



Glenn Fisher made his own measuring wheel by converting an old exercise bike equipped with an 18-in. dia. rubber wheel.

Measuring Wheel Made From Exercise Bike

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga., needed a measuring wheel to document underground wiring and piping on his farm, but he didn't want to spend the money for one. So he converted an old exercise bike equipped with an 18-in. dia. rubber wheel.

He cut the bike's frame in half and kept just the front part, including the footrest bar, then added a telescoping support stand on back that attaches with one bolt. He also added a counter off an old carpet rolling machine, mounting it on an old barn hinge that's bolted to the cycle's frame. The machine still has its original speedometer/odometer.

"It works great. New measuring wheels cost \$200 or more and don't have an odometer," says Fisher. "I have 123 miles on it with no problems. I checked it against a 300-ft. measuring tape and found that it's pretty accurate.

"The mechanical meter is equipped with a small knob that allows me to switch back to zero once I finish measuring something," notes Fisher.

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Photos shows how bike was cut in half.



Barrel Extension Quiets Shotgun Blast

For 15 years L.P. Brezny, a self-taught gunsmith and hunting guide, has been selling a 32-in. extension barrel to customers who want quiet shotguns for a variety of reasons. The extended barrel reduces the sound of a shotgun blast to a thud similar to closing a pickup door.

"Dairy farmers in Wisconsin use it to get rid of pigeons and other farmyard pests," Brezny says. "It doesn't upset the cows like conventional shotgun blasts."

The USDA uses Brezny's barrel to eliminate wildlife at airports. Animal control workers can take care of business quietly. Brezny has many customers from populated areas on the East and West coasts, who want to hunt on their property without disturbing their neighbors.

Brezny's first prototypes looked more like he was developing a new flute. He drilled holes in various patterns in pvc pipe to experiment with sound patterns. The final engineered barrel has 64 tiny vents that bleed off gas to reduce sound. The 32-in. ported barrel weighs 1/2-lb. and screws into a gun's choke threads. The choke is removed and screwed to the end of Brezny's barrel.

Brezny also uses sub-sonic ammunition - loads of 900 fps or less. The combination results in sound levels around 72 dB, about half the blast of a normal shotgun.

"Tom Knapp (exhibition shooter) uses it as part of his show, and spectators can hear the clay birds cracking," Brezny says.

He notes that the shooter doesn't even see the extended barrel since it is ribless. As a bonus, the combination of the barrel



Photo courtesy Texas Crow Patrol

Extended barrel reduces the sound of a shotgun blast to a thud similar to the closing of a pickup door.

extension and reduced ammunition loads means less recoil - up to 80 percent less.

The Metro Gun barrel is made in France out of unique high-grade steel and sells for \$218 plus shipping. Delivery takes 4 to 6 months.

Brezny offers Metro Gun barrels for Winchester, Browning, Remington, Beretta, Mossberg and Ruger shotguns. He has discontinued barrels for Benelli because the company continually changes the choke pattern. Go to Metro Gun website or call for ordering information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Metro Gun Systems, P.O. Box 529, Piedmont, S. Dak. 57769 (ph 605 787-6321; www.metrogun.com).



Water wheel makes electricity by belt-driving a 100-watt generator.

Home-Built Water Wheel Generates Electric Power

Ed Hanson's water wheel is a decorative addition to his farm. But it also generates electric power. Equipped with a 100-watt generator, it preheats water at his son's nearby house.

"The generator is off a small windmill," says Hanson. "It could generate more power if we had a larger water wheel and a stronger water source."

Right now, the water is funneled through a trough from a nearby spring-fed pond Hanson and his son dug. Flow varies depending on the time of year.

The 7-ft. water wheel is fitted with 16 buckets. However, Hanson says they are too deep and plans to double the number and make them shallower.

The wheel itself is white pine with ash spokes. The axle shaft and wheels used on the water wheel came from two old hay rakes. The jackshaft on the generator was reclaimed from a manure spreader, complete with pillow block bearings to hold it in place.

Hanson cut blocks of wood to fill in the rim of one wheel so he could turn it into a drive wheel on the water wheel. A weatherproof, manufactured drive belt runs from the drive

wheel to a small pulley on the jackshaft for a ratio of about 7:1. At the other end of the jackshaft, which is mounted to two pieces of I-beam, is a 16-in. pulley that belt drives a 6-in. pulley on the generator.

The water wheel is attached to a large horseshoe-shaped frame. The frame was part of a large architectural camera that was scrapped out at the company where Hanson previously worked. Originally there were only two bearings attached to the heavy steel frame.

"I came down one day, and the water wheel was laying in the streambed with the axle snapped clean," says Hanson. "The vibration had been too much for the old shaft. With four pillow-block bearings, we haven't had any problems."

Hanson intends to add a second pond above the first. With a drain near the bottom of it, they will be able to better control water flow to the generator.

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Tractor Monitor Mounting Tree

When Wes Suddarth needed to mount a Trimble EZ Guide 500 lightbar guidance system on his Deere 7520 tractor, there was no convenient place to mount the monitor. The problem was compounded when he tried to find a place to mount a Raven Sprayer Controller and also a foamer controller.

So the Lebanon, Tenn., farmer designed a patent pending mounting tree that easily holds 3 or more monitors in one location, and is easy to see and operate from the tractor seat. The monitor mounting tree bolts to the right front post of the cab on Deere 6000, 7000, and 8000 tractors. An adapter bracket can be used to fit other tractor models and makes.

To install, you simply drill holes on the cab post. The mounting tree comes with a convenient connector at the bottom that lets you bring power to the mounting tree from the tractor's battery. Then you can connect any monitor power cord directly to the mounting tree, without having to run a power cord all the way to the battery for each monitor you install.

The mounting tree, which comes with 2 shelves and the power connector, sells for \$325 plus tax (where applicable) and S&H. Additional shelves sell for \$45 apiece. The adaptor bracket sells for \$25 plus S&H.



Mounting tree holds 3 or more monitors in one location, and is easy to see and operate from tractor seat.

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