

## 100-Ton Shop-Built Press Brake

Pat Burrington says he couldn't justify spending a bundle of money on a high-capacity press brake for his welding shop, so he built one himself. "I built it several years ago when steel wasn't nearly as costly as it is today, so my investment was probably a third of what it would've cost to buy one," Burrington says.

He made the frame and side pieces for the 100-ton brake using 40 ft. of 12-in. wide by 1-in. thick flat bar steel, stacked vertically for added strength. "I water jetted all the critical pieces like the slides and notches, then flux core welded it all together," Burrington says.

He bought the 7-in. dia. press cylinders, hoses and hydraulic pump from the Surplus Center in Lincoln, Neb. A friend gave him a 3-hp. electric motor and pump, which produces 2,500 psi of working pressure, to operate the press.

"I didn't think I could fabricate the upper and lower dies, so I bought those from a manufacturer's rep I met at the Fabtech trade show in Chicago. Those worked perfectly, and I've used them to bend all types of metal, even water flumes and custom high-strength cardboard boxes. I even made a set of dies to punch in/out the pins and bushings on my Deere MC crawler track instead of having the dealer do it," Burrington says.

For a total cash outlay of about \$4,000 plus his labor, Burrington says his custom-built



**Pat Burrington's "made-it-myself" press brake produces 2,500 psi of working pressure.**

press brake was a worthwhile investment that's paid for itself many times. "Better yet, if anything goes wrong, which it rarely has, I know exactly how to fix it and don't need to call for repairs," he adds.

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**Step is hinged to a steel tube that slides into a slightly larger receiver tube. It, in turn, is butt-welded to a flat steel plate. Two square U-bolts attach the plate to the receiver hitch crossbar.**



## Quick Step For Pickups

Climbing onto a pickup bed doesn't get easier with age unless you have a folding step like Tim Reisenauer. The step plate is attached to a standard receiver hitch crossbar, which in turn is bolted to the underframe of the truck.

"I used a footrest from a discarded wheelchair for the step," says Reisenauer. "It folds up and out of the way when not needed."

The step is hinged to a steel tube that slides into a slightly larger receiver tube. It, in turn,

is butt-welded to a flat steel plate. Two square U-bolts attach the plate to the receiver hitch crossbar.

"If I want to remove it quickly, I just pull the pin that secures the tube on the step to the receiving tube on the steel plate," says Reisenauer. "I can remove the entire step and mounting bracket by removing four nuts."

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## Made-It-Myself Welding Table

Scott Ravenkamp needed a welding table in his shop. He had previously used the main frame of a 40-ft. rod weeder to add a loft to his shop, so he had the rest of the components from the weeder to work with.

"I used the rockshaft from the weeder and the arms it was attached to make the table," says Ravenkamp. "The rockshaft was 6-in. dia. steel tubing that I used for the legs with 3 by 5-in. tubing framing the steel grate that I used for the top. I welded nuts into the grate to match bolt holes in the bases of my vises.

"I can bolt the vises in place or quickly remove them if I want a smooth top," says Ravenkamp.

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**Ravenkamp used steel grate he picked up at an auction for the top, welding it to the top frame. He then welded nuts into the grate to match bolt holes in the bases of his vises.**

## 3-Pt. Mounted Tractor Tool Racks

Tim Descoteaux of Morris, Conn., purchased a Deere 2520 tractor in 2013 and realized he needed more space on it to haul tools and other equipment. Running back and forth from his barn to a spot on his property made it more difficult to finish a task.

"I started BigToolRack to get more out of my compact tractor, Descoteaux says. "I've always had a passion for tractors and farm and landscaping equipment."

Descoteaux was constantly going back and forth moving all his tools. He looked around to see if there was a product that could help him carry what he needed on the tractor. Descoteaux couldn't find anything that worked for him, so he started building a prototype out of metal and wood. He then kept tweaking it to get to what would eventually become the BigToolRack.

As interest in the product grew, Descoteaux says he got serious about the BigToolRack and left his full-time job in 2017.

The BigToolRack allows farmers and property owners to carry their power tools, hand tools, and anything else needed to get a job done. It doubles as a carryall and a ballast weight box. It can be used to carry rakes, shovels, grass seed, straw, and fertilizer.

The BigToolRack is built to work with compact and subcompact tractors. It comes with a counterweight that allows you to hang suitcase weights on the rack to give you the additional ballast you'll need when moving heavy loads with a loader.

"The system easily attaches to a tractor's three-point hitch and still lets you tow a trailer once it's attached to the tractor," he says. "There's a click-on wheel system that converts the rack into a roll-away storage system to neatly store tools in your garage or barn when it's not in use."

He says the wheels telescope up and down so it can work as a tool cart whether it's on or off the tractor.

They recently invented an attachment that will allow the BigToolRack to hook onto the front of the tractor. That's ideal for people working with a backhoe or a tractor with something already attached to the back.

The smaller model, called the YardRack, is made out of ballistic nylon and steel.

The larger racks, called the Ultimate Rack,



**Ultimate Rack is the most versatile and job-ready rack on the market and is designed for a compact or sub-compact tractor.**

are made of 11-ga. steel sidewalls and a floor bed to withstand the rigors of the job. Commercial-grade, 2-ga. 1/4-in. steel is used in the support spine and handles payloads of up to 600 lbs.

The racks are 100 percent powder-coated to protect them from the elements. The heavy-duty 4-in. caster wheels on retractable legs are held in place with agriculture-grade pins.

The Ultimate Rack sells for \$2,189, the Ultimate Rack with quick-hitch combo is \$2,499, and the Ultimate Rack Skid Steer Quick Hitch Combo is \$2,799.

The YardRack package, including the mounting kits, retails for \$299.99.

For farmers with ATVs, the ATV SportRack sells for either \$489.99 or \$499.99, depending on the connecting kit you prefer.

BigToolRack offers a 10 percent military discount for active duty and veterans. The best place to shop for a BigToolRack is on the company website.

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## Air Blaster Seats Tire Beads Fast

The Bead Bazoooka seats tire beads with a high-pressure blast of air. Gaither Tool Co., maker of the Bead Bazoooka, recently introduced a new and improved version.

The new generation handheld blasters are half the size of the earlier version but serve up twice the power.

Company recommendations include aiming the tip at a 30 to 45-degree angle a few inches away from the gap. Properly prepared, one blast of air sets the bead.

Gaither offers three models. The 3-liter BBL3L2 is designed for ATVs, motorcycles, cars and light commercial vehicles. The 6-liter BB6L2 is designed for use with motorcycles, cars, light trucks and heavy commercial vehicles. The 10-liter BB10L2 is intended for use with cars, light trucks, heavy commercial and light agricultural vehicles.

All three feature trigger release, 3-way control clusters, and recoil-reducing barrels. Net weights vary from 11 to 18 lbs. Prices for the three models range from \$363 to \$518.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gaither Tool Co., 2255 W. Morton Ave., Jacksonville, Ill. 62650 (ph 217-245-0545; toll-free 800-452-5010; sales@gaihertool.com; www.gaihertool.com).



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