

Tire Plug System Designed For Big Tires

"It'll easily pay for itself with one repair," says Justin Breithaupt, who manufactures and sells the Tire Bee repair kit for big tires. Originally designed for semi truck tires, it'll plug holes in tractor tires and tires on other big equipment.

Within 10 min. a tire can be fixed and ready to go without having to take it off the vehicle.

The Tire Bee uses a self-vulcanizing plug and a tool that uses compound leverage to push the plug into the hole.

Breithaupt's friend and partner, Chuck Kupelian, worked as a school bus mechanic and figured there had to be a better way to fix flat tires than removing the tires and patching them. He tried many plugs that just didn't work, until he discovered the Safety Seal string plug, used by the U.S. military.

"It becomes part of the tire," Breithaupt says, because the plug is self-vulcanizing. It'll fill holes up to 1/4 in. in dia. "The next question was how to get it into the tire. We wanted something safe to use on big tires."

After 5 years of testing he came up with the Tire Bee, which uses leverage to force the plug all the way through the tire. One end

is secured on the wheel rim and the lever end inserts and removes a probe and needle to push in the plug.

"The Tire Bee has a nice long handle to multiply the force," Breithaupt says.

The YouTube video "Tire Bee Truck Tire Repair Tool" shows the process.

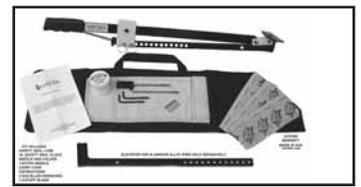
At \$150 for the tool (lifetime warranty) and 12 plugs, Tire Bee easily pays the cost of calling a tire service when there's a flat on the road. Legally, truckers can repair all tires except for steering axle tires, Breithaupt says.

He sells the Tire Bee through his Shreveport, La., business, Non-Stop Scaffolding, and is open to dealer inquiries.

Besides truckers and mechanics, it's a great tool for farmers and construction workers, who can repair their own tires and be back to work within minutes, he says.



Tire Bee repair kit uses a self-vulcanizing plug and a tool that uses compound leverage to push plug all the way through the tire. One end of tool is secured on wheel rim.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Non-Stop Scaffolding, 1314 Hoadley Street, Shreveport, La. 71104 (ph 800 845-0845; www.tirebee.com).

Build Your Own Hydroponic Garden

"We started hydroponic gardening because of the porous soil in our area. It was like pouring fertilizer down a black hole," says Nathaniel Burson of Big Sandy, Texas.

Since he couldn't find a small-scale hydroponic system, he built and designed both horizontal and vertical models for his family's use. They worked so well he now sells instructional DVD's to teach others how to build their own.

The horizontal "hydroponic lettuce run" is 4 by 10-ft and costs about \$200 if you buy everything new, including seven 10-ft. pipes, a holding tank, pump and other parts.

"It's easy to put together, and you don't have to know much about gardening to do it," Burson says. "It's a good start-up for a small business." Besides building plans, the DVD includes information about where to purchase fertilizer and how to grow lettuce and herbs."

The plants grow in cubes with a water and fertilizer mix continuously flowing by. Burson notes that his 10-ft. long setup grows a "phenomenal amount" of lettuce and/or herbs. "It's more than several families can consume," Burson says. "In peak production, it is not at all uncommon to pick 10

to 20 pounds of lettuce off this bed - every other day."

He adds that there is a growing demand for gourmet lettuce at stores and restaurants. "There's no dirt, so the lettuce is perfectly clean," he adds.

Lettuce grows in temperatures between 40 and 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The hydroponic system can be built at any height for grower comfort.

The biggest advantage may be the small amount of space it requires. Burson's vertical design only needs 1 by 4-sq. ft. of floor space. It is ideal for growing strawberries, but can also grow lettuce and herbs.

"Cost for the vertical garden DVD and the lettuce garden DVD is 49.95 for the pair, with free shipping. They can also be purchased separately on the website, along with other gardening DVDs that have been featured in Farm Show.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Easiest-garden.com, 10758 St. Hwy. 155 S., Big Sandy, Texas 75755 (ph 903 576-6800; orders@easiestgarden.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 157



Nathaniel Burson teaches others how to build both horizontal and vertical small-scale hydroponic systems.



In horizontal "hydroponic lettuce run", plants grow in cubes with a water and fertilizer mix continuously flowing by.