



Nylon line wraps tightly around lower end of catapult arm. Then arm is cranked down under door hinge trigger, ready to toss ball up to 70 ft.

Dog Loves Tennis Ball Catapult

"My golden retriever, Paddy, loves chasing tennis balls flung by this easy-to-make catapult," says Monroe "Mike" Hall, Belfast, Maine. "He'll even put the ball in the holder for me."

The ball thrower is based on an Onager-type catapult, which uses spring tension rather than weights to toss an object. It dates back to medieval times when it would hurl boulders against castle walls.

The catapult consists of a 1 by 2-ft. pine frame. The catapult arm is a 14-in. section of a hockey stick fitted with a stainless steel spaghetti-serving spoon. With the arm in a vertical position, the lower end is wrapped in nylon cord that's wrapped tightly around it by two dowels on the side. Then a ratchet is used to pull the catapult arm down into a horizontal position where a strap hinge flips down over it to hold it in place for launching. A small latch serves as the trigger.

The hockey stick and ball are set free when trigger is released. The ball goes in a high arc for 70 ft. "It sure saves my arm," says Mike. "And Paddy loves it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Monroe "Mike" B. Hall, 106 City Point Rd., Belfast, Maine 04915 (ph 207 338-3792; fax 207 548 0246).



Frederick Leese makes insulated dog houses out of old chest-type freezers.

Deep Freezer Dog House

Dogs at the Frederick Leese place near Fontana, Kansas, stay warm during the winter and cool during the summer, thanks to their insulated dog houses made out of old chest-type freezers.

"Even in the coldest weather, a dog's body heat is all it takes to warm up the inside of a freezer. They never need maintenance and they're virtually indestructible," says Leese. "Another advantage is they're light enough that I can use a 2-wheeler cart to move them around."

He lightens up each freezer dog house by removing the compressor motor. Then he uses a sawzall to cut a rectangular entrance hole into one side of the freezer, bending a 1-in. wide strip of tin around the hole and screwing it down to cover any sharp edges. A curved plastic "roof" over the top of the hole keeps out rain and snow.

To provide a separate area for food, he cuts down the metal divider that originally enclosed the compressor motor and then bends the tin down.

"It's a low tech idea at a low tech price," says Leese. "I open the freezer lid to put dog food in and to add bedding such as cedar shavings or straw. Otherwise, I keep the lid shut. I usually place the freezer so the door faces south or east. There's no need to cover the opening because there's no air flow inside, just dead air space."

He has three freezer dog houses on his place. Two of them are full-size freezers where he keeps his Border Collies, while the other one is a 2-ft. wide mini refrigerator. He keeps his Chihuahua in it. "To convert the mini refrigerator, I cut a small hole into one side and then laid the refrigerator on its back side. I open the door from the top to clean it out or add food or bedding," says Leese.

He has also made several freezer dog houses for friends and relatives. "I already had some of the freezers, and others were given to me. Old freezers can be bought cheap at junk yards. If you want to make them look nicer, you can simply add wood or tin to the outside," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frederick Leese, 11475 W. 2200 Rd., Fontana, Kansas 66026 (ph 913 757-4760).

Fold-Away Clothes Drying Rack

You can use this portable clothes drying rack indoors or outdoors. It folds flat for easy storage so you can hang it on the back of a door.

Mrs. Pegg's Handy Line measures 59 in. long, 30 in. wide, and 56 in. high and has up to 45 linear feet of usable line, which is enough to handle a large wash load and big items like bed sheets and sweaters. It weighs only 5.9



Rack has up to 45 feet of usable line.

lbs., allowing you to carry it with one hand.

It's small enough to be used in a small room or balcony, outdoor porch, patio, or deck and can even be used in many RV's and campers.

The clothes line itself is a PVC-coated polyester fiber cord. The lines are well spaced to keep clothes from bumping into each other and to speed up drying. Equipped with two spare lines, the unit is large enough to hold four king size sheets. Quilts and blankets can be tented over the top of the HandyLine.

Sells for \$169.95 including S&H in the U.S. and comes with a 30-day money back guarantee.

