

# Reader Letters



I attach a 5-gal. bucket to my mower frame with spring hooks. Besides carrying tools, the bucket is a handy container for trash and sticks that I retrieve with a grabber. (Sean Gogerty, Madrid, Iowa)



Here's an idea I saw recently to make stanchions to hold yellow caution ribbons or to rope off areas to control crowds. You weld 4-ft. lengths of 1-in. pipe onto disk blades with the concave side faced down. Works great. (Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa)

For safety reasons when working around machinery, it's not safe to use a scarf. Instead, I make "neck gaiters" by removing the threads from the crown of an inexpensive stocking cap and then pull the tube down over my head. It protects your whole neck. If it's really cold, you can pull it up to cover your nose and ears. (Jim Shover, Somerset, Ohio)



I've always disliked the waste of throwing away small pieces of soap. You can wet two pieces and stick them together but it doesn't work that well. I recently hit on the idea of using a propane torch to heat two pieces of soap before pressing them together. It's fast, easy and the resulting bar of soap is solid. (Paul Tierney, Bloomington, Minn.)

I made an inexpensive "air-ride" seat for my riding lawn mower by putting a soccer ball under the flip-up seat. The ball is only inflated about 1/4 full. Big relief for a tender back. (Richard Depenbusch, Zenda, Kan.)

I am very attractive to mosquitos for some reason. I tried every cream and other method to stop the itching but they wouldn't work for me. Finally, I hit on the idea of using paint remover. It burns like the dicens for a while but that's the end of the itch. (Al Rens, Hull, Iowa)

When traveling on the road with my wife and 4 boys, you can have a hot meal



without having to stop at a restaurant by putting a can of Dinty Moore Beef Stew, or other soups, on the manifold of your car or pickup. After 30 to 40 min., it'll be warmed up ready to eat and, with the new easy-open cans, you don't need a can opener. Just remember to pack a pair of gloves and spoons. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)

I built this small trailer to pull behind my garden tractor and use it to pick up trash and move small loads of dirt. It's mounted on the running gear off an old spray rig.



The box measures 24 in. wide by 30 in. long, and the back side is hinged so it can be raised to dump. The tailgate can be pulled out when needed. A spring-loaded catch on front keeps the box from rattling around when it's empty, and a metal foot keeps the trailer's hitch off the ground. (Robert H. Meacham, trainman109@att.net)



My wife and I got these single bottom moldboard plows from an 86-year-old friend. We took the plows apart and used a DeWalt grinder with a wire brush and sanding disc to clean them up, then used the original nuts and bolts to put them back together. We researched the colors used by manufacturers during the time these plows were built and tried to paint them accordingly.

The blue plow is a True Blue Mount, the white one a Vulcan, and the red one a B.F. Avery. My wife painted the raised lettering on the other side of the plow in yellow, using a fine brush on the B.F. Avery. We're starting up an antique tractor and implement restoration business so that we can bring history back to life and keep it alive. (Robert R. Barnes, 8056 Carrie Drive, Benton, Ark. 72019 ph 501 317-9295; barnesrobert94@yahoo.com)

I had been using a "pine pellet" type of cat litter instead of the more common clay-based cat litter. One day I noticed the pellets my daughter was using in her wood stove looked just like my pine pellet cat litter, so I decided to try them and found they work equally as well. A 40-lb. bag of wood stove pellets sells for about \$5. It costs only pennies per use. (Gerilyne Heston, 130 Kellys Hill, Grand Marais, Minn. 55604 ph 218 387-1235; gerilyneheston@gmail.com)

I enjoy helping FARM SHOW readers who want to build their own mini loaders. About a year and a half ago I built a mini loader for my Deere 318 garden tractor that was featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 39, No. 3). It's designed mainly to move snow and lift heavy objects up into my pickup.

Then last spring I made an even better loader for my Deere 445 garden tractor (Vol. 40, No. 3). It's designed to fit Deere 425, 445, and 455 models and is based on an entirely different design. It lifts 54



My son, Andy, welded together this large "mobile" for a retired neighbor. The parts came from old cars. The long balance beam is two leaf springs welded together. It balances on a curved piece of erod that's anchored to a wheel hub. There's a flywheel and pulley at either end of the balance beam. They're mounted sideways so they catch the wind. A slight breeze makes it move around, making it very interesting to watch. (Harry Brzeski, harrybrzeski@gmail.com)

in. high. I call it my ACME Iron Wex Loader. Anyone with good fabricating skills can build it.



I'm still getting responses from your readers on these two loaders. Now I've come up with yet another loader design for the Deere 445. This loader has a 48-in. wide bucket that lifts 60 in. high and operates off the tractor's standard hydraulic system. Works great for material handling, snow removal and landscape work.

A local metal shop laser-cut the lift booms and formed the bucket. Otherwise, I did all the design, welding and fabricating work by myself.

Ever since my dad taught me how to arc weld back when I was about 13, I've loved making stuff out of steel. I also have a fascination with hydraulics. I really got inspired by garden tractor loaders I had seen on the internet, and that led me to pursue these projects. I also get a lot of inspiration from FARM SHOW. I'd be happy to help anyone who wants to try his hand at making a loader like mine. (Steve Nichols, 1248 N. Seminary St., Galesburg, Ill. 61401 ph 309 337-7141; seminarybob@gmail.com)



We harvested some field peas during a stretch of hot weather and stored them in our hopper bin. We had to cool them down so they wouldn't spoil, but the hopper bin didn't have an aeration tube and we didn't want to move the peas to another bin and risk cracking them.

To solve the problem we used scrap lumber to make an 18-in. sq. box, leaving it open on top and cutting out a hole on one side. We bolted the top side of the box to the bin unloading chute, then bolted a 3 hp centrifugal fan onto the side of the box kept peas from coming out of the bin while still allowing the fan to blow air through.

It worked. In two weeks we were able to bring the peas' temperature down from 93 to 70 degrees. This process took longer than if we had used a bin with an aeration tube, but at least we didn't have to make the peas around. We're willing to make this box for others on special order. (Herb Rempel, Box 44, Rosenort, Manitoba Canada ph 204 746-8469; herbr@gninc.ca)

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