

Roll-up Shop Curtains Protect Machinery, Tools

John Imhoff, Swiss Bell Farms, Roanoke, Illinois, and employee Dave Kindig use the farm shop for a variety of wet, dirty and messy tasks like pressure washing, painting and sandblasting.

"Whenever we used the pressure washer to clean machinery before, our tools and equipment would end up wet. And we couldn't use the sand blaster because the sand would have pelted everything," Imhoff says.

The men decided there had to be a way to partition off part of the shop to contain the water, sand and paint. Solid walls wouldn't work. Curtains made the most sense but Imhoff didn't want anything that was going to be a lot of work to put up and take down.

"We decided what we needed was a curtain we could roll up or down automatically and store neatly up near the rafters out of the way when we didn't need it," he says.

"Our first version rolled up on a pipe mounted near the shop roof. We found we needed carrier bearings every 15 to 20 ft. to keep the pipe from sagging in the middle. That meant we had to have cuts in our curtain, so it didn't protect as well as we wanted," he says.

After a little more thought, Imhoff and Kindig came up with a design that rolls up from the bottom, using a DC motor with a special-built gear reduction system. "There's no sagging. We control the motor with a toggle switch. It takes just a few seconds for the 15-ft. high curtain to roll up or down," he says. It works so well that he applied for and received a patent on the design.

Other farmers have looked at Imhoff's curtains and encouraged him to make them for sale. He's gearing up to do that. "We're hoping to be able to make curtains any width for farm shops and other applications, too," he says. "They hold heat in the work area on cold days and can be used as sound barriers as well."

He says the standard material for his automatic roll-up curtains is 13 oz. vinyl laminate. "They're available in a variety of colors, and are durable and fire retardant," he says. Heavier and lighter vinyl is also available.

He envisions his rollup curtains being used in shops, livestock buildings, auditoriums and maybe churches.

Imhoff plans to put together the pipe roller,



Curtain rolls up or down automatically and stores up out of the way near the rafters when it's not needed.

the curtain, circuit box, controller and switch, and mounting brackets. He figures each curtain will need to be custom designed to fit the application, so prices will be determined by the height and length of span of the curtains.

He anticipates that most buyers will install their own curtains. "Hanging the curtains is

not hard and wiring for them isn't complicated," he says.

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Swing-Out Vise Attaches To Pickup Bed

"My pickup is my portable workshop and I had just about every piece of equipment in there I needed except a vise," says Jerry Hessman, a custom hay contractor from Dodge City, Kansas.

He hit on the idea of mounting the vise on a swinging arm inside the pickup bed. That way, he could pull it out and use it either in the pickup bed or out on the tailgate. And when he was through, he could stow it away along the side of the bed behind the wheel well.

Hessman started with a 5-in. shop vise. He built a base to mount it on from two pieces of 2-1/2 in. angle iron that is 3/16 in. thick, welded together to make a channel.

By putting the two pieces of angle iron together, Hessman made a base wide enough that he could mount his vise without having to drill new holes in the base of the vise.

He says the base is long enough to reach out onto the tailgate, but short enough to let it slide up against the side of the bed behind the wheel well.

He found an old 2 in. Chevy tailgate hinge and welded one side of the hinge vertically inside the pickup bed next to the tailgate



Vise mounts on swinging arm inside pickup bed. Hessman can pull vise out and use it either in the pickup bed or out on the tailgate.

opening. He welded the other side of the tailgate hinge to the base of the vise.

The hinge allows the arm to swing out freely. He welded a piece of 1/8-in. flat iron, turned up 22 degrees on each end, to the bottom of the base to act as a runner to make it easier to slide in and out.

For quick, light work, he just swings it out to the center of the pickup bed. He can leave the vise in that position and still close the tailgate if he wants to.

When he needs a more solid base, he

Rechargeable Powered Grease Gun

"We think it's probably the most advanced grease gun ever created," says Lincoln Century about the company's new rechargeable powered grease gun which has a 12-volt motor that delivers grease at up to 6,000 psi.

It's powered by a 12-volt NiCad battery with a planetary gear drive and a machined and hardened piston. Comes in a custom carrying case with a recharger.

Sells for \$174.55 plus S&H. Two smaller models - 7.6 and 3.6 volt - are also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lincoln Industrial, One Lincoln Way, St. Louis, Mo. 63120 314 679-4200; Web site: www.lincolnindustrial.com).

Grease gun has a 12-volt motor that delivers grease at up to 6,000 psi.



swings the vise out onto a piece of 1 by 2-in. tubing that he welded to the tailgate.

Besides a vise, Hessman's portable shop pickup bed features an air compressor powered by a gasoline engine, tool boxes to store air and hand tools, gear pullers, extra

chain, a chain breaker, spare parts, bolts and nuts for his haying equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jerry Hessman, 10948 104 Rd., Dodge City, Kansas 67801 (ph 620 227-3688).

Rolling Fenders Make Nifty Hose Reel

Glenn McCrea, Lincoln, Ill., needed a reel to hold 100 ft. of pressure hose. He didn't want to spend the money for a commercial reel, so he made one himself using a pair of rolling fenders off an old field cultivator.

The fender discs were originally 4 in. apart and connected at the center by a bolt. He welded a short length of pipe onto the bolt to lengthen it by 1 in. Then he attached a length of redi rod to the bracket that originally held the discs to the cultivator and bolted it to the shop wall. He welded a nut onto another short length of 3/8-in. dia. redi rod to make a crank.

"To unroll the hose we just drag the hose out. To roll the hose up, we turn the crank. A good commercial reel sells for about \$100 so I saved a lot of money," says McCrea.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glenn



Homemade reel holds 100 ft. of pressure hose.

McCrea, Rt. 3, Lincoln, Ill. 62656 (ph 217 732-4519).

Lava Towels Great For Shop Cleanup

For cleanup in the shop or field, you might want to try these new Lava towels, which are much tougher than a normal moist towelette.

You can throw a 10-pack into a toolbox or glovebox. They're also available in a 50-count tub.

Sold by the WD-40 Company, manufacturer of the famous lubricant, they're available at discount stores everywhere.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, WD-40 Company, Box 80607, San Diego, Calif. 92138-0607 (ph 800 448-9340; Website: www.wd40.com).



Lava towels are said to be much tougher than a normal moist towelette.