

Giant Articulated Tracked Dump Truck

Mike Dunneisen recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a giant, rubber tracked, articulated "dump truck" he built from scratch for his Wisconsin excavating business. The truck measures 37 ft. long and rides on 4 sets of hydrostatically-driven tracks, allowing it to carry a 20-ton load of material. It's equipped with a lightweight 16-ft. dump box on back and a 60,000-lb. hydraulic winch on front.

The chassis was built completely from scratch with an articulated steering joint at center. The cab is off an old Army tank retriever and the dump box sits on its frame. Dunneisen built the tracks using steel, rubber belting, and UHMW plastic, and attached wooden slats to the tracks for maximum traction.

"We call it the Dragon Wagon and use it mainly in swampy ground where we're cleaning out ditches or restoring wetlands. An excavator loads dirt into the box and the truck hauls it away," says Dunneisen. "The tracks cover 22,000 sq. in. of ground and exert less than 4 psi ground pressure even

when the truck is fully loaded. As a result, the machine can travel through swamps with 1 1/2 ft. of water without getting stuck.

"I built the machine over a 2-year period, and it has performed even better than we hoped. Over the years we've built seven other tracked dump trucks to use in our business, but this one is by far the biggest and most elaborate. We've taken it to several shows and are now advertising to find more work for it."

The rig is powered by a 450 hp. Detroit engine and Allison transmission with a top speed of 30 mph. The engine drives a hydrostatic transmission that independently drives and steers each track.

The front windows of the cab are lined with window tint film that looks like "owl eyes". "When the truck is driving through tall marsh grass, from a distance all you can see are the eyes which makes it look like a caterpillar is crawling through the marsh," says Dunneisen.

The dump box was a prototype model



Built-from-scratch, articulated dump truck measures 37 ft. long and rides on 4 sets of rubber tracks. The cab is off an old Army tank retriever.

purchased from Rowe Truck Equipment, Inc., in Indiana.

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Truck is used mainly in swampy ground for cleaning out ditches or restoring wetlands.

Flashing Insulator Shows Electric Fence Is Working

You don't need to go outside to see if your electric fence is working with this new flashing insulator that attaches to any fence post. It was introduced at the recent Big Iron show in West Fargo, N. Dak.

The Insulight works off the surges produced by your electric fence. It consists of a blue HDP plastic insulator and an enclosure that contains a flashing red LED light that flashes with the pulse of the fence. The flashing light can be seen from up to 1/2 mile away.

"It's the only electric fence insulator on the market that flashes with the pulse of the electric fence. If it isn't flashing you know there's a problem. It eliminates the need to do any manual fence testing," says inventor Bill Brown. "It's the only electric fence insulator that works on steel posts, wood posts, and T-posts, and with wire, braided rope, and tape. Another benefit is that the flashing light increases the fence's visibility to deer in the early morning and evening."

A single Insulight sells for \$18.50 plus S&H.



Insulight electric fence insulator contains a red LED light that flashes with the pulse of the fence.

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Plastic Wrap Ripping Tool Also Cuts Twine

This simple new cutting knife makes cutting plastic wrap or twine off big bales easy.

The Hayknife has a 2 1/2-ft. long durable plastic handle fitted with a replaceable razor blade that's used to cut the material. Once you cut through the material, a hook next to the blade can be used to pull the twine or plastic wrap off the bale.

"It's safer and easier to use than a pocket knife, is lightweight, and is big and brightly colored so it's not likely to get lost. The blade retracts when not in use so it'll stay sharp longer," says distributor Wayne Mittleider.

He says people have come up with creative ways to use the Hayknife. "One woman used it to remove plastic weed barrier from shelterbelt trees. Another person used it to cut the edges off shingles while installing a new roof."

The Hayknife sells for \$30 plus S&H.

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Distributor Wayne Mittleider says the 2 1/2-ft. long Hayknife works great to cut plastic wrap or twine off big bales.



Self-contained livestock pen is loaded and unloaded by the bale handling arms on Reinert's pickup-mounted Hydra-Bed bale hauler.

He Turned His Bale Bed Into A Livestock, Cargo Hauler

Barry Reinert is a livestock producer in Salina, Kan., who came up with a way to make use of his pickup-mounted Hydra-Bed bale hauler.

His patented Porta Pen is a self-contained livestock pen that's loaded and unloaded by the bale handling arms on his pickup. It essentially lifts the pen similar to the way dumpsters are loaded and unloaded onto flatbed trucks. The Porta Pen can also be used with DewEze bale beds.

"It lets you load and unload livestock without the need for a loading chute," says Reinert. "It can load out of a catch pen runway by use of a slide gate, or out on pasture by using a wing panel and the swing gate on back of the pen."

"You can also use it to work newborn or sick calves by lowering it down over the top for ear tagging or vaccinations, providing easy separation from angry cows."

"It's especially beneficial for anyone who

makes frequent runs to local sale barns or the vet. You can haul a couple head without having to hook up a big livestock trailer."

Reinert also made a Bac-Pac hauler which is a cargo hauler that mounts in place of the Porta-Pen. It can be used to haul damaged round bales, firewood, or other loose material. It dumps out the back via a swinging door. It can also be set flat on the ground to haul a 4-wheeler, mower, furniture, etc., all of which can be loaded at ground level without any lifting.

Since patenting the Porta-Pen and Bac-Pac system, Reinert has been looking for a manufacturer to bring the products to market. At this point he has no plans to build units himself.

There's a video of the Porta Pen in use at farmshow.com.

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Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

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