

units for \$148. (*Martin Farm Gates, RR3, Wallenstein, Ont. N0B 2S0 Canada ph 519 699-5918*)

I built a disk plow to fit my son's Deere 455 yard tractor with 3-pt. hitch. It plows a 12 to 14-in. wide furrow 6 in. deep, even in tough quack grass sod. It travels at the speed of a



fast walk and he says it takes less power than a 52-in. rototiller. There are lots of adjustments for depth, width and angle of the disc. When you move it all the way over to the right, it does a perfect job of hilling potatoes.

The plow weighs about 270 lbs. It's made of all scrap materials from a salvage yard, including the 24-in. disc. Cash outlay was about \$350 - the most expensive parts were the tapered bearings and seal for the disc spindle. The most difficult part of the job was drilling the six bolt holes in the disc.

I'd be interested in hearing from any manufacturer interested in this job. (*Harold F. Watson, 5616-63rd Ave., Olds, Alberta T4H 1K7 Canada*)

Last fall I put beans in a 3,000 bu. bin but I felt that the moisture content was a little high for safe keeping. So I set up a makeshift dryer that worked great to take off a couple points



of moisture. I used a small blower fan - mounting it on a piece of plywood and setting it over the hole of the regular dryer fan. Then I set up a pair of forced air portable kerosene heaters on either side of the fan. The main thing is to keep the heat off of the motor. I used a smaller diameter length of steel tubing to bring cool air in over the motor. The heaters blow hot air in on either side of the motor.

Using this set-up, I removed two points of moisture in about two days. (*Robert Calhan, 1324 West Lafayette, Ottawa, Ill. 61350*)

Here's how to make a necklace that'll cool you off when working in hot weather. Just fill a zip-lock plastic sandwich bag with ice and hang it around your neck. You won't believe how much it helps. (*James T. Lewis, Jr., 3231 Marshall Creek Rd., Auburntown, Tenn. 37016*)

I've been reporting on farmer-built machinery since 1948 for many national farm publications. I'm still actively covering the state of Illinois for FARM SHOW Magazine. If you've got a made-it-myself invention or idea you think would be of interest to FARM SHOW readers, give me a call at 217 563-2588. (*C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075*)

We'd like to remind your readers that we make the simplest, most effective add-on track system on the market. It's designed to fit any tractor, combine or other equipment.



You first featured them in FARM SHOW about 10 years ago when they were new (Vol. 10, No. 5). They've been used successfully now with very few changes from the original design.

Sure-Trac consists of heavy-duty cleats that wrap around any tire like tractor chains. They provide greater flotation and traction in soft or muddy fields. Unlike other, more costly add-on track systems, you can mount or dismount them quickly as needed. No sprockets, idlers, rollers, etc.

The 3/8-in. thick steel cleats are available in 3 by 4-in. or 4 by 6-in. angle iron. Each cleat is welded to individually pivoted bar-chain link sections. They're held in place on the tire by U-shaped brackets along both sides. (*Modern Agri-Systems, Inc., W2817 Dundas Rd., Brillion, Wis. 54110 ph 920 766-7709*)

You can make a hay-saving big round bale feeder out of an old TV satellite dish. Just face the dish up and weld legs onto the bottom side. Run steel tubing up the sides like a regular big bale feeder. Keeps hay off the ground. You can also put the satellite dish inside an existing round bale feeder. There are a lot of these dishes going unused now that people are switching to the smaller direct satellite TV dish. (*Lloyd Troyer, Rt. 2, Box 79, Smithville, Ark. 72466*)

Your readers may be interested in this electric-powered work cart I built from an airport luggage handling cart. The cargo rack on back can carry up to a 1,500-lb. load. I



had to totally rework the original cart, moving the seat and controls backwards and fashioning many new components and body parts from scratch. It looks like a little car with lights, turn signals, a radio, and hydraulic brakes. It'll run for about a week of normal use on a single charge. I recently hurt my leg and have been using it a lot to get around. Easy to get on and off and a real workhorse. (*Ardell W. Johnson, 18511 45th St. E., Lake Lillian, Minn. 56253*)

I'm a retired farmer but at one time I had a collection of 30 walking plows. I would buy them at farm sales and restore them. I sold many of them at my farm sale but I kept a few unusual ones. One in particular that your readers might be interested in is this "slat



bottom" Allis Chalmers plow. I also have a rare left-handed walking plow. (*Jennings Anderson, 10023 Hwy 35, Bloomington, Wis. 53804*)

In regard to the article in your last issue called "Electric Cord Reel Stays Hot As You Unroll It", I'd like to point out that this is a very dangerous set-up. We have burned up three hand-cranked reels because if you don't unroll it all the way, it builds up an electric field and burns through. We found out that even over a short distance we had to unroll all the cord. I would not install that new cord reel in any building of mine. (*Donald Simonson, 40588 161st Street, Turton, S.Dak. 57477*)

We made a lifting attachment for the dual bale spikes on our pickup flatbed. I built it because I know of someone who twisted the



bed of their truck by pulling with one spike. We made this device to fit over both spears to pull fence posts, lift down cows, carry equipment, and even pull small trees and shrubs out of the ground. We even use it to pick up our lawnmower to change blades.

