



Terry Jacob uses his hydraulic culvert “reshaper” to fix damaged culvert ends that often plug up with heavy rains.

## How To Reshape Damaged Culverts

Terry Jacob has a solution to fix damaged culvert ends that plug up with every rain. He reshapes them with his hydraulic culvert “reshaper”. The scissors-action jack slips inside and pushes bent ends back into shape in minutes.

“Galvanized, corrugated culverts on country roads cost hundreds to thousands of dollars to be replaced,” says Jacob. “We live in a flat part of Kansas and it’s a serious problem. Residue from fields get trapped and constricts flow, and we get drainage issues.”

Jacob’s reshaper was originally designed to pick up tractors, but he modified the saddles with pieces of channel iron to fit the shape of common culvert sizes.

“Without the saddles, the jack would just rip the steel, but with the saddles, it conforms to the shape of the culvert,” says Jacob.

The scissors jack collapses down to about 7 to 8 in. to slip inside the bent end of a culvert. If the end is smashed down even farther, Jacob edges the 4-in. high nose into the hole and slowly raises the bend enough for the entire jack to enter.

“I use 30-ft. hydraulic hoses off a tractor to power it, with one person at the culvert and one on the tractor,” says Jacob. “I can also hook it up to a power pack used for pickup-



Scissors jack collapses to slip inside bent end of culvert.

mounted bale spears.”

Reshaping a culvert will still be a 2-person job as the 60 lb. scissors jack is awkward for one to handle. Regardless, it could be a good way to get culverts at discount.

Jacob recently used his reshaper to repair new culverts that were bent being handled by loaders.

“I was able to go inside and bend them back,” he says.

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## Add-On Safety Legs For Ladders

Until he added legs to his aluminum extension ladder, Dale Rogers hated climbing it. Placed against a round pole or the side of a round building, he disliked it even more. However, with the added legs, he no longer worries.

“Extended to maximum length, extension ladders get pretty wobbly and springy. Against a round building, they can fall to either side pretty easily and quickly,” says Rogers.

Unable to find a ladder with a wider base, Rogers decided to make braces to reinforce and stabilize his existing ladder. He cut short pieces of 1-in. aluminum pipe sized to fit inside the rungs of his ladder. He then cut 1-in. slots in the ends of 8 to 10-ft., 1 1/4-in. square aluminum tubing. After drilling holes through the square tubing and the pipes, he bolted them together.

“Before climbing the ladder, I insert the short pipes into ladder rungs and position the other end of the square tubes out to the side of the ladder and closer to the building the ladder rests against,” explains Rogers. “This way the ladder won’t move sideways in a wind, and it is reinforced, so it isn’t so springy when I am going up or down.”

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Dale Rogers made safety braces to reinforce and stabilize his aluminum extension ladder. They’re particularly helpful when ladder is placed against a round building.



Hay Handles come with 4 1/2-in. long hand grips that mount between aluminum arms. They let you grab the strings or wires on small square bales.



## “Hay Handles” Make Bales Easy To Carry

You can pick up and carry wire or twine-tied small square bales easily with Hand Saver Hay Handles. Developed by Lynn R. Nesbitt, the Hay Handles grab bale ties with a comfortable grip for short transports.

“These aren’t meant to replace sharp bale hooks for use at harvest, but they work great moving a bale to a horse stall or similar short transports throughout the year,” says Nesbitt. “They are safe, simple and lightweight.”

Nesbitt has a patent pending on the Hay Handles. After applying for it, he discovered it is the first patent applied for for handling small squares since about 1900. That one had sharp hooks that dig into the bale.

Nesbitt has shared several sets of Hay Handles with large hay producers he knows. So far, feedback has been positive.

“We are making them by hand at this point, but may be close to finding a firm to make them in quantity,” he says.

The Hay Handles have 4 1/2-in. long hand grips fashioned from wood dowels that mount between aluminum arms on 1/4-in. all thread axles. The arms, with their recessed jaws to grab the bale ties, are also reinforced with 1/4-in. all-thread rod.

“The hand grips and arms are basically unbreakable,” says Nesbitt.

The handmade Hand Saver Hay Handles are currently priced at \$14.95 per pair, plus shipping and handling.

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## Fluid Transfer Systems For Oil And Anti-Freeze

Fran Voss and his crew at Emerson Manufacturing in Pender, Neb. are best known for building and selling a variety of hydraulic jacks and related lift equipment. But the company also sells a handy oil changing caddy and pressurized fluid transfer system for handling waste anti-freeze and waste oil.

Emerson’s Lubeq self-evacuation oil drain holds 21 gal. and comes with two sturdy plastic drain bowls. The basic bowl is 15 1/2-in. dia. and the 14-in. size is a strainer for oil filters. A 21-in. dia. model funnel is used to drain transmissions. The drain bowl mechanism for the holding tank adjusts up 40 in. to 60 in. and is secured by a locking pin to hold the bowl in place and protect accidental blow out. The tank rolls on 3 swivel casters, 2 of which can be locked to hold the unit in place. Emptying the tank is done when the tank is pressurized to 12 psi and a valve to the 6 ft. drain hose attached to the bottom of the tank is opened. A safety valve is set at 15 psi. The unit sells for \$445.

Emerson also offers an ATF-16A Antifreeze Caddy and the OC-16A Waste Oil Caddy for quick and mess-free fluid changes. Both devices catch fluids in a 16-gal. receptacle that’s 9 1/2 in. high and 20 in. dia. A splash guard on the catch basin defuses fluid as it drains into the pan. Emptying the pan is done by pressurizing it to 12 psi, then moving the 8-ft. long drain hose to a tank or barrel. For easier storage, the caddy stands on end and has a drip guard in the drain pan to keep fluids from draining on the floor. The Antifreeze Caddy has a 3/4-in. flow control valve on the



Handy oil changing caddy and pressurized fluid transfer system is designed to handle waste oil and anti-freeze.

drain hose and a reusable 100-micron tubular screen filter.

Late in the 1960’s Voss ran a truck service business and had the opportunity to start selling shop equipment to other dealers. The parts and tools he sold included a good line of hydraulic jacks and truck lifts, a product line that his company eventually started manufacturing at his business in Pender, Neb. Today the company makes and sells more than 150 different products including bottle jacks, wheel jacks, truck ramps, fluid transfer systems, cylinder locks and filter crushers.

“We’re still a family-owned business just like it was when Ray started,” says marketing director Holly Koopman.

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