

Reader Letters



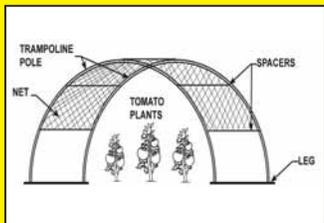
After injuring my rotator cuff, my son Royce installed steps on both sides of my IH tractor so I could get up into the cab. He got the steps off a 6620 Deere combine and welded brackets to the frame of the tractor to support them. Each set is held on by just 3 bolts so they can be easily removed if the tractor needs to be worked on. (Eldon Turner, 76748 Fairview Rd., Anita, Iowa 50020)

unless you stabilize the 3-pt. Drawbar to have something to keep the drawbar from lifting when you stop or go downhill, otherwise it could lift the tractor or cause it to jackknife. I had a 3-pt. mounted forklift come right through my rear cab window after a quick stop. Luckily I wasn't hurt. Now the 3-pt. hitch is chained down when I have the forklift mounted. (Bill Ploetz, Dunkirk, N.Y.)



Starting chainsaws has gotten harder as I've gotten older. Here's a simple way to make it easier.

Just take a short piece of 1 by 3 and stick it through the handle of the saw while it sits on the floor. Put one or both feet on the board and pull on the cord. Makes it much easier, with no rocking or bucking. (Lee Tolliver, Tok, Alaska)



If you have access to an old trampoline, it can be turned into a handy portable shade tunnel. During hot summer weather, the sun can be too much for my tomatoes so I pull this shade hoop over them.

Just cut the trampoline hoop in half and stand the halves on their sides, installing spacers about half way up and at the top and bottom. Then cover with netting. It's lightweight and easy to move around as needed. (Darrold Courtney, Blanchard, Okla.)

My father Al lost his arm in a round baler in 1983. When he reached in to clean out a plugup, his glove was caught and pulled him in. A brace caught him under the arm pit, which saved him from going all the way in. His arm was caught in the running baler for an hour until we found him.

He lost his left arm above the elbow and was fitted with a prosthetic arm but he tossed it away after a week. He said it got in the way. He just made do and often said things like, "I can do what I did before but only at 1/2 the pace" and "Things don't cost me an arm and a leg now. Just a leg." It was amazing what he could do with one hand. When we asked how he did some of the difficult things he did, he would just say, "You figure it out. That's what I had to do" and wouldn't show us his methods. It took a long time for the lesson to sink in but now, every time I come to a challenge, I think to myself, "Figure it out. You have to." (Albert Schoenenberger, Hereford, Texas)

In regard to the letter in your last issue from Ed Petrasky showing a trailer ball on a tractor drawbar, it's dangerous to pull a trailer with a drawbar hitch



I made this Deere tractor out of all kinds of pop and beer cans. I painted the cans green, yellow and black, then glued them together. It's a real eye-catcher. (Thor Espe, Fort St. John, British Columbia)



We've had a lot of trouble with birds and deer eating the ripe fruit on a couple of our cherry trees. We started putting nets over the trees and it helped a little.

Then 5 years ago I forgot to use the nets. However, I had accidentally left a 6-ft. tall plastic construction stepladder standing next to one of the trees. The ladder is orange at the bottom with yellow steps on top. That year no birds or animals touched the fruit. I can't believe how well this simple idea works, year in and year out. One year I had to use the ladder somewhere else and within 2 days all the berries were gone.

This summer I plan to paint a couple of old 12-ft. wooden stepladders orange and yellow and set them next to our apple trees. (Harold Schaefer, Mt. Calvary, Wis. ph 920 753-2404; schaefermd@frontier.com)



I thought FARM SHOW might be interested in knowing that our 1970 Deere 4020, which you wrote about 8 years ago, now has 33,000 hrs. of operation and still works every day. When you first featured it in Vol. 33, No. 4, it had 28,000 hrs. without ever having a complete engine overhaul. Our mechanic tells us he's amazed at the excellent condition of the tractor. It has never received any special treatment other than using Conklin products almost from the beginning. It's a workhorse that should outlast me. (Charles Meyers, Zanesville, Ohio)

I thought your readers might enjoy seeing my recent winter project - a 3-pt. mounted attachment that I built from the frame of an old 1950's posthole digger. I use this attachment on my Ford 8N tractor. The



hook on the lifting end swivels and also rotates 360 degrees. The 3-pt. bracket is adjustable both for height and reach. I restore old Chevy pickups and use my Liftmaster like a crane to pick up 6-cyl. engines.

I call it a "Liftmaster" but Ford never made an attachment called that, although they did offer several accessories that used the name "master". My Liftmaster has started more than a few discussions whenever I display it at car and tractor shows, because it looks authentic and fools many of the local 'experts'. It's interesting to listen to people talk to each other at the shows - they seem to know more about my invention than I do! I've even heard people say they've seen my Liftmaster in a catalog. (Randy Rundle, 415 Court St., Clay Center, Kansas 67432 ph 785 632-3450; www.fifthaveinternetgarage.com; fifthavegarage@gmail.com)



Thanks for the coverage on our universal T-post mounting brackets (Vol. 40, No. 3). The brackets are now sold in a variety of



stores, and 2 new models for attaching heavier materials such as boards and plywood are now available. The new brackets are 6 in. long and either 2 or 3 in. wide. You can use them to build board fences, hunting blinds, and even small structures.

In the same issue, you published an article on our "strobe light" that's designed to keep watch over your electric fence. It flashes on and off with every pulse of the fence charger. Customers were concerned that it might draw down too much current, so we designed an LED model for use with chargers that use 2 Joules or less power.

We also offer a Lightning Diverter with a 6-in. long Lightning Fuse 2-pack to help keep lightning from destroying your charger. (John C. Bishop, EFL Electric Fence Light Co. ph 931 268-7134 or 615 476-6128; www.electricfencelight.com).

I made a "vet table" out of a red wagon box that's 14 by 34 in. and raised 29 in. off the ground by a pair of bicycle wheels. I use it to hold ear tags, vaccine stuff, rubber bands, and other equipment I need to work with livestock. The wind doesn't blow things away and you don't have to bend over for everything you need. A box attached to one end holds ice packs for keeping shots and medicine cold. I made a frame to



mount on the bicycle wheels, and added a handle to the end. Very handy to use around our cattle chute. (Harley Niles, Waubay, S. Dak.)

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