

# Reader Letters



I recently built a big deck for my house using lumber that I sawed myself from oak, ash and hackberry trees on my own farm. The wood I used weighs about 2 1/2 times as much as cedar decking. It's so heavy that by the time I got done building the deck, it was sagging in the middle so I had to shore it up.

I stained the deck right away in order to bring the grain out in the wood. Now it looks really beautiful - everyone who sees it can't get over how nice it looks. And the wood is so strong that I think my deck will still be here 100 years from now if it's taken care of. (Art Hertz, 36717 Quarry Road, Fairfax, S. Dak. 57335 ph 605 654-2250)



I enjoyed reading a couple of recent FARM SHOW stories on mini balers since I build five sizes of mini balers myself and also sell plans at a reasonable price. They're for anyone who likes the



challenge of taking on a new project. I make a 1/3-scale stationary baler, a 1/6-scale engine-powered baler, a 1/5-scale powered baler, and 1/16 and 1/8-scale hand-powered balers. (Ron Schulz; balerman1@sbcglobal.net; www.balerman1.com)



Here's a photo of a 4-shank ripper that I made for my Deere 4110 compact yard tractor. I bought a used 4-ft. box blade and cut off the box blade part, leaving a framework on which I mounted the four ripper teeth. Works great for ripping up any large garden area. I spent less than

\$200 to build it. (Charles Bratton, 1805 Corte Eduardo St. S.W., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105 ph 505 877-2624)



This photo shows a Speedex model 17 garden tractor equipped with a front-mounted snow blade, which I recently restored. I installed a new 10 hp electric start motor and added new tires and paint. The tractor has a 2-speed transmission, with one forward gear and one reverse. The engine slides forward to tighten the belt, and is pulled back to put on the brakes by using a foot pedal.

I didn't like the stock hood so I replaced it with the hood off a David Bradley 2-wheel walking plow. The hood had to be widened in order to make room for the motor. A new battery box and dash were also made. I plan on taking this tractor to shows. (Scott Werling, 302 W. 400 N., Decatur, Ind. 46733)

This old AC riding mower has become my "saddle horse" for getting around our place. However, the original steel-and-plastic-covered seat gave out and I couldn't find a new one.



I took a photo of the mower to our local Kubota dealer, and he showed me how a seat he had on hand could be made to work. The new seat was made entirely of plastic. I had to rework the original seat mounting brackets. The original seat rested on two small coil springs. The springs would have dug into the plastic, so I used nylon ties to put a short wooden board over the springs. (C.F. Marley, 26288 Oconee Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 ph 217 563-2588)

I recently built this 1/4-scale model of a Caterpillar D-8 from scratch. It's powered by a Kohler 18 hp gas engine and uses a transmission driven by orbit motors. The tracks are built from 1/8-in. sheet



metal and ride on 12-gauge rollers borrowed from hospital beds. Snowmobile rails under the tracks help support the weight. All the tractor's controls are operated by electric car window motors. I even built a scale-model tile plow (not shown) that bolts on back of the tractor. (Ron Hanen, 7065 70th St. N.W., Montevideo, Minn. 56265 ph 320 793-6681)



This is a simple solution to grain storage problems. My neighbor Robert Friest put up a 50 by 100-ft. hoop building to hold about 8,000 bu. of high-moisture shelled corn. One end of the building is enclosed. The other is blocked by a row of round

bales. He loads and mixes feed at the front of the building, pulling out corn as needed. The area is well-drained. Once that grain is gone, the building can be used for other things. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)



Hauling 50-lb. packs of roofing shingles up a ladder can be hard work. To make the job easier I use a hand-operated winch attached to a board on back of the ladder. Cable from the winch leads up to a pulley on the ladder's top rung, and then back down to an L-shaped wooden carrier with a hook on top of it. Four small metal trolleys on back of the carrier keep it from accidentally sliding off the side of the ladder.

I came up with this hand-pumped splitter that's powered by a standard 6-ton bottle jack. The splitter is made from 1/2-in. thick steel. The jack bolts on top of the splitting wedge. I just set a log below the wedge and pump the handle to split it. It's safer than an axe or powered splitter, and it doesn't take up much room so



I can keep it handy to use whenever I have time. The jack raises nine inches. (Frank Krakow, New Albany, Ind.)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685) 1. Title: FARM SHOW. 2. Publication No. 469-490. 3. Date of Filing: September 30, 2008. 4. Frequency of issue: Bi-Monthly. 5. No. of issues published annually: 6. 6. Annual subscription price: \$19.95. 7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: P O Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044. 8. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business offices or of the publisher: Same. 9. Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: publisher, Mark Newhall, PO Box 1029, Lakeville, MN 55044. 10. Owner: Same. 11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: none. 12. Publication name: FARM SHOW. 13. Issue date for circulation data below: Sept/Oct 2008. 14. Extent and nature of circulation: A. Total no. copies (Net press run). Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 224,583. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 227,000. B. Paid and/or requested circulation. B1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscription Stated on Form 3541: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 184,308. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 183,000. B4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 6,575. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 11,500. C. Total paid distribution: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 196,308. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 194,500. D. Free or nominal rate distribution. D1. Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS form 3541: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 31,200. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 30,200. E. Total free or nominal rate distribution: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 31,200. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 30,200. F. Total distribution: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 222,083. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 224,700. G. Copies not distributed: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months 2,500. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 2,300. H. Total no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 227,000. I. Percent paid. Average no. copies during preceding 12 months 88 percent. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date 86 percent. I Certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete. Mark Newhall, Publisher/Owner.



I needed an extra tractor to pull wagons to the field. I didn't want to spend the money for another tractor so I made my own by cutting down a 1953 model 55 Deere combine. I shortened the frame 4 ft. and used angle iron to reinforce the frame. It still uses the original belt drive to the transmission. I added a school bus

seat and hand rails so we could drive it around at tractor shows. It's powered by a 6-cyl. Hercules engine which, with straight exhaust pipe, sounds nice and really catches your attention. (Thomas Janecke, 202 E. Davis, Lake George, Mich. 48633)