

# Reader Letters



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on a 2-pronged, 3-pt. mounted bale carrier. We get the boxes free from a local asphalt company. They measure 3 1/2 ft. wide by 5 ft. long and are 3 ft. high. I drop the boxes full of wood close to the furnace. Once the logs are dry I feed them one by one directly into the furnace.

To make picking up the boxes an easier job, I installed a 3 by 10-in.



hydraulic cylinder in place of the top link on my tractor's 3-pt. hitch. I built a mounting bracket for the cylinder and use a lever to extend or retract it. The stabilizer chains have to be kept tight to prevent side sway. (Perry Hathaway, 4238 W 625 South, Claypool, Ind. 46510 ph 574 491-3448)



I use a Stihl 036 chain saw on an old Better Built band saw rig to cut logs into boards. The chain saw simply cuts in place of the band saw blade.

I built this "skating sleigh" warm-up shack for my grand children, who use it whenever they go ice skating on a river on my property. The 15 by 8-ft. shack is insulated and there's a fuel oil stove



inside, allowing kids to put their skates on out of the cold and wind.

I bought the sleigh at an auction and removed the carriage, keeping only the wooden runners and undercarriage. I built a round roofed box over the runners, using plywood to build the sides and aluminum to build the roof. (Ray Miettinen, P.O. Box 21, Republic, Mich. 49879 ph 906 376-8243)

I built this bean buggy out of an old fertilizer buggy. I put in a new floor,

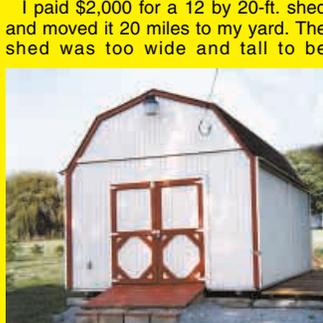


sloping everything to the center. Then I installed a folding auger from the left front corner down to the center of the buggy

bed, to which seed naturally flows. The auger is hydraulic-operated. (Brent Pitcher, Montrose, Ill. ph 217 924-4248 or 217 276-4248)



I modified the loader bucket on my Versatile bi-directional tractor so I could mount a 12-ft. telescopic boom on it. I drilled two 2 1/2-in. dia. holes in the steel reinforcement ribs in the bottom of the bucket and inserted pipe sockets in them where a pipe fits in. A "T" head in the middle of the pipe is used to support the boom. A chain supports the boom to keep it from bending the bucket lip. By raising the loader all the way and extending the boom as far as possible, I can lift an 800-lb. load up to 24 ft. high. I paid \$2,000 for a 12 by 20-ft. shed and moved it 20 miles to my yard. The shed was too wide and tall to be



transported legally, but I was able to sneak it over back roads on a low-boy trailer using oversize load permit signs. After dropping the shed off in my yard, I used pipe rollers to move it 100 feet all by myself to a site. A tree served as an anchor. I hooked chains around it, then used come-alongs to pull the shed to its permanent location. I did all the work by myself. (Dave Nicholas, Box 146, Martinsville, Ohio 45146 ph 937 987-2710)



I needed a boom to lift rafters while building an extension onto my farm shop, so I built this unit that attaches neatly to a two-tine hoist on my front-end loader. The tines slide into square tubing on the boom. A short chain cinches the two pieces together, making them function as a unit. (Dan Neuman, 9800 Mansion Rd., Loami, Ill. 62661 ph 217 624-2200)

I'm 85 years old and a disabled World War II veteran. I wanted to honor those who have served so I built this 60-ft. high, 8-ft. sq. tower on my small acreage here in south Texas. The entire structure is made from oil well casing that was welded together on the ground and then hoisted into position using a crane. There's a wooden deck about half way up and another deck near the top, with metal railings around it topped by an American flag. A stairway leads to the top, and there's even a one-man elevator that I built out of two plastic barrels. The elevator is raised and lowered by an electric winch.

I made a low-cost "carport" by spacing two 40-ft. long shipping containers about



30 ft. apart, then building a sloped roof between them. I park my motorhome between the containers. I also added a lean-to alongside one of the containers where I keep tractors and other equipment. (Andy Anderson, 1800 Stacey Rd., Poteet, Texas 78065 ph 830 742-4717)

I built a 16-ft. wide drive-through electric gate that eliminates the need to get in



and out of the vehicle. I just drive up, bump the gate, and go through.

The gate consists of a single swinging arm that attaches to a fence post via a pair of metal brackets that form a hinge. The arm is made from a 3/4-in. dia. pipe with a 6-ft. length of conduit at one end. The hinge where the arm fastens to the post is made at an angle so it always



comes back to center. It opens when bumped by a vehicle and automatically swings shut after the vehicle passes through. An insulated tip allows the gate to be opened by hand.

The spring-loaded gate connects to an electric fence controller. It's self-opening

and closing. The gate isn't built square but at an angle, which allows the arm to swing away quickly and far back after being bumped to avoid contact with a passing vehicle. (David McKenzie, P.O. Box 614, Delisle, Sask., Canada S0L 0P0 ph 306 493-8127)

I built a 3-ft. wide earth mover out of scrap steel and plywood and use a Sears 17 hp garden tractor to pull it. The unit



has a scarifier on back, and a skid plate in the middle to keep the blade from going too deep.

To make the scarifier I welded a series of metal teeth to a steel plate that forms the blade and is bolted to a section of plywood. The teeth dig up the soil and make it easier for the blade to cut into the soil. The blade moves soil off to the side and also smoothes the soil. I made the teeth by cutting a 1/2-in. thick steel bar into 2-in. lengths. To raise the earth mover I grab onto a lever from the tractor seat and pull upward.

I used this simple earth mover a few years ago to install a concrete floor in my new 12 by 24-ft. wood shed. It did a nice job. (Frank Krakow, 4205 Saint Joseph Rd., New Albany, Ind. 47150 ph 812 944-0917)

We cut gourds into various shapes and hang them on an old hall-tree to feed the birds. We used a coping saw to make

various size openings for different types and sizes of seed. We cut some gourds into bowls and glued them onto bottom part of the hall-tree. The gourds are painted with bright colors which helps attract birds.



Short of garden space? Try growing tomatoes upside down in 5-gal. buckets. We cut a 2-in. dia. hole in the bottom of several buckets which we mounted on an old clothes line pole. Soil is added, along with some straw on top that serves as a mulch to hold water. The seedling grows out of the hole and the tomatoes that result are easy to pick. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa ph 641 487-7617)