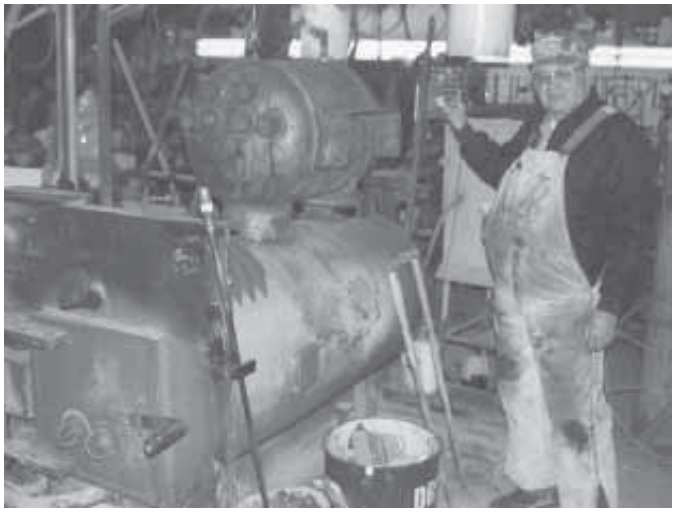


Foster made a heat exchanger from an old propane gas tank, mounting it on top of his home-built wood burner. "It provides maximum use of the heat generated," he says.

Home-Built Heat Exchanger

Roger Foster, Tower Hill, Ill., has used a home-built wood burner to heat his shop for years. It always bothered him that so much heat went up the flue so he recently added a heat exchanger made from an old propane gas tank.

First he made certain the tank was clear of any old gas. Then he removed all the valves and gauges, closed off all the openings, and installed six 3-in. dia. horizontal pipes inside the tank, through which hot air is blown. He used a torch to cut openings in the end of the tank for the pipes.

He used a short, heavy wall 8-in. dia. steel pipe to connect the wood burner to the heat exchanger. To push air through, he then installed a 10-in. dia., variable speed squirrel cage fan at one end of the tank. The fan pushes air through the pipes and out the other end of the tank.

The last step was to weld a flue pipe to the top of the tank.

"It works great and provides maximum use of the heat generated, so I don't lose as much heat out the flue," says Foster. "The pipes really heat up quick – once I start the fire and turn on the fan I can't hold my hands near the ports for very long. Before I mounted the heat exchanger, I had hung a fan on a beam above the wood burner tank, but it wasn't nearly as efficient. Since the photo was taken I have added a metal deflector with vanes that lets me direct heated air left, right, up or down."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Foster, Rt. 1, Box 108, Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 (ph 217 567-3417).

Sand-Rite Sander Sands Right

Sanding uneven contours like gunstocks, duck decoys, furniture and moldings is easier with the contour sander from Sand-Rite Manufacturing. It features both a pneumatic sanding drum and a unique brush-type sanding head.

"It has a direct drive for fewer moving parts and less maintenance," says Marcus Kaplan, third generation owner of Sand-Rite Manufacturing Company. "We use only Baldor motors, which are American made and we feel are the best motor in the world for quality and performance. That's why we give an 18-month warranty while most competitive sanders offer only 90 days."

The sanding drum is available in five diameters from 2 to 8 in. The operator inflates it with air as needed to match the contour of the piece being sanded. The B-12 brush head sands irregular shapes without loss of detail. As the brushes wear, fresh abrasive stored in the head is released by turning the head.

The pneumatic drum is made from cast zinc. Lower cost imports are made with sand-cast aluminum. Aluminum is softer and can be very porous and go out of round, he explains.

Another feature is that Sand-Rite sanders come fully assembled. The DB-612-DLX sells for $799 FOB, Chicago plus 8 percent S&H in the continental U.S.

Sand-Rite's specialty is coated abrasives for their machines and others. They stock all grits from #24 to #400. They also can custom make any size belt, sleeve or roll in aluminum oxide with resin over resin bonding on cloth backing in flexible J weights or X weight.

Contour sander features both a pneumatic sanding drum and a unique brush-type sanding head.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marcus Kaplan, Sand-Rite Mfg. Co., 321 North Justine St., Chicago, Ill. 60607 (ph 312 997-2200; email: info@sandrite.com; website: www.sandrite.com).

Lowe made his own parts washer out of a 55-gal. barrel and an electric, recirculating submersible solvent pump. Note removeable wash tray 8 in. down from barrel's lip.

55-Gal. Barrel Makes Cheap Parts Washer

Old 55-gal. steel barrels can be turned into cheap parts washers, says Dwayne Lowe of Chanute, Kansas, who used an old 55-gal. barrel and an electric, recirculating submersible solvent pump to make his own parts washer.

"It's easy to use, and it cost me less than $10 to build," says Lowe.

He cut away an 8-in. deep quarter section on top of one side of the barrel. He welded in a section of steel plate vertically to both sides of the barrel and then trimmed the part of the lid that he had cut away to fit behind the plate. The top lid hinges on top of the vertical plate.

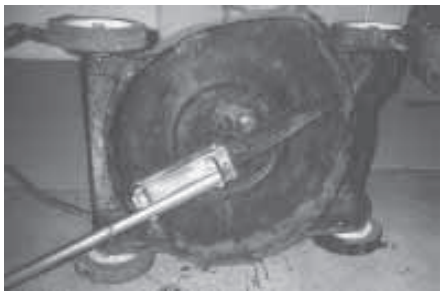
The barrel has a removable wash tray about 8 in. down from the barrel's lip. The tray sets on top of a clamp ring that he removed from the top of the barrel and welded to the barrel's sides. The pump is suspended about two thirds of the way down the barrel and plugs into a 110-volt outlet and switch box that mounts on the cut-away lid. The pump's electric line and washer hose runs up through a bunge hole in the cut-away lid. By removing two hinge pins, Lowe can remove the top lid in order to clean out the barrel. At the same time, the cut-away lid can be lifted off together with the pump, washer nozzle, and switch box.

When the parts washer isn't in use, the top lid – which is hinged and has a notch cut into it to make room for the washer hose - can be closed with the pump still inside the barrel.

"It works great and is simple to use," says Lowe.

"It works great and is simple to use," says Lowe. "I already had the pump which I bought from Northern Tool (2800 Southcross Drive West, Burnsville, Minn. 55306 ph 952 894-9510; www.northerntool.com). It's a Little Giant parts washer pump that moves about 2 gallons per minute. It sells for about $50."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwayne Lowe, 88 400th St., Chanute, Kansas 66720 (ph 620 433-1559).



Tool is designed to hold a lawn mower blade when taking out the center bolt. To make the tool, Peters bolted a handle to a piece of 3-in. channel iron that slips over the blade.

Lawn Mower Blade Tool

Here's a simple tool Pete Peters, Olser, Sask., made to hold a lawn mower blade when taking out the center bolt.

"I bolted a handle to a piece of 3-in. channel iron that slips over the blade," Peters says.

A couple restraining straps across the open face of the channel iron keep it from slipping off the blade. Peters uses the tool a lot in his lawn mower repair business.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pete Peters, P.O. Box 166, Osler, Sask., Canada S0K 3A0 (ph 306 239-2045).

He uses tool in his mower repair business.