



Link Kline's eye-catching "boom truck" looks like a cross between a Jeep truck and a tracked tractor. He uses the rig to lift engines, vehicles or anything else under 8,000 lbs.

Boom Truck Lifts Up To 8,000 Lbs.

Cross a Jeep truck with a tracked tractor and add a boom made from 14 ft. of 2 7/8-in. well casing, and you can come close to Link Kline's eye-catching crane truck.

"The only problem is people driving by slam on the brakes when they see it, throw the car into reverse, and back up for a second look," says Kline. "I am afraid it will cause an accident."

Kline uses the rig to lift engines, vehicles or anything else under 8,000 lbs. He recently lifted a 1979 Peterbuilt cab-over-truck (only missing an engine and transmission) off a trailer.

The base for the hybrid truck was a wrecked 1975 CJ5 Jeep. The front end was busted up, so he cut it off and replaced it with the front end off a 1969 Willy's 1-ton pickup.

He also removed the rear axle from the CJ5, and replaced it with an old set of tracks from a Cletrak tracked tractor.

The undercarriage of the tracks is mounted to machined plates welded solid to the axle and the frame of the old CJ5. Kline hoisted

the body over the tracks, lined it all up and made templates for the plates with transfer paper.

"The plates were cut to wrap around the axle part of the tracks," explains Kline. "I didn't worry about suspension. I wanted it as sturdy and solid as possible."

Kline had to adapt the wheels on the front axle to match the height of the tracks. He cut the center bolt patterns out of the original wheels, turned them down on a lathe and welded them into the centers of a set of 22 1/2-in. semi tractor wheels.

The lift boom consists of two 14-ft. poles made from oil well casing. An electric winch mounts at the back of the cab.

"I was lucky to have some people nice enough to let me use machines to do what I wanted to do," says Link. "It is just awesome for picking up things."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Link Kline, 3008 Glenn Ave, Gillette, Wyo. 82716.



Kenneth Ramey came up with a low-cost sump pump by mounting an old brass pump on his Wheel Horse garden tractor.

Tractor-Mounted Sump Pump

Electric sump pumps are great when the power is on. Trouble is, the same big storms that dump water into a basement sump are just as likely to drop a tree across the power line. When Kenneth Ramey got hit with 5 in. of rain and no electricity, he knew he needed a sump pump substitute.

"I had an old brass pump laying around that was already threaded for garden hose ends," recalls Ramey. "I mounted it on my old Wheel Horse garden tractor, and it works great."

The Wheel Horse was already outfitted with a pulley wheel on the side of the engine that runs right off the crankshaft. Ramey mounted the pump and its pulley wheel on a short length of 2 by 8-in. board. After bolt-

ing a piece of 1/2-in. scrap iron to the front end of the tractor frame, he attached the board with its pump to the scrap iron with wing nuts. Matching holes in the board and the scrap iron left sufficient play for the belt to remain in idle.

To engage the pump, Ramey simply pulls the board (which is equipped with a handhold) forward, and tightens down the wing nuts. To shut off the pump, he loosens the wing nuts and pushes the board back to loosen the belt.

"It works great," says Ramey. "It's something you have and hope you never need."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth Ramey, 120 Francis St., Ferrelview, Mo. 64163 (ph 816 270-1462).

Easy Up, Easy Down Ladder Storage

Storing long extension ladders in a garage can be very annoying. If you hang them up overhead, they're difficult to get down.

Richard Bergman, Chippewa Falls, Wis., solved the problem by coming up with a pulley and counterweight system that lets him store his 20-ft. extension ladder out of the way above his overhead garage door.

The ladder is held up by a counterweight that goes up and down easily.

"It's always ready to use, and it's so well balanced I can pull it down with just one finger," says Bergman.

The system consists of two pulleys, a rope, and a 5-gal. pail partially filled with sand. The bucket counterweight is actually over in the corner of the garage. A rope runs from the corner to a pulley at the center of the garage, above one end of the ladder. The end of the rope has a hook with a quick-release strap (an old seat belt) attached to it that Bergman can reach from the floor. The other end of the ladder hangs from the rafters on a metal hook.

"It's really handy. It works something like a spring-loaded stairway," says Bergman. "Once I unhook the strap from the ladder, the counterweight goes back down and brings the rope up with it so there's never anything in the way. With just the right amount of sand in the pail, the ladder will come down easily and also glide right back up into position for storage," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rich-



Richard Bergman came up with a pulley and counterweight system that lets him store his 20-ft. extension ladder out of the way above his overhead garage door. Ladder is held up by a counterweight that goes up and down easily.

ard Bergman, 16201 120th Ave., Chippewa Falls, Wis. 54729 (ph 715 288-6031).

Solar-Powered Pure Water

Large volumes of pure water can be had at any location with this new solar-powered water purification system from SolarOne Products.

The Harvester Water Purification System consists of solar panels, a UV light to kill bacteria and viruses, and a series of filters, including a 5-micron filter and a charcoal filter. Depending on the number of solar panels, output can vary from 300 to 1,400 gallons of purified water per day.

"The more current you dump in the battery, the longer you can run the system," explains Moneer Azzam, president of SolarOne. "With a single 50-watt panel, you can run it for about two hours, depending on the season and where you are on the globe."

Panels come in 50 and 75-watt versions. Azzam projects the operating cost at less than half a cent per gallon. A single 50-watt panel with UV light, pump and filters has a list price of \$2,383. The highest power unit available with three 75-watt panels, light, pump and filters has a list price of \$3,635. It can produce up to 1,400 gallons per day.

"Most of our sales have been to Africa so far," says Azzam, noting that he's also had interest in North America as concern grows



Harvester water purification system consists of solar panels, a UV light to kill bacteria and viruses, and a series of filters.

about the safety of groundwater.

The solar panels that drive the water system can be used for other jobs when not being used to purify water.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Moneer Azzam, SolarOne Solutions, 40D Weston Street, Hartford, Conn. 06120 (ph 860 548-9931; email: mazzam@solarone.net; website: www.solarone.net).

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Mark Newhall, Editor

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