

# Reader Letters



Thanks for your article in the 2014 Best Of FARM SHOW on my "Machine Age Lamps" made from tractor dashes or old steam gauges. We've had tremendous response from FARM SHOW readers.

I thought you might be interested in this lamp one of your readers had me make for his father. The dash was taken from his father's early 1959 pickup. We mounted it on a piece of barn wood taken from a building on their farm. It's wired so the dash lights will function when the lamp is turned on. (**Shawn Carling, Machine Age Lamps; ph 612 804-2247; www.machineagelamps.com**)



My husband calls this his "Poor Man's Chainsaw". People get a kick out of it. He said it was just "something to do". My idea is to make tarp weights out of 1-qt. plastic bottles. I cut out a small circle of wood and glue it to the inside of the bottle cap. Then I screw a small brass hook into the top of the bottle cap, fill the bottle with sand, and screw the cap back onto the bottle. You can hang them onto the tarp wherever needed. (**Jerry A. Beech Sr., 302 Buckey Ct., Ironton, Mo. 63650**)

We haul a lot of round bales on flatbed trailers, loading from either side. I painted a bright orange line down the center of the trailer so I can tell at a glance where the bale is to be set. Saves a lot of guesswork. (**Harve Moses, Toledo, Ill.**)

Regarding the man in your last issue who listed his Rage Evolution chop saw as his "worst buy", I sell these saws and also use them myself. All I can say is that he must have gotten a bad blade. My customers report excellent results and I use my saw to cut heavy-gauge oilfield pipe with no problems. He should just contact the company and they'll take care of it. (**Mike Tarver, 75 Tarver Dr., Many, La. 71449; ph 318 256-2182**)

In the last issue there was a story about a fellow who added an automotive valve stem to a hand sprayer. I wish you wouldn't have run that idea because a neighbor near us was killed using air pressure in this manner. He was a farmer and should have known better about the dangers of compressed air. But accidents happen and compressed air is dangerous. (**Dwane Hansen, Sheridan, Mich.**)



When working in the garden, mosquitoes and black flies are often so thick they drive me back into the house. I solved the problem by getting a blower from a junked oil furnace and making a bag out of mosquito netting, which I put over the outlet of the blower. Then I mounted the blower on a 6-ft. post and plugged it in (the blower sits inside a chunk of tire attached to the top of the post). The insects always seem to gather behind my head so every once in a while, while working, I walk over to the blower with my head close and watch the bugs get sucked in. By the end of the day, there's about a cupful of bugs in the bag. After a few days they seemed to be thinned out over a large area. I also use the blower on my back porch at night for mosquitoes. (**Jim Rebrovich, Bigfork, Minn.**)

My 9-year-old daughter, Bianca, does the chores around our place when she gets home from school. She recently found



this egg in one of our nests. At first she thought someone was playing a joke on her. It weighs about 5 oz. and is 7 in. around. It's just shy of a world record but still very impressive. Our hens are a mixed breed ranging from Plymouth Rocks, White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, and others. (**Robin Woodbury, Coleman, Mich.; tinkermama420@yahoo.com**)

I buy room shades in the baby department at Walmart and stick them with suction cups to the windows inside my tractor for use on hot days. Keeps the cab cooler and is great at sundown. (**Larry Bultman, Okawville, Ill.**)

When I need a gearshift knob on a tractor, truck or other equipment, I drill a 1/16-in. dia. undersized hole halfway through a golf ball and thread it on the shaft. It stays tight and you can get a good grip on it. (**Norman Symonds; rockfarmer68@hotmail.com**)

I always enjoy reading FARM SHOW but when you write about solar power, some important information is always left out. The article in your last issue, called "It's A Great Time To Start Farming The Sun" is a case in point. The grants and tax credits that make solar affordable means the government takes money from your neighbors and gives it to you. And selling power back to your utility means your neighbors will have to pay higher electrical rates to purchase "renewable" energy. Maybe the title of the



I've been manufacturing trash-burning barrels for the past 10 years and have shipped more than 300 of them to customers all over the country. They were featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 29, No. 6 issue.

I wanted to let your readers know that I'm selling this business for \$5,000. I currently have orders for more than 100 units, but don't have the time to complete them. Since I started I've made more than \$100,000 on this part time business, and met many wonderful people.

Gutschmidt Burn Barrels are made from used 265-gal. fuel tanks and mount on 4 legs, with skirting around the bottom to keep ash contained. The bottom has a large hole with a heavy grate on it for ash to fall through once burned. There's a large hinged door with a latch as well as a chimney for good draft. No more

wind blowing burning trash around, like happens with open barrels. Dogs, cats and other animals can't get inside to dig in the trash as it's thrown away.

Tools required to build the trash barrels include a low amperage wire welder, a hand grinder with cutting and grinding wheels, a reciprocating saw, drill, oxygen/acetylene torch, straight edge, square, and several vise-grip pliers. Included in the sale of the business is all leftover inventory, including a number of barrels and enough angle iron to make legs for 25 barrels. I also have extra chimneys, door latches, door handles, leg pads, etc. (**Roger Gutschmidt, Gutschmidt Mfg., LLC, 6651 Hwy 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442; ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net**)

article should have been, "How To Start Sticking It To Your Neighbors". (**Doug Hoort, doddoughoort@hotmail.com**)



Here's a cheap way to make a covered, hay-saving round bale feeder. We just attached an old satellite dish to the top rail on a bale feeder with a few bolts. It's very lightweight and tough so it's easy to set the feeder over the top of a bale. (**Cathy Vandermissen, Wilson, Mich.**)



I enjoyed your article (Vol. 38, No. 2, p. 5) about converting rural roads to farmland, and it brought to mind something I saw near Lancaster, Penn.

The photo shows a 4-lane highway where construction was stopped and the land put back into the hands of

the original owners. The photo was taken from an overpass that goes over the roadbed below. I don't know the official reason why construction on this road was halted, but I think that at the time some of the road was paved and then they covered it with dirt. (**Harold Hutton, 99 Brookside Dr., Apt. 206, Clinton, N.Y. 13323**)



I have large fingers and found it almost impossible to pull my Sorrel pack boots on. The problem was that I couldn't get my finger into the small puller loop that's sewn into the back side of the boot. So I whittled down a short piece of scrap wood until it was small enough to fit through the puller, forming a handle. Now I just slip it through the loop and pull the boots right on. (**Bill Halstead, 3980 Schreiner Rd., Dowling, Mich. 49050; ph 269 758-3232; bhalstea@yahoo.com**)

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