



Livestock Paint Crayons are ideal for making bold marks on wet or dry livestock and also work on metal, wood, particle board, concrete, stone, plastic/ PVC, rubber, glass, canvas, and terracotta.

Paint Crayons Offer Alternative to Spray Paint

Carmel Industries sells Livestock Paint Crayons designed to apply clear lines of fresh paint without mess. Each crayon is wrapped in a paper or cardboard sleeve (depending on size) that keeps fingers clean while marking on smooth and textured surfaces.

The company got its start in 1974 as a manufacturer of tailor chalk for the garment industry. Carmel has since expanded to a 33,000-square-foot facility in Montreal that specializes in writing instruments and industrial waxes.

These Livestock Paint Crayons are ideal for making bold marks on wet or dry livestock and also work on metal, wood, particle board, concrete, stone, plastic/ PVC, rubber, glass, canvas, and terracotta. While it's possible to use them on oily, wet, dirty, and rusty surfaces, the color might not be as rich. When using it for the first time, apply light pressure to break the crayon's skin and ensure a smooth transfer of pigment.

Two sizes are available. The Jumbo Livestock Crayon (5 in. by 1 in.) is rated to last 20 percent longer than the standard 4-in. by 1-in. crayon. Choose between two formulas: hard for hotter climates and

medium for cooler. It's possible to purchase one of twelve colors or choose a variety pack. The crayons retail for \$12.56 per four-pack or \$18.80 per pack of twelve.

To further minimize the mess, Carmel also sells Retractable Livestock Paint Crayons. They offer additional weatherproofing with a deep cap that attaches to the back to ensure you won't lose it out in the field. Twist the cap within this base to expose more of the crayon without exposing it to the elements and risking it getting dirty. A box of twelve retails for \$40.50.

Customer reviews confirm these crayons work as promised, though it takes more pressure than expected to break their skin when you use them for the first time. Most raved about the bright, long-lasting colors and easy transfer onto livestock and other surfaces. In short, they offer an excellent alternative to spray paint for a variety of uses.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carmel Industries, 10220 Ave., Armand-Lavergne, Montreal-Nord, Quebec, Canada H1H 3N3 (ph 514-270-5377; www.carmelindustries.com).

Cooling Canopies For Tractors And Mowers

To keep the sun, dust, and bugs away when using a small tractor, mower, or ATV, CoolTops offers its easily mounted canopies equipped with a 12-volt electric fan that pulls about 10 amps, drawing clean, fresh air from above and blowing it down onto the operator.

The 36 by 41-in. or 43 by 51-in. canopies come complete with mounting brackets and assorted hardware for easy installation on either 2 by 2-in. or 3 by 2-in. roll bars. These sizes cover almost all brands of equipment.

"The top comes premade with canopy bars already installed where it bolts to the fan," says Terry Pritchard, Cool Tops Product Manager. "There's also a rain cover that mounts on the top to keep moisture out of the fan. One tip I always mention is to make sure to install it as level as possible using the selection of holes on the bracket."

Crossbars mount to the roll bars, and the fan and cover attach above.

Once secure, the electrical cable is threaded down the bars and connected to the equipment's battery.

"Make sure to leave a little slack in the wire in case the roll bars need to fold down when driving under a low building door," Pritchard says.

The American-made canopies come in red, green, orange, and black and are manufactured in North Carolina. They're available



CoolTops have a built-in 12-volt electric fan that runs from the tractor or mower battery.

through a dealer network found on the website.

Prices on the canopies range from around \$1,000 for the smaller size and approximately \$1,200 for the larger top, plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, CoolTops, 170 Water Tank Rd., Warsaw, N.C. 28398 (ph 919-622-7466; info@cooltops.com; www.cooltops.com).

Homemade Corn Sheller Perfect For Small Farm

Due to last year's bumper corn crop, Patrick Burrington needed a quicker and more efficient way to shell the cobs harvested from his 1/4-acre field.

"I use the corn for animal feed, making corn flour, bread, grits, and tortillas," says Burrington. "After trying some older, hand-cranked models without much success, I realized I had to come up with my own idea."

To power his homemade sheller, he bought a used 1/10-hp. Bodine electric motor with a right-angle gear reduction box on eBay. To fine-tune the speed he needed, he water-jetted two gears on his cutting table and used them to increase the rpm's from 43 to 72. The gears work together to drive a 14-in. long 1 1/2-in. schedule 40 pipe supported between two 1 15/16-in. pillow block bearings. To cut the kernels from the cobs, he welded four small 1/8-in. thick steel plates of about 3/4-in. by 2-in. to the inside of a round pipe and attached it to the drive pipe. He installed a plastic shroud to direct the kernels into a collection container.

"I didn't know this, but corn cob centers all measure about 1 1/4 in. no matter the cobs outside circumference," Burrington says. "I spaced the cutters that far apart to knock the kernels off without waste or getting the cobs stuck."

He estimates he invested less than \$100 into the homemade electric sheller as he had



Burrington made his own electric corn sheller for less than \$100.

almost everything he needed lying around.

Burrington explains he would make the shroud slightly larger to funnel the kernels down into the collection container better if he were to build another.

"It works so well I can double fist the cobs through halfway, then flip them over to finish them up while I'm grabbing two more," he says. "It goes really quickly once you get the hang of it."

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YTO 220-hp. cabless tractor has an operating error rate of less than one inch.

Chinese Tractor Maker Plans 220-Hp. Autonomous Unit

Chinese tractor maker YTO is once again gearing up to introduce autonomous tractors. However, it's unlikely to be available for at least 3 to 5 years. The 220-hp. cabless concept tractor is the latest in a series of experimental, driverless tractors from YTO going back to 2017. At that time, an executive suggested they were aiming to start mass production soon, depending on market demand.

A recent article in the European farm publication Profi, quoted Ziwu Fan, assistant general manager, YTO International, about the process. He indicated the company had completed 3 years of testing with "...a number of autonomous concepts including a 220-hp. unmanned, cabless version," he added.

Fan said it's one of several alternative concepts in development, including a 50-hp. electric tractor and a 200-hp. diesel-electric hybrid.

The 220-hp. cabless tractor was first introduced in China in 2021 as the LF2204. It's equipped with 5G cellular network, GPS, and millimeter wave radar. Features include the ability to simultaneously detect the distance and speed of more than 200 targets.

Designed for precision farming, it has an operating error of less than an inch.

The LF2204 was preceded by the ET1003-W 100 hp. cabless tractor. Developed in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and others, the electric hub tractor features an 11 1/2-ft. turning radius. The in-wheel motor technology allows each wheel to turn independently, creating the tight turning radius. It uses 5G cellular technology, and in addition to being self-driving, it can be remotely controlled.

YTO was also involved in developing the ET504, a hydrogen fuel cell/lithium battery concept tractor. The 50-hp. tractor has electric lifting and steering motors and an electric driveline. It's also designed to be autonomous.

YTO is the leading agricultural machinery manufacturer in China. This past year, the company produced around 90,000 tractors in the 300 hp. and under range for the domestic and export markets. YTO exports to 100 countries and regions.

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