



David Treharnes in England built his own low-cost, portable grain cleaner by mounting 2 custom-built augers inside an old grain drill box.

## Simple Grain Cleaner Pays For Itself

We spotted this “made it myself” grain cleaner in the British farm magazine, Practical Farm Ideas ([www.farmideas.co.uk](http://www.farmideas.co.uk)).

David Treharnes of Northhamptonshire, got tired of being penalized for dirty grain. He wanted to be able to clean his own grain, both for sale and to keep for seed. So he mounted 2 custom-built augers inside an old grain drill box to make a low-cost, portable grain cleaner.

The grain cleaner rides on 2 wheels and has a hitch at one end. The box is angled upward at a 30-degree angle, which can be adjusted by jacking up the hopper end.

Grain is loaded into a hopper at one end of the machine and pulled by a pair of belt-driven augers through perforated metal tubes. Small seeds and rubbish drop through the perforated tubes, leaving the grain cleaner than when it went in. The waste material is dropped onto the ground.

The augers are belt-driven by an electric motor and a big pulley off a washing machine, mounted at one end of the drill box. They can run 25 to 30 tons of grain through the cleaner per hour, adding about \$15 per ton to their sales price.



Grain is pulled by augers through perforated metal tubes, allowing waste material to drop through onto the ground.

When cleaning grain for seed the machine has less capacity at a little more than 1 ton per hour. If there's a lot of dust and the grain needs further cleaning, it's passed through a 3-phase fan and aspirator.

The machine's wheels and axle came off the drill's transport trailer.

## Easy Way To Spool Up Drip Tape

Heather Ramsay rolls, drains and prepares drip tape for storage in one step. With several thousand feet of drip tape to put away each season, speed and ease are important to the Vancouver Island market gardener.

“I use electric cable spools given to us by a neighboring electrician,” explains Ramsay. “They come in a variety of sizes, up to 4 ft. in diameter. I use the largest size that one person can handle.”

Ramsay mounts the spool on a metal pole and rests it on 2 sawhorses that have been notched to hold the pole. Once the end of the drip tape has been attached to the spool, she reels it in by turning the spool with one hand on the spool edge and one guiding the tape and clearing away leaves or dirt.

“One person can do it, but if you're pulling at an angle, it helps if there is a second person to guide the tape,” she says. “The edges of the spool are often rough and if pulling at an angle, the tape can get caught on the edge.”

Ramsay emphasizes the importance of rolling the tape on straight so it doesn't get tangled. She leaves the connectors on the tape, but does remove all the stops or female connectors from tape ends. This allows the water to escape, increasing the amount of tape that can fit on the spool.

Ramsay and a business partner operate Umi Nami Farm, growing specialty Japanese vegetables for farmers markets



Electric cable spool mounts on a metal pole that rests on 2 sawhorses.

and restaurants. Garden rows can measure 1,000 ft. or more in length, requiring several spools of drip tape.

“My largest spools hold about 400 meters (1,300 ft.) of drip tape,” says Ramsay. “When one is full, I attach the end of the tape and roll the spool to the barn or shed for storage. In the spring, I just roll it back to the same end of the field and reverse the process.”

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## Scissor Lift Mounts To UTV

You can turn a side-by-side UTV into a mobile lift station with the UTX scissor lift from Innovative Equipment. The battery-operated attachment can lift 2 men or up to 600 lbs. up to 19 ft. in the air. “Farmers and hunters love it,” says Marc Dack, Innovative Equipment, a division of Extend Manufacturing. “It's handy for trimming trees and working on large equipment or buildings and is legal for hunting in at least 7 states.”

The UTX has a net weight of about 800 lbs. and can be attached to any UTV with a 1,000-lb. cargo box capacity. Available with a 60 by 30-in. (UTX 30) and a 60 by 44-in. (UTX 44) working platform, the scissor lift is quickly installed or removed. The key to installation is the universal adapter plate. It is installed after removing the OEM cargo box. Once attached, the UTX can be added or removed in only 2 to 3 min., according to Dack. Once the UTX is removed, the cargo box can be reattached to the adapter plate.

“We wanted to make it simple enough that a 12-year-old could put it on,” he says. “We've sold quite a few for a variety of uses. Hawaiian Airlines uses them as a quick response unit to get up high and work on jets.”

Four manual jacks are included. Optional electric jacks are available. In storage mode, all 4 jacks are used to hold the UTX above the adapter plate level.

The UTX is fully equipped with sensors that constantly evaluate stability when the lift is about to be used, as well as while in use. It has visual and audible overload and tilt alarms and lockouts.

The UTX is powered by a self-contained 12V DC system with a heavy-duty battery. The charging unit uses 110 AC power. A single charge can power up to 150 lifts.



Battery-operated UTX scissor lift turns a side-by-side utility vehicle into a mobile lift station.

“The battery is only used to power controls and the UTX's hydraulic pump when lifting,” explains Dack. “Gravity brings the platform down.”

The UTX starts at \$8,100. In addition to use on UTV's, the UTX can also be loaded and used on a forklift.

Check out a video of the UTX at [FARMSHOW.com](http://FARMSHOW.com).

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## “Water And Soap” Stink Bug Trap

Larry Wood had a big problem with Stink Bugs invading his motorhome during the winter, so he started looking for a cost effective way to get rid of them.

“I did a little research on how to kill Stink Bugs,” says Wood. “I found out they breathe through their body, so water with a little soap will kill them without letting out the stink. The soap stops up their breathing holes.”

He noticed that light seems to draw Stink Bugs in, so he partially filled a plastic pan with water and soap and mounted a light above it.

“The first night I had 6 dead bugs in the pan, and the next night 24. Works great,” says Wood.

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To make this stink bug trap, Larry Wood partially filled a plastic pan with soapy water and then mounted a light above it to draw bugs in.

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