

Handy Hints Around The Home

We normally post recipes in this column; we are trying some household hints this issue. Let us know if you would like to see the recipes come back or more handy hints. - Editor

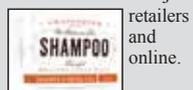
Looking for a way to keep all of your passwords in one place and safe? Last Pass has both free and paid versions of their password-keeping software and works on both Apple and Android phones as well as most computer browsers. It's the best overall password keeper I have found and works well. I have used both the free and paid versions and, for most, the free should work just fine. **Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.**

If you have an infrared remote and you want to check if it's working, aim it at your cellphone camera and push each button you want to test. The sensor in the camera will pick up the infrared light from the LED in front of the remote and convert it to visible light so you can see it on your cellphone screen. **Jim Hafner, Chatfield, Minn.**

Non-Chlorine bleach like OxiClean works great for cleaning hats. Dissolve in water and soak. Even dirty white hats come clean. Works great for sweat stains. This stuff also works great for cleaning decks. **Steve M., South Bend, Ind.**

Arm & Hammer makes a folding laundry detergent cup caddy that saves detergent spills from large containers. It's priced less than \$3 and available at major stores like Target, Amazon and Home Depot.

Shampoo bars can be more natural than bottled shampoo and come in a variety of different sizes and fragrances. J.R. Liggett's Coconut & Argan Oil Shampoo bar costs around \$12, lasts longer than a bottle of shampoo (if you can get used to using a bar like soap for your hair) and is available at major



retailers and online.



Rotating disc with six plastic blades cuts through the ice but doesn't harm the surface it's being used on.

Scraper Makes Easy Work Of Ice On Windows

A social media post of a cordless ice scraper clearing ice off a windshield caught our attention recently. Made by the German company Kärcher, the EDI 4 Electric Ice Scraper removes ice from windshields, windows, doors, etc. It's similar in shape to a palm sander, but lightweight and quiet according to a Kärcher representative. The rotating disc with six plastic blades cuts through the ice but doesn't harm the surface it's being used on. A lithium-ion battery powers the scraper several times before it needs to be recharged, as indicated by a flashing LED light.

Push the button on top to start it and simply move the scraper over the ice. If the blade wears out with extreme use, it can easily be replaced. Videos on their website show how to change the blade, charge and use the scraper. They offer a no-hassle Rapid Exchange Program® to send a replacement EDI 4 immediately instead of returning the old one first.

The ice scraper sells for \$80 on Kärcher's website and is available on Amazon and through many other businesses. It comes with a protective cap for storage between uses.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kärcher North America, 6398 N. Kärcher Way, Aurora, Colo. 80019 (ph 800-537-4129; www.karcher.com/us).



Vinylock Tape was introduced in 2017 and made at the request of a longtime customer who wanted a better way to patch truck tarps.

Vinylock Tape Fixes Tears In Tarps, Tents & More

"Our tape is made out of heavy-duty tarp material, 18-oz. vinyl-coated polyester fabric," says Carri Barr, owner of the company that manufactures and sells the U.S.-made Vinylock Tape®. "The adhesive is designed specifically for flexible PVC to get a long-lasting bond."

"Users want oversized patches, so they don't have to be particular," Barr says. So, the tape is 6-in. wide, and it's applied by peeling off the back.

Vinylock Tape was introduced in 2017 and made at the request of a longtime customer who wanted a better way to patch truck tarps. Since then, it's proven useful for many products and industries including tents, agriculture, oil booms, inflatable boats and bounce houses.

The tape comes in white, grey, black, blue, red, green and Mil-Spec tan and green for military tents and covers. Carolina Company only sells the tape wholesale to tarp companies and other dealers (listed on the website), some of whom sell on Amazon. The tape is also available through some retailers in 3-ft. rolls.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carolina Company, Vinylock Tape, 411 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043 (ph 772-208-8633; carri@carolinacompanyusa.com; www.vinylocktape.com).

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New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home



Dale McQuown enjoys watching birds with his portable bird feeding station. The wheeled unit features various feeders.

"Redneck" Bird Feeder Has It All

"My husband Dale built this portable bird feeding station for us almost entirely out of recycled items. He calls it our 'redneck bird feeder'. Birds love it," says Rosita McQuown, Transfer, Penn.

The portable bird feeding station is normally positioned about 20 ft. from the McQuown's house so they can watch birds feed from their sunroom. It's electrified to be squirrel-proof and has a tin roof covered by pine boughs and contains three big bird feeders, one made from a big plastic pretzel container and another from a 2-liter pop bottle. There's also a suet feeder.

The entire unit rides on a pair of small wheels off an old push mower, with a long 2 by 4 serving as a handle. "I can quickly move the feeder out of the way when I mow," says McQuown.

A pair of vertical 2 by 2's support the feeding station whose floor and one side are made from lattice paneling. A plastic sheet covers one end of the station to keep snow from blowing into the feeders, and a wire closet rack at the other end supports the pretzel container feeder. A large tree branch fastened to one end of the station serves as a big perch.

An electric fence charger is used to keep squirrels from stealing seed. "The charger is wired to a pair of horizontal metal bars located about a foot off the ground, which keep squirrels from climbing up the stand," says McQuown. "At first I slid a pair of pop bottles around the two supports to act as squirrel baffles, but the fence charger is much more effective."

To convert the pretzel container, McQuown cut several holes in the side of a pop bottle and placed it inside the container. He used a Dremel tool to cut holes into the bottom corners of the container to make feeding ports.

He made the pop bottle feeder by cutting off the top 1/4 of the bottle and cutting four holes in the side, then gluing the bottle to a plastic dish.

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