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This has been a big labor saver for the owner and I thought your readers might be interested. I could build more trailers if there's interest. (Ray Baker, 2537 St. Rt. 7295, Sabina, Ohio 45169 ph 937 584-4043)

When building any type of structure that you want to make perfectly level, such as rafter supports, floor joists, etc., you can use a water level. It's easy and requires no expensive equipment. Use 3/4 or 5/8-in. dia. clear plastic tubing of the length necessary for the job - the bigger the building, the longer the tubing you'll need. For example, we recently built a hay shed and needed to make the support poles exactly the same height so we'd have a level structure for the trusses and roof rafters. For this we used 50 ft. of tubing.

The principle of a water level is simple - water seeks its own level and is always perfectly flat. To use the tubing as a level, fill it with water - continuous flow, as from a hydrant, so there's no air in it and no air bubbles mixed with the water. Don't fill it completely - leave the water down about 12 or 15 in. from either end of the tubing. Then place your thumb over the end so that no water escapes as you're moving the hose.

It takes two people - one on each end of the hose - to check two different points on your structure to make sure they're the same level. For example, when making a hay shed and sawing the tops of the support posts at exactly the same height, one person took his end of the



hose to the top of the shortest post (the one we wanted all the other posts to match) and the other person took the other end of the tubing to the top of each of the other posts.

When both people are close to the same elevation, the other person takes his thumb off his end of the hose and moves it up or down until the water in the your end comes to the top of your post (the level you want all the posts to be). You're holding your end steady, and just watching the water level in it. When it reaches the exact height of your post, the water level at his end is exactly the same - and that's the place he needs to saw his post to match yours.

You can always pinpoint the exact level of another point on the structure by having the water level conform to the height you want everything to match. This type of level is always accurate - more accurate than a string level, or a transit that might get bumped. This simple trick can ensure that you build the structure perfectly level, and requires no expensive equipment. (Heather Smith Thomas, Salmon, Idaho)

You can use any handcart to do the work of a wheelbarrow with my "Handy-Dump" plastic basket that attaches to any 2-wheel utility cart and dumps out to the front.

The basket is made from sturdy plastic and measures 13 in. wide, 12 in. high, and 22 1/2 in. long. It fits inside a steel frame that rests on the bottom of the



nuts. You dump the basket by pulling a latch and lifting up on a handle attached to the basket. By removing the wing nuts you can quickly remove the basket and use the handcart conventionally.

It lets you use your handcart to do a variety of jobs which makes it much more useful. Works great for hauling just about anything you can haul in a wheelbarrow including leaves, garden stuff, sand, etc. It completely empties out when it's dumped.

Sells for \$69.95 plus S&H. (Ervin Matzke, Box 7225, Rochester, Minn. 55903 ph 800 369-0482 or Service Systems Engineering, Rt. 1, Box 64, Jackson, Minn. 56143)

We built this handy parts cart last winter to make overhauling engines easier. We used to put engine parts right on our solid steel workbench, but leaking oil made it a mess. Now, we pull the engine, disas-



semble it, push the cart over to our parts washer, reassemble the engine and simply wheel it back over to the tractor. The Montrose, Ill., brothers built the 6-ft. long by 30-in. wide, 3-ft. high, cart around an angle iron frame. It rides on four heavy-duty 6-in. caster wheels.

The top of the cart is made from 5/16-in. woven wire hog flooring that allows oil to drain through. A drain pan made out of 14-ga. sheet metal rests 2 in. below to collect oil from parts placed on top. The pan is fitted with a drain plug so oil can be drained into a bucket.

A wooden shelf on the bottom of the cart holds parts.

It's so handy, I wish we'd built it years ago. (Roger and Bruce Elliott, 19478 North 400 St., Montrose, Ill. 62445 ph 217 924-4350)

When you buy a new set of open-end wrenches they usually come rolled up in a plastic pouch. The problem is that after a year or two the pouch wears out.

I got tired of never being able to find the right wrench so I designed an aluminum rack that holds and organizes, by size, an entire set of open-end wrenches

while at the same time providing easy access. The rack measures 8 in. long



and 3 in. wide and has a sloped opening where you insert the open end of each wrench. Once all the wrenches are in place a hold-down bar is swung over them and latched in place.

You can hang it on a wall. If you need to use the wrenches in the field you can grab it and take it with you. If you don't have enough wrenches to fill the rack, you can slide the ones you do have to the small end of the sloped opening, then cut a spacer from 5/8-in. I.D. rubber hose and slip it over the 1/2-in. wide hold-down bar to keep the wrenches from sliding.

I'm selling units for \$10 plus S&H. We're also looking for a manufacturer. (Lyle Meisinger, 5311 Hwy. 66, Plattsmouth, Neb. 68048 ph and fax 402 298-8178)

All you need to assemble our new-style electric fence system is a steel post driver and a few hand tools. It allows you to use ordinary steel T-posts for the entire job, simply bolting the various components together.



The heart of the system is the corner post anchor, an X-shaped anchor with four 30-in. long steel fins, which are especially effective in soft ground. The anchor clamps to the No. 2 post with the top flush with the ground, making a stable unit to pull from.

A 6-in. sq. steel adapter plate for each line wire clamps to the No. 1 post, so steel braces and adjustable Plexiglas corner or gate insulators can be bolted on. The Plexiglas corner insulators can be tightened easily if the wire ever goes slack. Plexiglas gate insulators for hinge and handle ends are equipped with aluminum connector loops and coated copper connector wire for conductivity.

An adjustable gate fastener clamps to the line wire to hold the gate open.

The patent-pending system can be set up quickly and easily, and for significantly less cost than comparable fences using wooden posts. (Gene W. Boyes, R.R. 1, Box 76, Tamarack, Minn. 55787 ph 218 768-2136)

Our homemade, portable fire hose storage reel holds five 70-ft. lengths of hose that can be hooked together in any combination. It keeps the hose off the ground so it stays clean and can be quickly moved anywhere around our farm.

We have a lot of different buildings around the farm so we installed three fire hydrants around the property. The hoses hook up to the hydrants. The two-

wheeled reel is divided into five compartments by 1/4-in. thick plastic dividers spaced 3 in. apart. The dividers mount on a pipe that has a handle at one end. Turning the handle rotates the reel, allowing the operator to pull off any or all



of the hoses. Each hose has a coupler at one end and a nozzle at the other end. One of the middle dividers has a prong that comes half way out to keep the "starter hose" in place.

The unit rides on 16-in. high rubber tires and has a handle made from 1-in. sq. tubing. (Joel Waldner, 67 Tudor Crescent, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 5C7)

I used part of an old 2-ton truck frame, the rear axle off a car, and scrap steel to build a low-cost, 3-pt. bale fork.

The bale fork is equipped with a 30-in. long spear on top and a pair of 4 1/2-ft. long steel arms at the bottom that slide



under the bale. They're mounted on a 3-ft. long section of truck frame that has 3-pt. brackets welded onto it. To make the spear, I cut off part of the car rear axle and sharpened one end to a point. I bolted the wheel hub at the other end to some steel that I welded in between the two members of the truck frame and used 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing to make the two arms and welded them to the truck frame. I also shaped the ends of both arms into points.

I welded a steel pin onto each side of the truck frame to make the lower lift arms and welded a steel bracket onto the truck frame to make the upper link arm. (George Ribble, 25766 Mt. Ragen Rd., Hettick, Ill. 626490)

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