

Carbide-Tipped Chain Saw Chains

Equip your chain saw with a carbide-tipped chain and it'll stay sharp up to 15 to 25 times longer than a conventional chain in tough cutting conditions, says Rick Fowler, Rapco Industries, Inc., Vancouver, Wash.

Rapco is a leading manufacturer and supplier of carbide chainsaw chains for specialty cutting applications.

The carbide-tipped chains are available in nearly all pitches and gauges to fit most chain saws, and can be customized to specific cutting requirements.

"Carbide-tipped chains aren't new - we've been selling them for more than 32 years. Our main customers are fire departments, construction crews, and anyone who does demolition work," says Fowler. "However, farmers and ranchers can benefit from them, too. They work great for cutting abrasive wood such as fallen trees, removing tree stumps and roots, railroad ties, and so forth. They also work great for cutting firewood. When a conventional chain accidentally contacts the ground, you'll get a dull chain right away. That won't happen with a carbide



Carbide-tipped saw chains stay sharp much longer than conventional chains, and don't have to be replaced as often.

chain. They also work great when cutting along fence rows, where trees have grown into the fences and you might run into nails or wire.

"One customer told us he uses his carbide-tipped chain to cut cedar trees growing out of rocks, where it was impossible for him to keep from catching the chain on a rock now and then. They also work great for cutting

through plastics, fiber and railroad ties."

Carbide-tipped chains cost about six times more than standard steel chains, says Fowler. "We sell the chains for \$2.00 per drive link, which typically works out to about \$144.00 per chain. A conventional chain sells for about 35 cents per drive link, which works out to about \$20 to \$25 per chain. However, to many people the labor saved in not having to sharpen chains all the time and not having to replace them as often is worth the extra cost."

The company offers two types of carbide-tipped chains. Fowler recommends either the Camfer or Chisel style for farmers and ranchers.

The chains are resharpenable, but you have to use a diamond sharpener which the company sells for \$5.45 plus S&H.

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Reader Inquiry No. 151

"No-Step" Electric Fence Post

"My new portable fence post is made from a 1/2-in. fiberglass rod with a 5-in. long, 3/16-in. thick steel spike at the bottom that can be quickly pushed into the ground, saving time and labor. Even in hard or frozen ground, you can easily drive it in with a rubber mallet," says Kelly Troester, Marsland, Neb. "The electric wire is held on with a steel clip that slides over the post."

To illustrate how strong the posts are, a YouTube video shows Troester using a rubber mallet to drive one of his posts into a 2 by 4. "Posts with steps work fine in softer ground, but in harder ground they're too flimsy and bend too easily," he says.

Because the posts are smooth with nothing on them to get tangled up, they're a lot easier to handle, says Troester. "You can hold 15 to 20 of my no-step posts with one hand without them getting tangled up, whereas if you try to hold just 3 step-in posts you've got an armful. No steps also makes for compact transport and storage."

He says his no-step post works especially well with rotational grazing, where you're moving fences frequently. "By using a shoulder-held quiver, you can carry the posts while stringing out wire, allowing you to put in posts and lay out wire in the same trip."

The no-step post sells for \$4.25 plus S&H;



Electric fence post has a 5-in. long steel spike at the bottom that can be quickly pushed into the ground. The electric wire is held on with a steel clip that slides over the post.

with orders of 50 or more they sell for \$4.15 apiece plus S&H.

You can see a video of the no-step fence post at Farmshow.com.

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Reader Inquiry No. 152

Radios For Antique Cars, Pickups

"Vintage look" radios have the original "factory" look, yet come with brand new technology.

"Our radios have the appearance of the factory original that came with your car, but with today's electronics," says Brad Dassow, Vintage Car Radio.com, Elkhart, Ind.

Each radio is built to order depending on the vehicle's year, make, and model. Radios can be ordered for Ford pickups going back to 1951, Chevy pickups going back to 1947. "We can also provide radios for many other

brands," says Dassow.

A wide variety of accessories are available. They include CD players, speakers and subwoofers, satellite radio, iPods, and Mp3 players.

Prices start at \$149 and include free shipping and handling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vintage Car Radio.com, 51041 County Road 11, Elkhart, Ind. 46514 (ph 877 331-9560; www.vintagecarradio.com).



Vintage look radios for antique cars and pickups come with modern electronic technology.

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