a Deere 2010 track and steering clutch assembly.

## Tim Sweeney And His Amazing Deere 60 Crawler

Tim Sweeney, Springfield, Ohio, built what he calls a “John Deere 60” crawler that draws big crowds wherever it goes.

The idea for the crawler was not a new one. Sweeney, a Deere mechanic, had been thinking about it since he was a teen. Growing up on the farm his dad had a Deere 420 crawler used for both farm chores and logging. They also had a Deere 60 wheeled tractor. When Sweeney was 14 he and his father dynamited an elm tree, then attempted to move it off the field and to the woods. While doing this, he told his dad, “If we had a 60 on tracks that would be a real machine.”

That day the idea for his creation took root. “I drew it out on paper for two years and worked on it for another two.”

The framework is from a 1955 60 that he found in a barn 20 miles away. He used a Deere 2010 crawler track and steering clutch

assembly.

Sweeney shared his progress while building the crawler on Youtube and many fans followed along. Comments from Sweeney provide insight into the work he put into the machine. “I spent a couple years researching and drawing the design, had some axles re-splined and worked out the gear ratio’s to make the working speeds near the same as a regular 60,” he says.

“I used the tracks and final drives from a Deere 2010 crawler, I fabricated the transmission case/adaptor from a 1-in. steel plate, made the gearing and altered the rest to make it come together.”

For details about how Tim put it all together check out the February 2013 issue of *Green Magazine*, where Tim talked about the detailed steps he took to create his masterpiece ([www.greenmagazine.com](http://www.greenmagazine.com)).