

Easy-To-Make Cord Caddy

We found this extension cord caddy online. It's mounted on a 3/4 by 6 by 22-in. board with an outlet box mounted on one end and a scrap of 2 by 4-in. at the other end to wind the extension cord around for storage.

The female end of the extension cord is hard wired to the outlet and secured to the base board with a cable clamp. A 12-in. piece of rope was used to make a handle for the caddy at the top.

This caddy can be used standing or lying down, gives two easy-to-use outlets, and wraps up neatly for storage in a garage or vehicle.



Cord caddy mounts on a board with an outlet box at one end. Female end of cord is hard-wired to outlet.

Wheel Used To Wash Vehicle Undercarriages

Barry Boricchio needed a way to wash salt and mud from under his cars and trucks. Trying to get under there with a pressure washer wand just wasn't getting the job done.

So he hit on the idea of using the hard plastic wheeled platform that came off the bottom of an old rolling trash bin. There are 5 caster wheels around the perimeter of the platform so it rolls around easily in any direction.

First, he drilled a hole in the center of the wheel and inserted a pipe up through it. He used 3/8-in. brass pipe and fitted it with a Vee Jet mi/4u brass nozzle, although he says you could use whatever pipe and nozzle you have around.

The nozzle pipe connects to a piece of horizontal galvanized pipe that runs to the edge of the platform. He made holes in the plastic bracing as needed, and installed a quick-disconnect at the end which hooks up to his pressure washer.

"This makes it easy to keep the underside of your car or pickup clean, especially in winter when there's salt on the roads. I think it will extend the life of my vehicles," says Barry.



Plastic wheeled platform off bottom of a rolling trash bin is fitted with a galvanized pipe that hooks up to a pressure washer.

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Chickens step on elevated roost to open a hinged door that provides access to feed.

"Step On" Poultry Feeder Stops Waste

With the Smart Step™ Poultry Feeder, rodents and birds can't steal feed from your backyard flock. The enclosed design keeps the feed dry through most weather conditions.

When a chicken steps on the elevated roost it opens the hinged door providing access to the feed. The recessed trough has a lip so chickens can't reach in and scratch out feed.

"There's a spring from the activating step to the feeder frame that you can adjust," says Joe Putnam of Premier 1 Supplies. It can be set at .5 lbs., 1.10 lbs. or 1.65 lbs. depending on the size of the chickens.

A side window makes it easy to see how

much feed is in the hopper bin, and the Smart Step Feeder comes in two sizes. One holds 26 lbs. and the other holds 66 lbs. of feed. Prices are \$60 and \$75.

Premier 1 Supplies offers free shipping with orders of \$100 or more. The Iowa company is well known for its portable electric net fencing and sells sheep and goat supplies in addition to its poultry equipment.

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Shock Box Makes Solar Fencing Handy, Safe

Ben Miller, owner of Buck Hill Fencer, has been helping Amish farmers use solar to power fence chargers for 20 years. In recent years, his Pasture Combo Shock Box has caught the attention of other farmers interested in using solar to power fence chargers.

"There is a huge demand for the Shock Box, which is a nice, all-in-one container," Miller says. He designed it to work with Cyclops Electric Fence Chargers, though the box also works with other brands.

The UV-resistant wood box has room for the charger, a 12-volt deep cycle marine battery, and the solar panel controller. The solar panel attaches to the lid, and a metal U-bolt on the back secures the box to a 4 by 4 post.

The boxes come in 4 different sizes to accommodate solar panels that range from 40 to 80 watts. Prices for the Shock Boxes start at \$400 (charger and battery are extra). Packages are sold with boxes and different size Cyclops chargers.

"It is very popular because a lot of people want to go solar. Some have no power going to remote fields," Miller says. With the coronavirus, there's been a surge of people planting gardens and raising livestock for food, who need electric fencing.

Miller's grandson is carrying on the



Shock Box has room for a charger and a 12-volt deep cycle marine battery. A solar panel controller attaches to lid.

legacy of building the Shock Box part of his business, while Miller continues his business as distributor for Cyclops and Parmak fence chargers.

Many states offer grants and funding for using solar, which can help pay for the units.

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Before Stain Solver



After Stain Solver

"Stain Solver" Cleans Most Anything

Is there so much grease and grime on your favorite hat that you can't see the tractor logo? Does your home's entry rug look like a barn mat?

If so, try Stain Solver, an organic oxygen bleach that does an amazing job, says Tim Carter, who learned about the "magical cleaner" in 1995. In his research for cleaning wooden decks, the syndicated newspaper columnist for "Ask The Builder" learned about the bleach, which doesn't smell at all like regular bleach. Instead, when the powder is dissolved in warm water (1 cup Stain Solver/1 gal. water) it releases billions of oxygen ions that attach to stain and odor molecules and break them into pieces. It's non-toxic, fabric and color-safe, and will clean just about anything that is water washable. It contains super concentrated oxygen bleach (an oxidizer made in Houston, Texas), and dense soda ash (from Wyoming) that boosts the cleaning power.

"The longer you allow the solution to work on the item, the better. So for things that can be soaked in a pan, bowl or shallow pan it's best to just submerge them," he says. "Patios, decks, house siding, etc., you just apply the solution with a garden hand-pump sprayer in the shade and allow the solution to work. It's best to try to let the solution work for 15 minutes before you start to scrub it."

To make it easy for customers, Carter has several videos on the Stain Solver website that show exactly how to clean specific items: remove oil from concrete and algae from patio blocks, and clean upholstery and grout, for example.

"It's extremely attractive to farmers because it's organic. It's non-toxic so you can



Stain Solver is non-toxic and fabric and color-safe, says the company.

clean stalls, equipment, concrete, clothing, farmhouse floors, bathrooms, etc.," Carter says. "I wouldn't use it on leather because it might change the color. It worked great on my German Shepherd's fur when she tangled with a skunk, getting rid of the smell. You just never want to get the solution in an animal's eyes or other mucus membrane. Treat Stain Solver as you would any chemical."

It does not work on rust or hard water stains, he notes, and is not meant to be used on natural wool or silk, aluminum cookware, sterling silver or redwood siding or decking.

Carter sells Stain Solver in a variety of sizes online through his website. Prices start at \$11.95 for 8 oz. to \$173.21 for 50 lbs. (5-gal. bucket) shipping included to the contiguous 48 U.S. states and Canada.

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