

## Heavy-Duty Grill Stand Has A Built-In Bench

"Every time a big storm came through our area I'd go outside to find my barbeque gas grill blown over on its side, with broken parts scattered all around the yard. I finally decided to build a grill that won't blow away," says Terry Charles of Mt. Carroll, Ill.

The entire grill stand measures 11 ft. long. The grill itself mounts on a big 3-wheeled metal stand that also supports a 6 1/2-ft. wide, 4-ft. tall wooden bench and a 5 1/2-ft. high wooden windbreak, which shelters the cook.

Charles removed the grill from its stand and used channel iron to build a long, heavy-duty frame. He welded a pair of 34-in. high steel wheels onto one end of the frame and bolted a homemade, 4-ft. wide bench onto the frame between them. A 17-in. high caster wheel is welded to the other end of the frame.

The grill bolts onto the middle part of the frame using metal tabs that Charles bolted to the bottom of the grill. "If we ever need to replace the grill, we'll just cut the tabs off

and bolt the new grill on," he says.

A long metal rod that slips into a holder on top of the caster wheel is used to move the grill around. "The entire unit is pretty heavy so it takes two people to move it," says Charles.

A propane tank holder made from an old wheel rim is welded to the frame alongside the grill. "It eliminates the need to bend down under the grill to switch propane tanks," says Charles.

Both the bench and windbreak are made from 1 by 4 treated lumber.

"My father-in-law often comes to grill at our house, and he enjoys sitting near the grill and playing Frisbee with our dog," says Charles. "I thought it would be really cool to add the bench to the grill for him to sit on."

He says the finished grill turned out to be a nice looking piece to add to their yard, and mounted on the big stand it isn't likely to blow over. "If it ever does blow over



Barbeque gas grill mounts on a big 3-wheeled metal stand that also supports a wooden bench and a 5 1/2-ft. high wooden windbreak, which shelters the cook.

we probably won't have a house any more anyway," says Charles.

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## "Pants" Keep Farm Dogs Clean

"Pants" for dogs are all about keeping pets clean and saving owners a lot of work, says Tim Skelly, co-owner of Muddy Mutts.

"They're designed to be practical, not fashionable, covering all the areas that a dog gets wet and dirty - and no more," Skelly says.

The adjustable waterproof nylon coat has 3 top straps and elastic on the legs and on the top to hold it securely, yet allows unrestricted movement so the dog can run and play.

"The entire top of the dog is open and so is part of the underneath so they can answer the call of nature. I use the coat year around except when it's very dry out. "There is no

insulation in the coat; it's made to keep them clean and dry, not add warmth," Skelly says.

Dogs adapt to them quickly. Take them for a walk or throw a ball and they forget about what they're wearing, and it doesn't take a dog long to figure out that putting on the coat means a walk or playing outdoors.

The coats come in yellow or black with reflective tape in sizes for dogs ranging from 3 to 130 lbs. Skelly notes short-legged breeds, such as basset hounds and dachshunds, have been hard to fit, but he hopes to offer a specialty coat for them soon.

The Canadian-made coats are available through the Muddy Mutts website. Prices



Adjustable waterproof nylon coat covers the areas on dogs that are most likely to get wet and dirty.

start at \$69.99 for extra small.

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## Grain Bin Gets New Life As Cabin

When Mark and Deb Weiser bought a neighboring property, it included an old grain bin that is now the property's centerpiece.

"We didn't really think about the grain bin until we cleared away the trees that had grown up around it," says Mark. "The property is next to a state park, and we thought it would be great to have a cabin that we could rent out to hunters."

The previous owner had cut a 14 by 14-ft. hole in the bin in order to use it for storage. The Weisers filled it with French doors and windows. Initial plans were for a single floor, 2-bedroom cabin. A 14 by 8-ft. porch was added in front of the French doors. With its 1,017-sq. ft. area, the 36-ft. dia., 40-ft. tall structure had room for a second floor.

"I figured we needed more than 2 bedrooms to rent out to hunting parties," recalls Deb.

With the help of Mike Hopper, a retired electrical engineer with building experience, the Weisers started a multi-year project. They put in a new concrete layer, plumbing for septic and water lines, heating and air conditioning.

They basically built a wood-frame polygon inside the bin with 8-ft. sides. The 8-ft. sides let them use standard 4 by 8-ft. construction material from plywood sheets to wallboard.

Construction started by laying out concrete blocks for the polygon's footings. A sill plate was laid on the block and conventional floor joists laid over that. The raised floor created a crawl space for a utility entrance and drain exit.

Each room reflects the octagonal design with side walls that angle toward the center. A single, load-bearing wall crosses the center of the cabin.

"It was a challenge figuring where to put furniture," says Deb.

The downstairs has 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, bath and a 16 by 30-ft. living room. The second floor has a second bath, 2 bedrooms and a spacious area, home to a pool table. One downstairs bedroom is 12 by 16 ft., and the other 3 bedrooms are 12 by 12 ft.

While initial plans were to rent it out, it has ended up being the family's retreat. "We have friends who have invited us in the past to enjoy their sailboats and lake properties, so now we get to reciprocate," says Mark.

One change that Deb has in mind is to add more windows for more natural light. "If doing it again, I would have a door and windows cut in upstairs with a 4 by 4-ft. loft to look down into the living room," she says.

Mark likes how the cabin turned out; however, he too would do things differently. "I would have everything down on paper before we started," he says. "It was great to have the opportunity after seeing a lot of grain bin conversion ideas in FARM SHOW."

"It took time, but it is bought and paid for and cost a lot less than \$100,000," he adds.

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Previous owner of 40-ft. tall bin had cut a 14-ft. sq. hole in it for storage. The Weisers filled the hole with French doors and windows, then added a porch. They also added a second floor with stairway for more bedroom space. Kitchen is on first floor.

