

Used Liquid Totes Make Great Firewood Caddies

“Getting firewood into my shop to feed the woodburner was a real hassle until I made these simple caddies from used liquid fertilizer totes,” says Minnesota mechanic Chris Nielsen. “I’m able to fill the totes with wood, then bring them inside with the forklift whenever I need them. Better yet, all the scrap bark and small chips stay in the caddies rather than on my shop floor.”

Nielsen says he came up with the idea one day when he was splitting wood and piling it on a wood pallet to bring into his shop. “The darn pile kept slipping, even though I had a small rail around the pallet. I happened to look at a tote I had sitting nearby for watering trees and a light went on. I spent about 15 min. with my chop saw cutting away one side of a tote, and that was it. I stacked it full of dry wood and it stayed dry because the top was still on the tote. It worked so well I made another one just like it.”

Nielsen cut the openings on one side of the totes, just inside the vertical support bars and on top of the horizontal bar about 5 in. from the base. He also left the horizontal metal support on top in place. Cutting radius corners on the tough plastic preserved the strength of the poly container. Rather than



Caddy can be filled with firewood and then moved around with a forklift.

toss the metal side grids on the junk pile Nielsen put them on top of the tote. He can stack additional wood there and it won’t slide around.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nielsen Repair, 25756 Galaxie Ave. W., Farmington, Minn. 55024 (ph 651 463-7116).

“Pickaroon” Wood Handler

Jeff Hipps, Curwensville, Penn., recently sent photos of his new “Pickaroon” firewood gripper that makes it easy to pick up firewood without bending over.

It has a 31-in. long wood handle with a 3 1/2-in. long pointed spike that’s curved at the end. The spike is welded to 1 1/2 by 2 1/2-in. tubing that’s pinned to the handle. The spike’s point is bent in such a way that when you swing the handle downward, the point releases from the wood.

“It eliminates the need to stoop to pick up heavy firewood blocks onto a splitter or trailer,” says Hipps.

“The handle is handmade from hickory trees that we saw on our property, and the spike is made in our shop from 4140 heat-treated steel.”

Hipps also recently introduced the Axearoon, which is basically the Pickaroon with an axe head opposite the spike. “It works nice when you’re splitting wood and are left with stringy pieces that won’t completely break free from the wood,” he says.

The Pickaroon sells for \$68 plus S&H. The Axearoon sells for \$125 plus S&H. Both are available direct from the company and also on eBay.



Pickaroon firewood gripper lets you pick up firewood without bending over. An axehad version is also available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Hipps, Hipps Tool & Design, 146 Bridgeport Road, Curwensville, Penn. 16833 (ph 814 236-3600; jhipps@verizon.net).

Tie-Down Bracket Makes Log Sawing Easier

After spending a day bending over while sawing firewood, LeRoy Momper of Fredonia, Wis., could feel it in his back. “There must be an easier way,” he said to his wife Mary.

Then one day while he was picking up a log with the forks on his loader tractor, he got an idea. “Why not saw the log while it’s laying on the forks, so I can stand-up while sawing it,” he thought.

The attachment he came up with keeps the log about 10 in. away from the back of the forks to prevent the chainsaw bar from contacting them. “Ratchet strapping the log to one of the fork tines prevents the log from falling off the forks, even if one end of the log is sawed to a shorter length than the other,”

says Momper, who welded upright brackets to the forks with hooks to connect to the strap. “Also, strapping the log down allows me to safely cut the log down to a 16-in. length without the log moving.”

He discovered some other advantages for the attachment, too. First, the tractor can be used to easily move the log to one location and then lift it to a comfortable height for stand-up sawing. Also, after the logs are sawed the pieces of firewood don’t have to be handled again because they drop off on a pile in one location, ready for splitting.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LeRoy Momper, 215 Lawrence Street, Fredonia, Wis. 53021 (ph 414 331-2093; leemary66@gmail.com).



“The Bantam-26 has a stiff frame to keep it cutting right at all times, yet it’s lightweight and easily portable,” says Al Pollard of Lumber Smith.

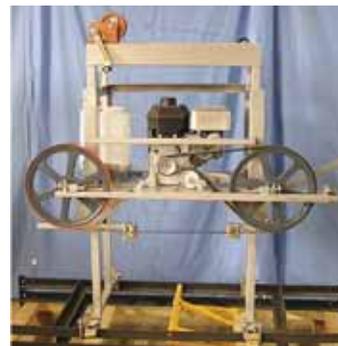
Lightweight Portable Sawmill

“It has a stiff frame to keep it cutting right at all times, yet weighs less than 280 lbs. which makes it easy to transport,” says Al Pollard about the new Bantam-26 portable sawmill.

The sawmill is powered by a 900 series Briggs and Stratton engine (a Honda 10 hp engine is also available). It may be trailer-mounted. Twelve feet of steel track allow the operator to cut logs up to 10 ft. long, with 2 log dogs holding the log securely. Additional track sections are available. The saw can cut boards up to 21 in. wide and square logs up to 26 in. in dia.

“Many small, lightweight portable sawmills lack rigidity and flex too much while cutting hard wood,” says Pollard. “To compensate for that, some manufacturers just add more steel to make their sawmill stiff, which results in added material and weight. The Lumbercut 21 is stiff, yet its design makes it light enough to be easily portable.”

Design features include a self-locking winch used to raise and lower the saw head, which rides up and down on 4 metal posts to keep the saw head stable at all times. A magnetic blade thickness gauge makes it easy to cut boards at a consistent thickness up to 6 in. The gauge starts at zero for each cut. A lever disengages the blade from the drive belt and also automatically shuts off the blade lubrication system when the blade is disengaged. The blade lubricating system includes a 2 1/2-gal. tank and applies water



Saw head rides up and down on 4 metal posts to keep head stable at all times.

to both the top and bottom of the blade.

“An optional \$95 moving accessory allows one person to move the Lumbercut 21 as easily as moving a wheelbarrow,” says Pollard.

The Bantam-26 sells for \$2,499.

A track kit is standard for anyone who wants to supply their own 2 by 2 by 1/4-in. angle iron, or you can buy a 12-ft. bolt-together track from the company (2 sections of 6-ft. long track).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lumber Smith, P.O. Box 266, Irvington, Va. 22480 (ph 804 577-3613; www.lumbersmith.com).



Tie-down bracket lets Momper saw log while it’s laying on loader forks, so he can stand up straight while sawing.