

## Meet The Ripper - A New Kind Of ATV

Brice Crawford has an alternative to conventional ATV's - a stand-on machine called the Ripper.

"The goal of the Ripper is to provide users with a vehicle that is as easy to use as a golf cart, as fun to ride as a stand-on Scooter, and as versatile as an ATV," Crawford says, noting that it's small enough so that 3 Rippers will fit in a pickup bed.

With foldable handlebars, the Ripper is about 1/3 the width of an ATV and half as long. With front and rear racks it's handy for hauling hay bales and feed buckets and is narrow enough (30.2 in.) to drive through doors.

The Ripper weighs 212 lbs., has a 350-lb. weight capacity, and travels at speeds up to 13 mph. Powered by a Honda engine, a tank of gas lasts about 4 hrs. or 40 miles.

The base model is \$3,495 and the electric start is \$3,995. The seat option is \$300 and

a camo model adds on \$250 to the standard red and black models. Crawford plans to have an all-electric machine next year and to offer a rack to hold the Ripper that will fit into a receiver hitch.

"Our intention is to offer a pull-behind trailer for hauling deer," he adds.

Response at shows this year has been good, and Crawford says people are coming up with new uses for it. For example, shooters can use it for checking long range targets and trap shooters can use it to haul shotguns and loads.

The Ripper can be ordered through the website, and Crawford is setting up dealerships.

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Ripper stand-on ATV has front and rear racks for hauling tools and gear. Add on seat is optional.

## Spring-Loaded "Pusher Tubes" Speed Up Bin Sweep Auger

Paul Sears was watching his nephew use a sweep auger to clean out the last pile of corn in his 32-ft. dia. bin. "He was holding a shovel while standing on one foot and pushing his other foot against the auger to force it into the pile, and using a shovel at the same time to throw any corn that spilled over the top of the auger back onto the pile. It was hard on his back, and if his foot slipped it could be dangerous. He already had a bad back so it wasn't a good situation. I decided to do something about it."

He came up with a couple of long pvc "pusher tubes" that use spring compression to put constant pressure on the auger. "The pusher tubes increase the capacity of the auger to reduce bin unloading time, and also reduce the shoveling work," says Sears.

The 2 tubes are spaced about 7 ft. apart. One tube measures 12 1/2 ft. long by 2 in. in dia., and the other tube is 16 1/2 ft. long by

3 in. in dia. One end of each tube attaches with wire to a bolt on a 2 by 6 board that's attached to the top of the auger, and the other end of the tube lodges against the bin wall.

The tube is made in several jointed sections. One section is capped and has a long spring inside it with about 20 in. of compression. The operator sets the compression by pulling back on a metal handle.

"The spring stays compressed until the auger moves away from it. Then you move the pusher tubes to a new location on the bin wall and reset the spring," says Sears. "The board helps keep grain from spilling over the auger."

Sears is working with a local inventor, and says if there's enough interest he may look for a manufacturer.

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Long pvc "pusher tubes" use spring compression to put constant pressure on bin sweep auger, reducing bin unloading time.



One end of each tube attaches to board on top of auger, and the other end lodges against bin wall.

## "Back-Saving" Pruning Shears

Michael Carr wanted to cut wild rose and blackberry bushes on his property at ground level, without having to bend over. He couldn't find anything on the market so he built his own "back-saving" pruning shears.

The patent pending shears consists of a 3-ft. long pipe with a pair of wood handles at one end and a curved metal blade at the other. A threaded rod runs through the pipe and is attached to brackets at both ends of the pipe, with one end of the rod welded to the blade. As the handles are closed together, the rod rotates the blade which then closes against a stationary, grooved metal "stop".

"It does a great job of clipping material up to 1/2-in. dia. It can be used vertically to cut stems off at ground level or horizontally to cut off branches," says Carr. "I can reach into bushes and clip off branches without having to bend over, and without having to get anywhere near the thorns."

Carr uses various commercial components to put his pruning shears together. He buys hand-operated clippers made in China and cuts off the handles, replacing them with ones made by a local Amish man. A local fabricator cuts the brackets used to attach the handles to the pipe, and Carr welds them on.

He sells the shears on Ebay for \$75, or \$50 if you pick them up at his home.



As shears handles are closed together, a threaded rod rotates a curved metal blade at bottom that closes against a grooved metal "stop".

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## "Crockpot" Chicken Waterer

Janet Forsy of Nashville, Ill., turns old crockpots into low-cost heated waterers for her chickens during the winter.

She plugs the crockpot into an outlet that's wired in series to a dimmer switch that controls the current to the 110-volt wall outlet. It lets her lower the crockpot temperature to just a few degrees above freezing.

She says the heated waterer works good and costs very little to operate. Total cost for all parts was less than \$15.

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Crockpot plugs into a 110-volt wall outlet that's wired in series to a dimmer switch, which lets Forsy lower crockpot temperature to just above freezing.

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