

Reader Letters



When passengers get into the back seat of my van, sometimes it's difficult to find the seat belt. I solved the problem by mounting an old seatbelt receiver near the latch handle on the sliding door. Then when the seat belt is not in use, you can just latch it in there so it's easy to reach when you need it. **(John Swanson, Galesville, Wis.)**



I was tired of reaching for the handle at the base of my trailer jack so I installed an extended handle to the base. I have a spring-loaded lock pin that I can pull out and turn it on the side, raise the base, and hit it with my foot to lock it in the up position. **(Larry Goodman, 3200 Welch Rd., Ionia, Mich. 48846 ph 616-755-1473)**



I made a minnow tank out of a 55-gal. plastic barrel. I cut a hole in the top and filled it half full of water. I added some chlorine remover, installed a 110-volt aerator – you can buy them for \$20 to \$30 on Amazon – and that's all I needed to have a tank that keeps minnows alive for a long time. **(Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.)**

I wish to extend my appreciation for two articles you recently published.

The first was about liquid plant food made from weeds and water. I took an old plastic garbage can, cut a hole in the bottom for a 3/4-in. gate valve, and filled it with weeds of all kinds and water from my rain barrel. I then let the whole mess stew in the sun for two weeks. It's amazing how a 10 to 1 mix of this liquid helps newly planted seeds take off.

The other story was an idea for putting a piece of metal pipe over the leading edge of a front-end loader bucket or 3-pt. blade by cutting a slot along the length of the pipe. I liked the idea because it would keep the bucket or blade from picking up gravel off the driveway and dumping it on the yard. However, since I didn't have either steel pipe or the tools to cut a pipe, I decided to use 2-in. dia. schedule 40 pvc pipe.

I used my table saw to cut a 1/4-in. gap the full length of the pipe. I just tapped it into place over the leading edge and it had enough spring to stay in place. It works great and just leaves a thin layer of snow remaining. **(Stephen Kozerowitz, Huntley, Ill.)**

I was pleased to see the article on our community backhoe and the way Bruce Dunbar mounted a jackhammer on it. However, I was disappointed to see the caption giving me credit for the idea even though the article clearly stated that Bruce was the designer and builder. My sole contribution to this effort was taking the photo and submitting the article. **(Bob Andrews, Alaska)**

I like to make wooden antique cars and recently completed this 1930 Duesenberg car out of white ash and



walnut. It measures 19 in. long by 6 1/2 in. wide. The wheels are made from walnut and have spokes made from round tooth picks, with basswood used for the sidewalls.

The old-time gas pump is made of cherry burl wood. My dad used to have one of these pumps on our farm when I was a kid. The operator used to hand pump gas out of a big underground tank and up into a 5-gal. glass container located on top of the pump. From there the gas gravity flowed down to the car.

(Joe Rishel, 1499 Sunnyridge Rd., Alanson, Mich. 49706 ph 231 529-6216)



A couple of old sawhorses placed upside down, one inside the other, work great to saw small logs into firewood. The bottom sawhorse rests on a stand made by nailing a couple of boards onto its top side and adding wooden braces. I place the logs in the crook of the top sawhorse and cut off both ends to keep the logs balanced. Then I cut the logs through the center. **(Anonymous)**



Gary Reischauer of Zearing, Iowa, has a neat way to store equipment and keep it clean, using an 8-in. layer of crushed rocks placed next to a shed. The area is well drained and keeps the equipment clean, and it also keeps weeds and grass from growing through. **(Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)**

I cut a 265-gal. fuel oil tank in half and then welded bed frame angle irons around the edges to build this 2-wheeled trailer. Bed frames are made from springy, high carbon steel so you don't want to use them on structural projects or they'll crack, but they work good as an edge liner to hold the tank straight. The tank manually dumps out the back and



pivots on a metal pin that's welded onto the axle. A pair of uni-struts welded on back of the trailer form slots for a "drop board" tailgate.

The axle is an old straight axle that I turned upside down to make the trailer high enough to dump. The original wheel rims weren't the right kind to remount onto the axle, so I used a pair of 8-in. offset rims that I already had. One rim was offset 4 in. and the other 6 in. I cut the middles out of the rims and made a pair of flat steel plates to match, then welded the plates in and drilled holes into them to fit the axle hub.

I used a small cut-off wheel on a 4 1/2-in. grinder to cut up the tank's thin sheet metal. I didn't use a torch because the heat could have warped the metal. **(Cal Miner, 3971 N.E. 8th St., Willmar, Minn. 56201 ph 320 235-3351)**



I use old wavy coulters to make decorative flower garden ornaments. I weld a length of rebar to the disc and then weld washers, bolts or light chain into the middle. The disc forms a nice, big flower. **(Joe Raway, 8311 Lower 208th St. W., Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 952 500-0245; jraway1@gmail.com)**



After reading the story in your last issue about the man who put up a shed for storing firewood, I thought I'd send you a picture of how we converted an old corn crib to firewood storage. All I had to do was to take off the outside boards. We had not used it for ear corn for 40 years or more. Works great for firewood because the wind can blow right through it to dry the wood. **(David Zenk, New Ulm, Minn.)**

I made a utility box to fit my tractor's 3-pt. hitch that will hold up to 100 lbs. I use it to carry fencing tools, chainsaws, and much more. It frees up my front loader bucket to push dirt, tree branches, hauling stones, and so on. The box is 36 in. wide, 12 in. high, and 18 in. deep, made from 3/8 in. plywood. The A-frame that attaches to my quick hitch is made from 1 by 3 oak.

I drilled holes halfway up the A-frame to insert locking pins. I'm 81 years old so I made it as light as I could but with plenty of carrying capacity. **(George E. Moyer, Myerstown, Penn.)**



I recently had my property surveyed. Instead of marking the boundaries with iron pipes, I used some old axles. I pounded out the studs and faced them flat on a lathe. Then I pounded them in flat to the ground. They work great

because I can mow right over them and they're very visible. I usually hit them with some spray paint every few years but if they do get overgrown, they should be easy to find – with a metal detector, if needed. **(Mark Yax, Solon, Ohio)**



I can't believe it's been a year since you ran a story in your magazine about my power pull-start tool on your website. It's designed to start any pull-start engine like a lawn mower or chainsaw



using a power drill. The positive emails I received from your subscribers gave me the encouragement I needed to develop the unit further. It's still a homemade invention but it works very, very well, as anyone can see in our video (available at www.farmshow.com). It can be mounted on a standard camera tripod for easy use.

Because I developed this power start tool after having an aortic aneurysm, I'm now raffling off a unit with all proceeds going to the World Heart Federation. Anyone interested in entering can contact me by email. **(Frank Brankin, Dublin, Ireland; frank.brankin@btinternet.com)**

Regarding your article in the last issue of FARM SHOW about using a multi-hybrid planter to plant different maturing corn hybrids in a design that could be used for advertising, I want to say that Schlipf Precision Ag of Milford, Ind., is a Precision Planting dealer. The planter we used was modified with Precision Planting's vSet/Select multi hybrid meters. We were involved with testing these units this past spring. Along with planting the standard multi-hybrid prescriptions, we decided to put the system to a tougher test. With a prescription of our company logo loaded into the SeedSense 20/20 monitor, we planted a section of the field. The system performed flawlessly and the result is our business logo in a corn field. **(Rich Schlipf, Schlipf Precision Ag; schlipfprecisionag@gmail.com)**

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