



## Remote Control Cultivator Depth Kit

Setting the leveling cranks on his big Case IH field cultivator was a problem for Al Merkel, Sleepy Eye, Minn., until he came up with a new depth control kit. It operates remotely from the tractor cab and makes it easy to change the cultivator's depth control on-the-go.

The patent pending Lock & Lower kit is designed to control the working depth of Case IH field cultivators, which come from the factory equipped with a hand-operated crank on an actuator that controls the depth of each section of the cultivator.

"It eliminates the need to get off the tractor and reset the cranks for different field conditions, depending on whether the ground is soft or hard. And if you don't reset the cranks you have to turn around and feather the right depth in," says Merkel. "The kit

uses a handheld remote control that activates radio receivers mounted on the cultivator. Once you set the depth that you want, the cultivator remains level after it's lowered into the soil."

Everything needed is included in the kit: double braided hoses, electric wire, connectors, fittings, solenoid valve, limit switch, actuator, receiver, remote and hardwire. Fused 12-volt power comes from the center pin on the tractor's receptacle.

The kit comes partially assembled and has a one-year warranty. It sells for \$1,200 plus S&H.

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Depth control kit for Case IH field cultivators operates remotely from tractor cab (upper left) making it easy to change cultivator's depth control on-the-go. Remote control unit activates radio receivers mounted on cultivator (above). "Once you set the depth you want, the cultivator remains level after it's lowered into the soil," says inventor Al Merkel.



Scott Perisho's dual purpose building includes a garage and a 14-ft. sq. office annex, which gives the structure an attractive L-shaped look.

## Garage Doubles As Farm Office

Scott Perisho moved his office out of the house and into a new dual-purpose building. It stores his pickup and a car and includes an office annex.

"As I understand the IRS regulations, if the office is in a separate area outside the home, there are fewer questions about deductions," says Perisho. "When it is inside the house, there is always a question of personal use versus business use of the space."

Perisho raises hogs, cattle and crops. He likes being able to use the office to meet with landlords he rents from as well as vendors.

"It is more professional than meeting in the kitchen or in the basement of the house," he says. "Also, I can make a quick stop in the office in my work clothes with my boots on."

Having separate storage for the farm truck and car is handy as well, notes Perisho. "When it is in the machine shed with the tractors and other equipment, we are always moving things out of the way or having to watch to keep from bumping them," he says. "This way, they're out of the way."

While he has seen bigger offices in equipment sheds, he likes the idea of something more moderate. It is 14 by 14-ft. and sits alongside the 26 by 34-ft. garage. Perisho says materials cost about \$16 per



He uses the 26 by 34-ft. garage to store his car and pickup.

square foot.

Set only about 50 ft. from the house, he feels the L-shape looks better than a standard box-shaped building would. With the wainscoting, windows and soffit, it looks attractive.

"I didn't want anything that would break the bank. It needed to be functional," he says. "I still need to finish off the inside. That will be a winter project."

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## Clever Little Ideas Save Time

"For years I picked raspberries in a plastic ice cream bucket with the handle through my belt loop," says Denny Skaro, a southern Minnesota farmer. "The bucket was handy, but I always spent a lot of time picking bugs, leaves and other stuff from the pail of berries when I was done. A friend told me about a little picking device, so I made one and it works fantastic."

Skaro's hand held "super picker" is made using duct tape and a plastic drinking glass or Solo cup. First Skaro cut one piece of duct tape into 1-in. strips about 6 in. long, then stuck the strips together. He taped one end of the 6-in. strip, which is smooth on both sides, onto the side of the glass with two pieces of 1 in. wide duct tape. One piece of tape wraps right under the lip of the cup and the second one just below it. Skaro says the tape should only be 1 in. wide so it fits around the glass without wrinkling. About 4 in. of the vertical piece is left free on top to make a loop. The 4-in. vertical piece is then folded over into a loop and two additional pieces of duct tape hold it tight to the glass.

"I made a couple of these before I had the loop the right size," Skaro says. "The hole in



Handheld "super picker" lets Denny Skaro pick berries one-handed and drop them right into the glass.

the loop should be just large enough so your middle finger will fit through it. That way you hold the glass with your middle finger, your ring finger and your little finger. You pick berries with your thumb and point finger, and drop them right into the glass." Skaro says his "super picker" cuts picking time in half and keeps the berries a lot cleaner, too.

## Copper Air Wand

Skaro is also real happy with a simple wand that he had made for his high pressure air hose. "I probably broke 2 or 3 of those threaded aluminum wands the first fall I had the compressor when they bent or broke off at the handle," Skaro says. "I went to a local hardware store, told the owner about the problem, and he made a wand that I've used for 3 years. It's light, durable and I can even bend it slightly to reach into tight spaces."

Skaro's hardware handyman made the device using two pieces of threaded brass fittings about 1 in. long and a single piece of 3/8-in. ID copper tube about 42 in. long. He soldered the fittings onto the copper tube, then attached a high pressure nozzle to one end of the wand and screwed the other brass end into the handle control. Skaro says the wand is very sturdy and lightweight so he can maneuver in and around tight spaces on a combine or planter without getting a lot of dirt on himself.

"This wand cost me about \$15 and it's way



Skaro made this durable, 42-in. long copper tube wand for his high pressure air hose.



He soldered 2 pieces of threaded brass fittings onto tube, then attached a high pressure nozzle to one end and screwed the other brass end into the handle control.

better than any of those aluminum ones that I had before," Skaro says.

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