The device consists of a pair of sleeves made out of 2-in. dia. pipe. They slip over the ends of the spears. A piece of 2 3/8-in. dia. pipe goes between. Large flat washers are welded inside each sleeve to keep them from slipping all the way down the spikes. An 8-in. upright is welded and gusseted to the center pipe with a 1/4-in. chain hook attached for lifting. I drilled 1/4-in. holes through the lifter and the spikes so the device can be pinned into place. I keep the lifter in the truck at all times because I never know when I might need it.

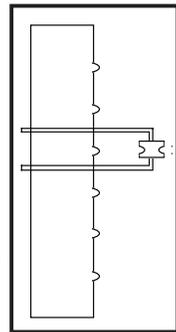
We also made handy PVC pipe covers for the bale spikes to keep them from rusting. They also serve as safety shields. We used 2-in. dia. schedule 40 pipe to cover the 2-in. dia. spikes. We glued caps on the end of each pipe. Keeps the spears shiny and smooth for better bale handling. We've used these for two years. (*Lary & Roxanne Weeks, Rt. 1, Box 85-A, Aline, Okla. 73716*)

I enjoy most everything in FARM SHOW but the article in Vol. 21, No. 2 on the exhaust powered brakes for pickups really got me going. How does the company come up with a price of \$850 for this item? It's just a solenoid hooked to a heat riser valve. My 1977 Chevy pickup has a heat riser on the exhaust manifold. I could easily hook up a choke cable to the heat riser and open and close it at will. You don't even need a solenoid.

I've seen many other ideas in FARM SHOW that look interesting until you see the price. In many cases, I could make the item myself for about 5 percent of the price. Like another reader, Bill Short of Missouri, who wrote you in a recent issue, I made many of my own replacement parts. For example, when I needed felt washers for the front spindles of my Ford tractor, I cut a pair out of an old felt boot liner rather than pay several dollars apiece at the dealer. Another time I needed a carburetor filter screen for my old Deere tractor. Rather than pay \$8.00 at the dealer's, I took a screen out of a lawn mower shut-off valve and soldered it to the Deere fitting at a cost of 89 cents. Dealer price for a special countersink head bolt used to hold my baler knives in place was \$8.75. I paid 80 cents apiece out of a hardware catalog. Once I even made my own cultivator at a fraction of the cost of new.

My shop is outfitted with an electric bandsaw that will cut steel while you're doing something else. Oxy-acetylene torches are nice but expensive to maintain. I use a carbon arc torch on my electric welder to heat items. My drill press, metal lathe, and 10-ton hydraulic press are also necessary tools for do-it-yourself parts-making. (*Dan Hill, P.O. Box 49, Dixmont, Maine 04932*)

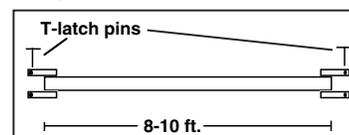
I made brackets like this out of 1/4-in. rod for fastening a corner bracket to a steel fencepost that I use for a corner when putting up an electric fence. It can be slipped off and the wire is free. If the wire gets too loose, I just pull it off and wrap the electric fence wire around the bracket one or two times. (*Neil Richter, 103 Big Bear Road, Barnes, Kan. 66933*)



When I received your last issue (Vol. 21, No. 4), the story about the homemade high wheel trimmer-mower really caught my eye. In the 1940's I made many rotary mowers of a simi-



lar design. They had 26-in. balloon bike tires, 20-in. aluminum disk blades fitted with sickle section cutters held on by one large bolt and one small bolt - the small one would shear if it hit an object. The motor had a moveable platform with a threaded crank to move the motor to tighten the bolt. The wheels were adjustable and could be raised and lowered to change the height of the machine. Because the mowers were lightweight, they were easy to push, but sturdy. They'd take a lot of abuse cutting brush, tough weeds, etc. (*John W. Hass, 104 Crestview Dr., Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246*)



I made an 8-ft. long push bar to push and pull hay wagons in and out of barns with a

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