

Reader Letters



I built this miniature box scraper to pull behind my riding lawn mower. It works great in small tight farm yards for landscaping or leveling driveways. It's just 34 in. wide and is patterned exactly after a full-size unit, with a manual crank-up handle. It weighs 90 lbs. and penetrates so well you don't have to weight it down. The back wheels are 13 1/2 in. in diameter. It works so well we've started building for others. They sell for \$400. (**Elden Theurer, box 542, Casselton, N.Dak. 58012 ph 701 347-4320; E-mail: eldenet7@hotmail.com**)



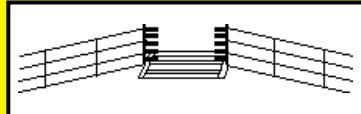
This is an ornamental windmill I made from angle iron and flat iron. I fitted it with an alternator and fan from an old car. I removed the brushes and regulator which allows the alternator to turn easily. (**Pete Peters, Osler, Sask.**)

Last year you ran a story about how I use Tanglefoot goop to stop problems with Elm Leaf Beetles on elm trees (Vol. 24, No. 6). I received inquiries from people who said they could not find the product, even though it has been on the market for at least 65 years.

You can buy a 5-lb. can of Tanglefoot from the Great Lakes Co. for \$26.55 plus S&H by calling 800 235-0285. Specify that you want the Pest Barrier product. It's applied in a circle all around the trunk of the tree when the weather is hot - about mid-May or early June. You'll see the little striped bugs get stuck to the goop. You have to watch it because sometimes so many get stuck that they form a bridge that other ones climb over.

Once you treat a tree, all the leaves will stay on the tree and you'll be able to park under it without "sap" covering it. Evidently the "sap" comes from the bugs. (**Elmer Pinkerton, 305 West D Street, Elmwood, Neb. 68349 ph 402 994-5885**)

I always had trouble with workers breaking posts and gates at entryways fitted with cattle guards. To eliminate the problem, I put new posts back 18 in. from the sides of the cattle guards and fitted strips



of tire tread to the sides of the post to fill the gap between the posts and the guard. Cattle seem to respect the flaps and won't walk through them. Wide equipment can hit them without damage and my posts are safer. (**Ian Bruce, Aleaches Rd., Hororata, RD 2, Darfield 8172 New Zealand**)

This is an old idea but many people do not know about it. If you need to carry an open pail or tank of water in the back of a pickup or on a wagon, just float a board on top of the water to stop it from splashing and slopping over the side. (**William Booth, Burlington, Mich.**)

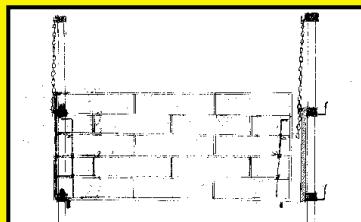
Fireplace ashes work well in vegetable gardens against slugs and insects. When a slug crawls over the ashes, they stick to its slimy skin and actually cut into their skin and dry them out, causing them to die. Since I started using this idea two years ago, I haven't seen a slug in my garden. My property borders a small lake and we also get an occasional muskrat in our yard. I have started putting ashes in and around the openings to their tunnels and it also seems to deter them. I suspect it gets on their skin and in their fur and makes them itchy, so they go dig a hole in my neighbor's yard instead of mine. (**Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.**)

Conventional dandelion digging tools are straight with a V-shaped notch at the end.



I improved mine by making a bend 2 to 3 in. from the bottom. It's much easier to pull than to push so the work goes a lot faster. (**Dennis Krueger, Duluth, Minn.**)

I made a sorting gate that swings 180° to the left or right. There's a steel pipe



set in concrete at either end of the gate. A pair of hinge brackets slide freely on



I took a Big A sprayer with a blown engine and turned it into a gooseneck sprayer that I pull with my tractor. It has a 1,200 gal. stainless steel tank. I took the cab, motor and transmission out. A local welder made a gooseneck for it. I put a hydraulic motor on the frame to run the Scott pump that was already on the machine. I didn't have to move the pump.

each gate post, with each pair of brackets connected by a piece of 1 1/2-in. angle iron. Each bracket has a 2-in. wide piece of flat iron bent to a 90° angle. These hooks fit under the bars on the gate so you can hook up either side to



allow the gate to pivot. Adjustable chains run from the hinges up to swiveling rain caps on top of the pipe so the gate can be raised as needed to clear snow and manure. Anchor pins at the bottom of each end of the gate fit to the brackets. Small rods on the gate lock into the hinge brackets to prevent the gate from being lifted off by livestock. (**Harold Kirk, H-K Farms, Spring Bar, Manitoulin Island, Ontario Canada**)

I thought your readers would like to see this miniature Deere 3020 tractor that I built out of a Deere 110 garden tractor. It isn't built to any particular scale. I chose



the 110 model because it has a hood that looks a lot like a 3020. I replaced all the original tires with larger ones and also installed new fenders that I had made to look like the original 3020 fenders. I also replaced the original steel seat with the seat off a full-size tractor.

The tractor still has its original 8 hp, 1-cyl. Kohler gas engine, and the steering wheel and hood are original. The 3020's muffler came straight up out of the hood so I made a new muffler by removing the original one and cutting a hole in the hood, then installed a length of bent steel pipe. The tractor has a set of wooden

I replumbed the boom on 30-in. spacing.

Total investment was about \$7,000. I pull it with a Cat Challenger tractor. I don't need that big a tractor but I don't want to get stuck. This is the third year I've used this sprayer and I'm real happy with it. (**Steve Clanton, 721 Kiowa Rd., Minneapolis, Kan. 67467 E-mail: sclanton@midusa.net**)

weights on front.

I liked the story in your last issue on the multi-colored Deere Patio Series tractor collection. Last year I bought a Deere 112 Patio Series tractor from a lady in Alabama who had been using it to do her gardening work. The tractor is painted Dogwood White, with the hood and seat painted Sunset Orange. I bought the trac-



tor complete with a blade, rototiller, and cultivating system. Only a small number of Patio Series tractors were ever built. You can't really call these tractors rare, but they are hard to find. (**Don and Shelia Morden, Rt. 1, Moorefield, Ontario, Canada N0G 2K0 ph 519 638-2525**)

My latest Wheel Horse conversion is a twin-screw 18-wheeler semi truck equipped with two sets of rear axles and



dual wheels all the way around. It resembles a Peterbilt semi tractor, but I call mine a CharlieBilt. I made it out of a pair of Wheel Horse 70 tractors. I use it to pull a 12-ft. long, 40-in. wide flatbed trailer equipped with a plywood floor. A fifth wheel hitch mounts behind the tractor.

The tractor is powered by an 18 hp, twin-cylinder Onan gas engine and has a home-built cab that's open on front. I designed the cab to look like the one found on a 1929 Chevy truck that I restored. The cab has twin stainless steel exhaust stacks on back. The tractor's front wheels are off an old riding mower and all of the rear wheels are donut-type car spare tires. With eight drive wheels pulling all the time, this rig will go right through deep snow with no problems.

It has a custom made seat covered by a canopy made from a garage door track