

Do-It-Yourself Well Drilling

If you need multiple wells in remote locations, or you're looking for a sideline business, a DeepRock M50 may be the answer. This ATV-sized, trailer-mounted well-drilling rig goes anywhere and drills as deep as 300 ft.

"You have to check local zoning and codes, but most places let you drill on your own property," says Ray Swords, DeepRock Manufacturing. "With our M50, you can do the work of bigger, more expensive rigs."

Designed to be pulled behind a truck, tractor or ATV, the M50 has a stable 50-in. wheelbase, yet is compact enough to fit into tight spaces. It can drill holes with up to a 6-in. bore. The 5.5-hp Honda Industrial Series engine provides plenty of power to the heavy-duty gearbox, contractor grade mud pump, and power swivel. The M50 is designed to be equipped with premium drill stems and either 4 or 6-in. bits. Three leveling jacks make it easy to align for drilling. The company offers a wide variety of packages and accessories for different conditions.

"The three things we need to know before you buy a package is how deep you need to

go, what size casing you want to install, and what you'll be drilling through," explains Swords. "With that information, we can generally set you up with a rig that'll meet your needs."

Most of the information needed can be obtained from a local permitting office. Swords says in most locations the well driller has to turn in a log after drilling a well. Reviewing ones from your area can supply the information needed.

"Most people who buy them in this country have ranches or are going into business to drill wells for others," he says, noting that the company sells rigs all over the world.

Many customers are drilling shallow wells for watering gardens or for cabins, adds Swords. He's also seeing a growing interest in custom well drilling for geothermal installations.

Prices vary with the type of package needed. However, an M50 equipped with a drill stem and rig for a 4-in. bore to drill a 300-ft. well runs about \$9,500.

Even a one-time use can pay for itself depending on the location. "Well drilling can



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run \$16,000 in California, but only \$1,200 in Florida," notes Sword. "But we find that 85 to 90 percent of the time you can save money by drilling your own well."

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DeepRock Manufacturing Co., 2209 Anderson Road, P.O. Box 1, Opelika, Alabama 36803 (ph 334 749-3377 or 800 633-8774; rswords@deeprock.com; www.deeprock.com).

Spring Kit Boosts Leaf Spring

A simple add-on spring for rear leaf springs can boost fuel efficiency, extend tire life and reduce wear and tear on a vehicle's rear end, says Clive Schewitz, Roadmaster Active Suspension (RAS).

"Roadmaster Active Suspension can reduce fuel use by up to 20 percent while extending by actively helping carry the load," says Schewitz. "If you've ever had a broken axle or other problems with rear suspension, you'll really appreciate the Roadmaster."

He explains that when a vehicle is under load and the leaf springs flatten out, the tires flex and bulge. This increases the tire footprint and adds roll resistance similar to an under-inflated tire. The Roadmaster helps carry the load, turning the passive leaf spring suspension into an active one.

"The system increases load carrying ability by boosting the capacity of stock rear leaf springs without stiffening the ride," says Schewitz. "It eliminates bottoming out, just like an air system, but it never needs adjust-

ment. With a load or without one, Roadmaster reduces sway and roll just like an anti-sway bar and eliminates axle wrap and wheel hop like traction bars. Customers get all of this in just one product."

The simple-to-install kit comes already assembled. Once the rear wheels are removed and the retainer plate and U-bolts on the leaf springs are removed, installation is simple. The coil spring assembly is installed over the rear leaf spring mount and secured in place with the re-installation of the retainer plate and U-bolts. Once installed, it's easily adjusted and set for maximum load.

Until a load is applied to the vehicle, the Roadmaster has no effect. When the arch in the leaf springs begins to flatten out under load, the variable rate coil spring goes to work.

It's available for all sizes of pickups and vans from 1/4 ton to 1 1/2 ton. The exception is cab and chassis box vans.

Prices range from \$305 to \$325. Retail lo-



Add-on spring increases load carrying ability of stock rear leaf springs without stiffening the ride.

cations can be found on the company website.

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Coil spring kit installs over vehicle's existing rear leaf spring.

Trash Volcano

"I made a trash burn barrel from a 4-ft. section of 24-in. dia. pipe that burns like a volcano," says Matt Studer, New Washington, Ohio.

"The secret to the hot burn is cutting V-shaped tabs and bending them in toward the center of the pipe. What happens is that the trash is held up by the points of the V's until it's mostly burned up. The V-slots also give the trash plenty of air to burn like a volcano. That way it doesn't sit at the bottom of the burn barrel and smolder.

"I placed the pipe on blocks so I can easily clean out the ashes, unlike a regular barrel where the ashes get wet and rust out the bottom of the barrel. The last barrel I made like this lasted 8 years.

"On a good windy day, I can burn a month's worth of house trash in no time. The flames shoot out of the top of the barrel and from the V-slots, reminding us of a volcano."

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V-shaped tabs, bent in toward center of pipe, hold up trash until it's mostly burned up. The V-slots also give trash plenty of combustion air.



"Brush strangler" is a piece of thick-walled pipe with a short length of chain welded to the side. Pipe bites into brush to rip it out of the ground.

Nifty Brush Puller

This idea has been around a long time, but FARM SHOW contributing editor C.F. Marley says it's worth reminding people about a simple idea that works great.

The "brush strangler" consists of a piece of thick-walled pipe with a short length of chain welded to the side. It's used to yank out brush and small saplings.

"If you just try to pull brush with a chain wrapped around it, the chain will slide up and

off. The pipe bites into the brush or sapling and lets you rip it right out of the ground," says Marley.

You simply run a chain through the pipe, around whatever clump of brush you want to pull out, and hook up to the short chain on the side of the pipe.

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