

Reader Letters



In the last issue there was a story about a man who made a tractor out of nuts and bolts. I made my first tractor like this 20 years ago and took it to shows all over the U.S. People can make them. No need to buy them. **(Wesley Love, Arthur, Iowa)**



Here's a photo of a walnut tree planting I made in 2001. Each tree is surrounded by a plastic tree protector and the tubular metal stakes used to support them. The protector tubes act as miniature hot houses and also protect seedlings from browsing by deer. They're left in place for several years, getting the trees off to a great start.

We rigged up an old spray tank to apply water as we drive down the row. **(K. Lloyd, Box 31, Leesville, Ohio 44639)**



When I bought this "one horse" well rig made in the late 1800's, it was all wood. The tower and frame were wood and it had steel wheels. I installed a steel tower, an 8 hp engine, and mounted it all on a truck frame. It has 3, 12, 16 and 24-in. digging buckets. With reamers on the 24-in. bucket it will dig a 36-in. hole.

The gears were well worn so I made new buckets and reversed the rotation of the machine so it is using the unworn backside of the gears.

I am always amazed at the ingenuity of the "old timers". This rig really digs. The deepest I have gone is 90 ft. **(Richard Ackerman, 12730 Tacoma Loop, Columbia, S.Dak. 57433 ph 605 225-3231)**



We had some stability issues with our small utility tractor when working on steep side slopes. We solved the problem by adding duals to the tractor. Now we can safely work on slopes with much less chance of tipping the tractor.

The tractor is equipped with 16 1/2-in. rims. We found that 16-in. pickup rims fitted with mud and snow tires would match them in height. The 16-in. Chevy rims are welded to a pair of 15-in. car rims that fit nicely inside the bigger rims

to act as spacers.

We then used 15-in. sections of red-rod to bolt the tires and car rim spacers to the tractor's existing rims by holes already in the tractor's wheels.

The addition of the duals widens the tractor's footprint from 42 in. to 68 in., making it much more stable on side slopes. It takes about 5 min. per side to put on or take off the duals.

Your cost was just \$10 at a salvage yard for the tires and rims, and \$6 for the red-rod and nuts. Time to construct the duals was about 2 hours. **(Tim Mack, Brideview Farms, 46070 County 10 Blvd., Zumbrota, Minn. 55992 ph 507 732-5076)**



Most farmers and ranchers have a generous supply of the main raw material needed for this do-it-yourself fence post anchor.

You simply weld together two worn out sweeps, putting the mounting shanks together, and then weld on a 3 to 4-ft. length of concrete re-bar or other metal rod. I prefer re-bar because it's easy to bend into a loop at the end for fastening wire from it to the post.

Bury the device so that the loop is sticking out of the ground at an angle toward the post. One of the sweeps will keep it from pulling it up, and the other will keep it from pulling toward the post, making a substantial long lasting anchor which will far outlast anything that I have seen on the market. **(Sherman Lacock, Hinsdale, Mont.)**



I have been collecting antique tractors since 1986 and, being known as the area "tractor man", I felt that a tractor mailbox would look good at the end of our driveway.

I've seen others made of wood and fiberglass but I wanted to make one that would withstand vandalism or other damage so I made mine out of steel.

Even though I was raised on Farmalls, I also acquired a fondness for green and yellow tractors which explains the mailbox's coloring.

It weighs about fifty pounds and I've had it for ten years now. A little paint is all it ever needs. **(Joe Kolar, 11704 W 9 Hwy, Stigler, Okla. 74462 ph 918 799-5051)**

In Vol. 28 No. 3, there were two articles which concern me.

Regarding the article on page 38 entitled "Portable Oil Vac Built From Old Propane Tank", people should remember that a propane tank will never be completely empty.

Our atmospheric pressure is 14 psi, which means that when the tank is "empty" the outside air will not allow the contents to bleed out entirely.

The article did say that the person pumped in carbon monoxide, but it only takes one spark and a tiny amount of oxygen to set off a propane explosion.

