

## Fast Way To Strip Heavy Cable

Sid Stubbs collects rubber-coated battery cables to strip and recycle. Recently he cashed in a pile of old cables for several hundred dollars. His cable stripper made the job easy and safe.

"I can run through a lot of cables in a very short time," says Stubbs. "All I have to do is push the cable in one end and pull the sliced open cable out the other."

Stubbs prevents the knife from slipping while cutting open cables by mounting it in a device, which in turn fits a bench vise. To make a stripper, he starts with a pipe large enough for the cables to go through.

"I cut a slot in one side of the end of a steel pipe with a hacksaw," says Stubbs. "The slot is just big enough for the draw knife blade. Then I slip the pipe into a short piece of square tubing and spot-weld it in place. Different size cables require different

size pipes."

To attach the knife, Stubbs brazes several links of roller chain to make a support arm. "Roller chain can be used for all sorts of things," he says. "In this case, I brazed 3 posts to make a solid arm and left the fourth post loose to act as a hinge. I then brazed the other end of the last link to the square tubing and attached the draw knife to the brazed roller chain links with a hose clamp."

To use the cable stripper, he inserts the square tube into the bench vise and secures it. He then slips a wood wedge between the tube and the roller chain.

"The size of the wood wedge determines the pitch of the knife blade," explains Stubbs. "When a cable is pushed against the knife blade, the pressure holds the wood block in place. If I want a sharper angle for the blade, I just use a bigger block of wood."



Sid Stubbs uses his bench vise-mounted cable stripper to remove the rubber from battery cables. "I can strip a lot of cables in a very short time," he says.

The cable stripper lets Stubbs handle the cable without worrying about the knife blade slipping. It gives him a very stable work area that is safe and can strip lots of cable very quickly.

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Just 15 years old, Brooke Santl makes and sells high-top tables from 2 by 4's.

## Teenage Girls Make Outdoor Furniture From 2 by 4's

One of Brooke Santl's favorite things about making outdoor furniture is the expression on buyers' faces when they learn it was made by a 15-year-old. Her older sister, Taylor, 18, likes the fact that she can make money working on the family's Roseau, Minn., farm, rather than driving to town to work.

Their father, Neil Santl, got them started as entrepreneurs. In addition to growing small grain crops, Santl has made custom cabinets for 20 years. For the past 4 years, his daughters have helped him install the finished cabinets.

Neil and his daughters collaborated on a design for benches and later made some

for their own firepit. When they learned they could sell furniture at local farmers markets, they decided to make a few pieces and test the market.

With a set list of measurements for each piece, the girls cut 2 by 4's on a miter saw, run them through a planer, orbital sand them, and stain them. Working with jigs, Neil helps assemble the furniture with some glue and screws. He also shapes the bistro tops with a jigsaw, but the girls do all the rest of the work.

"I didn't think it would be a huge business, but it's bigger than I thought," Neil admits, and his daughters have built and sold quite a few pieces in their first year. They have



Taylor, who's 18 years old, specializes in benches and picnic tables.

already had repeat business from Twin Cities customers.

Taylor builds benches and picnic tables and hopes to make a lounge chair in the future. Brooke makes 5-ft. bars and bistro sets (small tables with tall chairs).

"I like to sit at a bar because I'm short and I want to feel taller," Brooke explains. "We like doing our own things, so we can't copy each other."

One thing they have in common is that they like most parts of building - except for the sanding. They also offer all their furniture in six colors using exterior deck stains.

That keeps it simpler, Neil says. Typically people order the color and style they want

based on the display models the Santls take to farmers markets and shows. This past summer, the girls worked hard to build up inventory to have enough furniture to sell at area community festivals and did very well at one of them. The furniture sells between \$140 for benches to \$540 for bar sets. Most are used outside, but some are used as breakfast nooks or in entry ways of homes.

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## Whitewashing Business Still Going Strong

Thomas Harrison and his old-fashioned barn whitewashing business was first featured in FARM SHOW several years ago (Vol. 36, No. 3). Sadly, he passed away in November 2017. Jan Meigs recently contacted us with an update.

Whitewashing is a traditional, natural way to sanitize stanchion dairy barns with hydrated lime and water. Most of the Harrison family's customers are dairy farmers. Some of their customers also use it to brighten old barns.

"Harrison's granddaughter, Kate Redus, is continuing the business with the help of her sister and other family members. As a result, Harrison Whitewash Service is still family owned and operated but is now

manned by an all-girl team," says Jan. They clean and whitewash barns within a 150-mile radius of their home base in Eagle Bridge, N.Y.

Kate had been whitewashing alongside her grandpa for many years, so Jan says she is proud to carry the torch. "So far, Kate hasn't changed the business at all. She keeps Tom's hat and gloves on the dashboard of their truck just as they were when he was with them. Kate feels that Tom is with them in spirit; sometimes having a good laugh at some of their adventures."

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Trailer-mounted whitewashing system includes an air compressor, along with a mixing tank, hoses, tools and accessories. An all-girl team does the work.

