

Harold Moll built this shed out of a silo top and says it works great for storing his yard and garden equipment. He added a wooden floor, doors, and ramp.



Silo Top Makes Great Shed

Silo tops are ideal for sheds, says Harold Moll of Hammond, Wis. The one he built is perfect for storing his yard and garden equipment. It's waterproof, rodent-proof and never gets weighted down with snow.

He saw the silo pieces while making a service call as an electrician. The farmer had replaced the silo top because it was dotted with about 50 bullet holes and said Moll could have it for free.

After putting 4 posts in the ground, Moll built a round deck with 2 by 6 joists covered by treated plywood. He secured the silo sections to the joists with lag bolts. After cutting out a section of the silo, he bent the

metal inward to create a flat area and secured a wooden frame for a double 5-ft. wide door.

"I made the doors really tight so it's mouse-proof," Moll says.

He made a ramp and uses the shed to store his lawn tractor, grass sweeper, and other tools.

"It's 14 ft. wide by 7 1/2 ft. tall, and there's more space than you'd think," he says.

Moll filled the bullet holes with caulk and kept the silo top just as he got it, complete with ladder.

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"Hitch Hugger" Keeps Receiver Hitch Quiet

"It takes the side-to-side motion out of your pickup's receiver hitch to virtually eliminate trailer sway and noise caused by the receiver hitch bouncing up and down," says Myron Holzwarth about his new Hitch Hugger. It's an automatic, self-tightening device that attaches to your pickup's receiver hitch.

The unit consists of a steel bracket equipped with a spring-loaded lever attached to a camshaft. One end of the bracket slides onto the receiver hitch tube and the other pins onto the receiver hitch base already on the vehicle.

To install, you slide the Hitch Hugger over the receiver hitch tube and then pin it to the vehicle's hitch (no bolts or wrenches required), align the holes, then insert the receiver partially into the hitch tube and rotate the lever clockwise. Slide the receiver hitch into the vehicle's hitch, align the holes and insert the hitch pin. Then release the spring-loaded lever, letting it snap, to lock the hitch tight.

"It virtually eliminates the noise and rumbling caused by conventional receiver hitches bouncing up and down. And, it's easy and fast to install since no wrenches or bolts are required," says Holzwarth. "Any time there's movement in the hitch tube, the off-centered camshaft wedges the hitch down to keep it from lifting up."

"It works especially well when hauling lighter 2-wheeled trailers, including boat and motorcycle trailers. Using it with a cargo carrier or bicycle carrier eliminates leaning from side to side while traveling. It also holds carriers or receiver-attached rock guards level so your vehicle's back-up sensors don't get a false reading when backing up, due to interference caused by one side being higher than the other."

Four different models are available to fit different receiver hitch styles. "The basic model 2040 covers about 75 percent of the receiver hitches on the market," says Holzwarth. "The main thing that determines



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Unit consists of a steel bracket equipped with a spring-loaded lever.



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the model you need is how far in the receiver pin hole is on the vehicle. Most receiver hitches are at 2 1/2 in. to the center of the hole and the rest are either 1 1/2 or 2 in. in."

The basic model 2040 sells for \$69.95 plus S&H.

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"Toe-Tapper" Valve Gives Hands-Free Hose Control

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

The Toe-Tapper is a slick foot pedal control device that frees up both hands when using a garden hose to wash vegetables. Inventor Herrick Kimball sent one to FARM SHOW for testing last fall.

I used it to rinse potatoes in a plastic tub, set on a plywood sheet over some sawhorses.

I attached a hose to the Toe-Tapper and a second hose from the Toe-Tapper to the tub. It worked great for scrubbing potatoes. Just tap it to start the water and tap it again to stop it. It sure beats letting the water run. You can set up your sink anywhere and move it before the area gets messy.

An angled plate runs from the base plate to the top of an on/off button on the valve. FARM SHOW readers may see dozens of ways to install the button valve once they've seen the idea.

Kimball used "push button tap adapters" from Gardener's Supply (www.gardeners.com, ph 800-876-5520) and pvc to make the foot-controlled valve. He's putting together inexpensive plans for the unit that will be available at his website. He's also the inventor of the Whizbang Chicken Plucker.

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Jim Ruen used the Toe-Tapper valve last summer to rinse potatoes in a plastic tub. "You just tap it with your foot to start the water and tap it again to stop it," he says.



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SMK sprayers are motorized and powered by a DeWalt battery, so you don't need to stop and pump them. They're designed to pump from a 5-gal. bucket or 55-gal. barrel.



Motorized Sprayers Fit Buckets, Barrels

There's no need for you to work up a sweat pumping SMK sprayers. They're motorized and powered by a DeWalt battery to continuously spray a variety of liquid products directly from a 5-gal. bucket or 55-gal. barrel.

"Since you don't need to stop and pump the units, you can reduce your application time in half," says Karen Williams, an online distributor for the sprayers.

Contractors who stain or seal concrete appreciate the dependable, even flow of the continuous spray.

"They are also ideal for use in greenhouses to spray fertilizer, or on acreages to spray pest control products," Williams notes. "Some units lock right on top of the product's 5-gallon bucket, which is especially nice because there is no need to transfer the product to another container."

For easy mobility, she sells a specially designed cart for a 5-gal. bucket. For larger applications, she offers units designed to hold a 55-gal. barrel.

Depending on the viscosity of the liquid being sprayed, the battery-powered units will operate for 2 to 4 hrs. on a charged 12 or 18-volt battery.

"The sprayers can be used over and over again as long as they are cleaned properly after each use," Williams says. "The units are designed for solvents, water and oil-based chemicals, acetone chemicals and a host of other products."

The website lists all products the sprayers can safely spray as well as those that are not compatible with the units.

All units come with a 24-in. Chapin spray wand, hose and nozzles. The most common model customers purchase is the C100WO for \$255. It's designed for water and oil-based products with a 1 gpm flow capacity that self-primers up to 2.5 vertical feet. Shipping is included as well as a 60-day warranty for the U.S.-made sprayer.

The model H100S (solvents) has a 1.8 gpm flow capacity, self-primers up to 10 vertical feet, fits on a 55-gal. barrel and sells for \$997.

Customers provide their own batteries, but Williams offers a line of accessories including battery and charger kits, nozzle kits, extra hose, dripless spray wands and carts.

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