The second article which concerned me was entitled "Nifty Brake Trick." Taking away the mechanical emergency brake is very dangerous. What would happen if the primary braking system failed while parked on a hill? **(Paul Colenbrander, 18150-96 Avenue, Surrey, B.C., Canada V4N 4A8; email: pmscott@rapidnet.net)**

While I enjoy each issue of FARM SHOW, I had to take exception to the reader who suggested the Nifty brake trick. This idea is dangerous.

The mechanical parking brake not only secures the vehicle while parked but provides a backup to the brake system in case the primary hydraulic brake system fails. Rerouting the hand brake to the brake pedal gives you a second way to activate the hydraulic system with no way left to use the mechanical brake.

If you wanted to use the hydraulic brake as a parking brake, I would recommend a Brake Line Lock. Kits cost about \$100.

Professional racers use them to keep their car in position. **(Steve Boser, Aloha, Ore.; email: mrstechnodude@com cast.net)**



My neighbors Loran and Annette Bokenfohr don't have any trouble with dogs and cats digging in their flowerbeds. That's because they have removable steel grates covering the concrete beds along their house.

The removable grates are made from light angle iron and steel rod. They leave plenty of room for flowers to grow up through, yet they can be lifted out of the way when weeding becomes necessary. Each section of grate is about 3 1/2 ft. long, making them easy to handle.

(Janis Schole, Busby, Alberta)



I built a pecan sheller that rides on wheels so I can roll it around like a wheelbarrow. It measures 2 ft. in diameter and 30 in. long and weighs about 225 lbs. It has a series of wooden slats spaced about 1/2 in. apart, with 3/4-in. thick solid plywood at both ends and a gearhead motor on each side. One motor rotates the tank clockwise at 14 rpm's. The other motor rotates a "breaker plate" inside the tank at 110 rpm's. The breaker plate consists of four 1/4-in. thick, 2-in. wide metal fins welded onto a shaft. The plate breaks the pecans apart. Both the seeds and shells fall through the slats onto a slide and down into a plastic container, where the shells are picked out by hand. About 85 percent of the nuts come out in halves.

The unit holds up to a 1/2 bu. at a time and can shell a bushel of pecans in only about 10 minutes. I sell the shellers for \$700 apiece. **(Hoover Lingle, 1022 S. Main Gq St., Salisbury, N.C. 28146 ph 704 279-2465)**



Here's a photo of a "two-way" pickup I put together in my shop. It's a 1978 Chevrolet 2-WD equipped with a 6-cyl. gas engine and a 4-speed manual transmission. I removed the bed and replaced it with an identical cab and nose, minus the engine. I also enclosed the area under the hood to make a big trunk.

The add-on cab is equipped with a matching dash, matching foot pedals, matching seat, and matching door panels so when you walk up to the pickup there's no way to tell which end you get into to drive the rig. As a result, when you walk around the pickup you can't tell one end from the other. I wanted to make the machine street legal and equip it with tail lights, so I installed white lenses with red bulbs inside them that blink on and off. When you look at the white lenses you'd never know they were red tail lights, until the bulbs light up.

At the time I built it I had a business and planned to use the two-way pickup to deliver parts. However, I decided it wasn't safe because it startled a lot of people when they would drive up behind me on the highway and think I was coming at them. I just drive it in a lot of parades. It's a real crowd pleaser. **(Brad Carrell, P.O. Box 1768, Redmond, Oregon 97756 ph 541 923-0980)**

I've come up with a one-of-a-kind machine for sweeping up walnuts and 'fuzz balls' from sweet gum trees. I use my



garden tractor or 4-wheeler to pull the 3-ft. wide machine. It consists of a rotating cylinder equipped with four paddle wheels and four rows of 2-in. long teeth. A 5 hp gas engine belt-drives a shaft that chain-drives the cylinder at about 2,500 rpm's. As the machine is pulled forward, the cylinder brushes the walnuts back into a hopper, which is covered by a flat metal retainer screen to keep the nuts from bouncing out. The screen is hinged at one end.

Once the hopper is about one third full, I pull back on a lever that tilts the hopper back and raises the endgate at the same time to dump the nuts out.

I can use one crank to adjust the height of the cylinder, and another crank to raise or lower the wheels. At first I tried using paddle wheels without teeth, but it didn't



work very good because it put a lot of grass in the hopper. Then I welded teeth onto a metal strip and bolted it to the

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