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Tractor-Mounted “Gasser” Kills Gophers, Ground Squirrels

Ron Cole, Clive, Alta., converted his old Allis Chalmers WD tractor into a portable gopher gasser. The unit mounts on the left side of the tractor between the front and rear wheels. “It’s a simple, cheap way to kill gophers and is easy to operate. I never have to get off the tractor seat,” he says.

He started with a single, heavy-duty concave disc. He welded a 6-in. high metal “skirt” made from 1/8-in. thick steel around the underside of the disc and bolted a universal joint on top of it. A length of telescoping square tubing attaches to the universal joint and is also connected to a hydraulic cylinder, which in turn is attached to a control lever on the tractor that’s used to raise or lower the disc.

A heavy rubber fuel hose runs from a hole cut into the top of the disc to a metal pipe that’s clamped onto the telescoping tubing. A flexible metal hose is clamped to the top of the pipe and also to a coupling that attaches to the tractor’s exhaust pipe.

“It really works well. Some of my neighbors have even borrowed my tractor,” says Cole. “When I spot a new gopher mound, I pull

back on the hydraulic control lever to lower the disc over the gopher hole. The universal joint allows the disc to lay flat over the hole and seal it off, regardless of the topography. I let the engine run for about 1 1/2 min. at a fast throttle. Sometimes I’ll see smoke coming up from 3 or 4 other holes in the area which means they’re all connected together and I can kill all the animals at one time.

“After gassing a hole I seal it by lifting the disc off the ground and driving ahead 1 ft. or so. Then I lower the disc, back up, and drag dirt into the hole. It’s a humane way to exterminate destructive pests, and doesn’t poison other desired wildlife.”

He says the hose that connects to the disc has to be flexible in order to raise or lower the disc. “I used a heavy rubber fuel hose to do the job. I have to be careful that I don’t run the tractor at full speed, or the hose will get too hot and start to smoke.”

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Suspension kit lets you drive zero-turn riding mowers faster and with fewer bumps. It works on new or used mowers without front end suspension.

“Easy Rider” Suspension Kit For Zero-Turn Mowers

You can drive zero-turn mowers faster and with fewer bumps with the Easy Rider Springs Suspension Kit from Nance Innovations. Retrofit new or used mowers without front end suspension, or replace poorly designed OEM suspension.

“A smoother ride saves equipment wear and also your back,” says John Nance, Nance Innovations. “Some zero-turn mower manufacturers use coil springs and shock absorbers, but these can be expensive and can still cause bouncing and gouging in some instances. The Easy Rider has rubber torsion springs that are designed with pressure up and down to immediately self center and therefore eliminate bounce and gouging.”

Nance developed the Easy Rider rubber torsion springs at the request of a local landscaping firm. After suffering several broken forks and frames, they asked Nance for help. He developed a compression and torsion damping system that fits the standard caster wheel fork systems.

“My kit uses the existing forks, but reverses them,” explains Nance. “With the torsion arms installed, the wheels are left at their original location and height. Installation takes 10 min. or less.”



Kit uses mower’s existing caster wheel forks, but reverses them.

Since the suspension elements are only under pressure when the wheels are riding up over an obstruction or dropping into a depression, there is no noticeable wear. Nance says he has had several sets on machines for 3 years with no problems.

Eventually he hopes to license the Easy Rider. Currently he is producing the kits himself. The price ranges from \$180 to \$220, depending on the make and model of mower.

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To make this dog house, Robert Wallrath cut a hinged lid into the top end of a 55-gal. plastic barrel. Lid is held open by an L-shaped bracket to form a shaded opening.

Barrel Dog House

You can convert an ordinary 55-gal. plastic barrel into an inexpensive dog house, says Robert Wallrath of Houston, Texas.

The barrel is screwed down horizontally onto treated 2 by 4’s. A hinged lid is cut into the top end of the barrel and is held open by an L-shaped bracket to form a shaded opening. Liquid nail seals the gap to keep out rain. The bungee hole on top of the barrel



serves as a vent.

“The bottom edge of the lid was cut 1 in. up from the barrel in order to keep water out,” says Wallrath. “The barrel does a good job of holding heat during the winter. I put a rug inside it for my dog to lay on,” says Wallrath.

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Jim Criger says his “barrel piglet carrier” is sturdy enough to hold more than 100 lbs., yet small enough to fit into the trunk or back seat of a car.

Handy Critter Carrier

A 55-gal. plastic water barrel can be turned into a handy carrier for pigs and other small animals, says Jim Criger of Springfield, Mo.

He says his “barrel piglet carrier” is sturdy enough to hold more than 100 lbs., yet small enough to fit into the trunk or back seat of a car. The barrel can be easily cleaned by spraying it down with a hose.

To build the carrier he cut a large square hole in the top of the barrel, then welded together some 1 1/2 by 1-in. angle iron and fitted it into the hole, adding hinges to attach

to a drop-down door that locks in place with a cotter pin.

“It’ll hold just about anything that fits through the door. I’ve used it to transport everything from hunting dogs to pigeons, as well as my Red Wattle piglets,” says Jim. “The piglets’ pointed hooves can’t puncture the barrel’s thick plastic.”

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