

Overhead Shop Hoist Built With Independent Footings

Marion Shaner, Lebo, Kansas, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of an overhead shop hoist he built with a non-bearing floor load. The hoist is free to move back and forth on a 24-ft. long I-beam that's supported at each end by a vertical steel beam and extends from one side of the shop to the other.

"My fiancée and I were anticipating an approaching wedding and, at the same time, planning to build a new 48 by 96-ft. slant walled shop. I told her if she would take care of the church activities, I'd take care of the wedding reception and hold it on our farm," says Shaner. "My plan was to pour the shop's 6-in. thick concrete floor and then rent a big tent and put it up over the floor. I planned to build the rest of the shop later on after the wedding.

"The floor had to be smooth and clear, with nothing on it or around it that could puncture the tent material as the workers spread it out before erecting it.

"I wanted an overhead hoist, but I didn't want one that bolts to the floor because I thought the hoist's concentrated weight might crack the concrete."

He first dug four 6-ft. deep, 18-in. dia. holes, 2 on each side of the floor for 2 vertical 8-in. support beams. He inserted a heavy duty, 18-in. dia. ribbed poly culvert into each hole and poured 2 ft. of concrete into the bottom to hold the culvert in place. Then he poured the concrete floor and let it dry. He also covered the opening at the top of each culvert with a 1/4-in. thick steel plate set flush to the floor, and it remained covered during the wedding reception.

After the wedding he welded a steel shoe plate to the bottom of each support beam. Then he set the beam into the hole, added



Overhead shop hoist moves back and forth on a 24-ft. long I-beam supported at each end by a vertical steel beam.



Vertical beam sets inside 6-ft. deep, 18-in. dia. hole lined by a ribbed poly culvert and filled with 2 ft. of concrete.

sand and packed it down, and topped the hole off with 2 ft. of concrete to hold the beam in place.

"It's an easy way to make a support beam footing independent of the building," says Shaner.

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Labels Make Grabbing Tools Easy

Stick-on-labels make finding tools and parts easy. Marie Golden started the company, Steel Labels, to make labels for keys, but her husband Bob suggested labels for sockets and toolboxes.

"I came up with them because I can't see the engraved numbers anymore," says Bob. "Everything we do is to help people see."

What they do has grown exponentially, and now they offer dozens of different labels for crafts, electrical boxes, pill bottles, fishing tackle and more. All the labels are made with oil and gas resistant adhesive and come 60 to a sheet. Some also are available with magnetic backing and come 30 to a sheet. Special limited edition theme labels including classic cars, police, veteran and 12 other designs are also available.

The 4-layer composite process starts with a precision cut chrome foil base and the adhesive. Eye-saver color combinations - bright white on a blue background, white on green for metric sockets, and white on red for SAE - are printed on the foil. A clear coat is applied to protect against wear and scratches.

All single sheet sets are priced at \$3.95 plus \$1.98 shipping. Multiple sets, groups and combinations are available at discounts depending on kind and number of sets. Shipping is free on any purchase of 2 or more sets.

"We are introducing a special Master Set that includes all our labels for \$45," says Golden.

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Stick-on labels work great on socket wrenches (above) and toolboxes. They're available with oil and gas resistant adhesive or magnetic backing.



There's quite a difference between the "before and after" photos of this International 966 restored by Jeff Weller and his crew at Elite Restorations.

Restoration Specialist Makes Old Tractors New Again

"I grew up on a farm and enjoyed working on tractors from age 12 on, so you might say I've been working at it for 40 years," says Jeff Weller, who owns and operates Elite Restorations in Pennsylvania. "From the farm I went into the Air Force and spent several years painting F-4 and F-14 jets. After that, it was back to my small town, driving truck, restoring cars and an occasional tractor."

Weller initially planned to refurbish and restore maybe one or two tractors a year, but his customers had other ideas. "Every few weeks someone would call and want me to work on a tractor, so that's what I did," says Weller. Tractor restoration became his full time business in 1995 and today he has a full time employee and his 2 sons work part time in the business. "We're turning out at least one tractor a month, and sometimes more than that," Weller says.

Most of Weller's customers are repeat buyers who choose him because of the excellent quality work he turns out. An accountant and small farm owner "sends me one tractor after another and has for quite awhile," Weller says. He also has two large farmers who give him a different tractor to work on every year.

"Personally I like working on IH and Farmall tractors, because that's what I grew up with," Weller says. "However, I also work on Minneapolis Molines, an occasional Oliver, and my boys are always working on something green."

Weller started his business in a small workspace. It has since grown to include a large shop for teardown and assembly and a custom made paint booth. In the warmer months the crew also works outside in a carport next to the shop.

"For most restorations we rebuild the engine, carburetor, exhaust system, drive train and brakes. We put in a new ignition system, repair all the metal, sandblast it clean, then give it 3 coats of paint and 3 coats of enamel. New decals and new tires round out the work so the collector has a 'like new' tractor when we're done."

One customer sent him an old and thoroughly rusted Oliver 70 to be completely rebuilt and repainted. "I told the man he could probably find a nice one at auction for way less than what I'd charge, but he was very emphatic. He told me his grandpa had bought the tractor new and that he'd followed my work on Facebook for 2 years. I was the one he wanted to do the work." Weller gladly accepted. Some customers, he says, may end up paying 2 to 3 times more than what a tractor is worth for restoration because of sentimental value.

Weller says they occasionally work on a car or truck, but about 95 percent of their business is restoring tractors. He also sells repair parts for old tractors and ag tires.

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Easier Way To Drill Into Ceilings

You can easily and safely drill holes into ceilings or trusses while standing on the floor with this new KwikPole invented by Reed Felton.

"It's much safer to use than a ladder or loader bucket. Works great for attaching fasteners such as clevis hangers or lag screws that can be used to hang pipes or electrical conduit, etc.," says Felton.

The company offers 2 sizes of KwikPoles - one reaches 12 ft. high and the other 16 ft. "Both poles are made of high tolerance, anodized pneumatic cylinder tubing inside a carbon fiber outer pole. This combination of high quality materials allows you to telescope the pole to its limit without having excessive wobble due to sloppy fitting parts," says Felton. "Both poles have a solid aluminum collar that houses a spring-loaded, 3/8-in. dia metal pin, allowing the pole to be extended in 6-in. increments. Since the pole's position is held by the solid 3/8-in. metal pin, the poles can be used as drill extensions in applications where high torque is needed."

The company even offers a KwikPole



Cordless drill attaches to lower end of Kwik Pole for overhead drilling.

drill press. It's designed to drill holes into a concrete or metal ceiling and can be equipped with either a standard cordless drill or an SDS+ drill. Once the pole is set into place, a lever pushes the drill upward like a press.

The short KwikPole sells for \$525 plus S&H, the long KwikPole sells for \$625, and the KwikPole drill press sells for \$825.

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