A smaller model measuring 56 in. long, 23 in. wide, and 50 in. high is also available. It weighs 5.7 lbs. and has 35 ft. linear ft. It sells for \$149.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mrs. Pegg's Products, 1820 Ramhurst Drive, Clemmons, N.C. 27012 (ph 800 329-0398; info@mrspegghandyline.com; www.mrspegghandyline.com).

Publish A Fund-Raising Cookbook

Fundcraft Publishing makes it easier for clubs, organizations and individuals to earn money from creating and selling their own community cookbooks.

This company, based in Collierville, Tenn., provides a guaranteed cookbook program that guides you step by step through the cookbook creation process, and you never invest a penny in advance.

"You send no money with your order, and pay nothing on delivery," says David Bradley, Fundcraft president. "We give you 67 days, interest free, to sell and pay for your cookbooks. We guarantee that your cookbooks will sell if you follow our simple marketing program. If for some reason the books don't sell, and you followed our program, you can return the books for a full refund."

Fundcraft provides its cookbook clients with free software called "Shortcut" so they can create the book right in their own home or office.

"Using the software, you can then transfer your book to our site, view it on the web, select publishing options, and place your order," says Bradley.

The company also allows clients to use the Fundcraft website for free, to promote and sell their cookbook.

The company features the largest recipe database on the internet, with a collection of over one million recipes that can be used.

Besides fundraising cookbooks, the publisher also makes promotional cookbooks for businesses that are looking for something to give customers.

Publishing costs for cookbooks are dependent on the number of pages, binding style, and number of books ordered. The minimum order is 200 books, unless your book will have more than 450 recipes, in which case the minimum order increases.

All cookbook orders include your choice of divider designs with color pictures - you can either make your own design or pick from the 80 that are available to you.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fundcraft Publishing, Box 340, Collierville, Tenn. 38027 (800 853-1363 or 901 853-7070; fax 901 853-6196; info@fundcraft.com; www.fundcraft.com).

Easy Way To Grow Potatoes

Potatoes are easy to grow and easy to harvest when planted in a wire tower.

All you need is some chicken wire, newspaper, and leaves. Cut a piece of wire big enough to make a ring 3 ft. dia. and about 3 ft. tall. Wire the ends together so you have an upright tower. Line the inside of the wire sides with newspaper. Then fill the tower with dried leaves mixed with dirt. When the tower is about half full, plant some potatoes and cover. As the shoots come up, continue to cover in around the plants.

Once the potatoes mature, you can simply cut away the tower. The potatoes will separate easily from the composted material. Best of all, you can leave the compost in the garden. (Christie Schlueter in AgriNews)

Reader Recipes

(Continued from page 30)

Corn Flake Candy

4 cups corn flakes
1 cup coconut
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup white corn syrup
1 cup sugar
1 cup evaporated milk

Mix together in a large bowl, flakes, coconut and chopped nuts; set aside. In a pan, pour in corn syrup, sugar and milk. Cook over high heat until it forms a soft ball. Remove from stove and pour in dry ingredients. Mix together and pour into a greased 9 x 13-in. baking pan. Let cool and cut into desired pieces; then put into a sealed container.

Skunk Deodorizer Recipe

This recipe will deodorize, rather than mask the smell of skunks.

1 quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide solution
1/4 cup of baking soda
1 tsp of liquid dish soap.

Strawberry Fluff

3-oz. package strawberry gelatin
10 oz. frozen strawberries, lightly thawed
1 tbsp sugar
1 small angel food cake
1 8-oz. carton whipped topping (small)

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in 1 1/4 cups boiling water. Stir in berries with juice and sugar. Cool until thickened, about 1 hr. Fold in Cool Whip. Lightly fold in torn up angel food cake. Put in a 9-in. by 13-in. pan and refrigerate. Hedy Daughenbaugh

Best Barbecue Buns

1 lb. ground lamb
1 small onion, chopped
1 cup drained kidney or pinto beans
1/3 cup barbecue sauce
2/3 cup Cheez Whiz spread
6 hamburger buns

Brown lamb and onions until tender. Drain. Stir in beans and barbecue sauce. Cover and simmer 10 min. Stir in Cheez Whiz and heat through. Serve on buns. Makes 6 servings.