



Luke DeWit used a pair of old barn hinges, a hockey stick, and a 6-ft. long 2 by 4 to make a jack that he uses to straighten wooden fence posts.

Barn Hinge Jack Used To Straighten Fence Posts

A pair of old barn hinges can be used to make a jack that works great for straightening wooden fence posts, says Luke DeWit, Millarville, Alberta.

He has a fenceline on hilly ground where posts tend to lean over with time. "I didn't want the hassle of using a come-along or getting on and off a tractor all the time to straighten them out," says DeWit.

Instead he came up with his "barn hinge jack" that consists of a couple of large hinges, a 6-ft. long 2 by 4, and a hockey stick.

It works kind of like the ratchet on a bumper jack, walking slowly down the post with each "bite" as the barn hinges are cranked.

"I've used it for 5 years with no problems. My friend Doug Horsley gave me the idea," says DeWit.

The two hinges are 10 in. long. He bolts one near the end of a 6-ft. long 2 by 4. The second hinge bolts to the loose end of the first hinge, along with an 18-in. long piece of a hockey stick that serves as the handle. (DeWit notes that a hockey stick handle works well because it's made from durable hardwood.) A 3 by 5-in. piece of flat iron, sharpened like a knife blade at the end, bolts to the underside of the 2 by 4 and protrudes about 1/2 in. beyond the end.

The hinges are offset, with one hinge cylinder located about 1 in. behind the other. The free end of the top hinge extends about 2 in. beyond the end of the 2 by 4 when fully extended.

DeWit jams the 2 by 4 into the ground at an angle against the post, with the jack handle back. Pushing the handle up causes the free end of the hinge to force the post upward a couple inches. As the post moves out, the 2

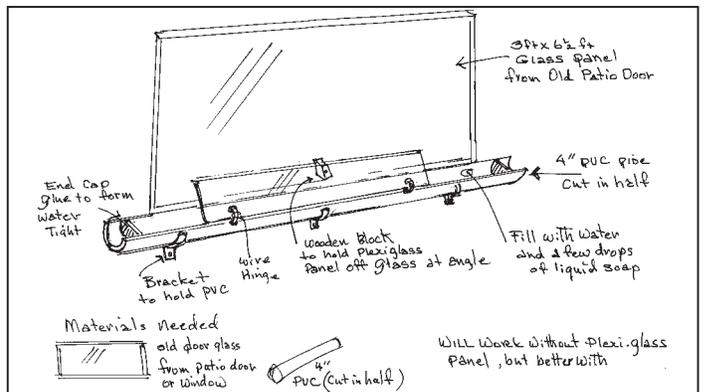


Hinges bolt together on 2 by 4 to provide leverage against wood posts.

by 4 drops down and the sharpened end of the piece of flat iron gets a new grip on the post.

"The offset hinges push the free end of the hinge upward against the post with a lot of force," says DeWit. "The 2 points of contact on the post keep moving down as I crank the handle back and forth. After I straighten the post, I hammer a short 2 by 4 into the hole to hold the post in place."

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Sam's Freestanding Fly Catcher

"I have a small flock of sheep that are tormented by biting flies," says Samuel Alexander, Millington, Tenn., who came up with a freestanding fly catcher that works better than any fly trap he's ever seen.

"The animals generally spend the night and part of the day inside the barn. The flies follow them right into the stalls. I noticed them trying to exit the barn through a large window, bumping against the glass and falling downward. I decided to use that idea to build a trap," says Alexander.

The trap consists of a 3 by 6 1/2-ft. glass panel from an old patio door. It's positioned above a 7-ft. long trough made from a 4-in. dia. piece of pvc tubing cut in half. Both ends of the tubing are closed off so he can fill it with soapy water.

"It's very simple. The trap is positioned by one of the exits from the barn and the flies hit the glass and drop down into the water. It's important to put a couple tablespoons of liquid soap in the water to break the tension on the water so the flies will drown.

"We catch up to a quart container or more of flies every day. I scoop them out with a funnel-shaped piece of metal screen. The trap has to be emptied out daily.

"The key to success is to place the trap in a spot where flies are looking for light to exit an area. Also, I added a 7-in. wide panel of plexiglass across the bottom of the glass. A wood spacer block keeps it a couple inches from the glass so flies fall down through the opening but then have trouble flying back out. The bottom edge of the pvc trough so it folds back out of the way to clean out dead flies.

"The trap is mounted about 4 ft. off the ground over the top of the pens.

"If any reader should feel a sense of gratitude for this idea, please send a donation to the prison ministry of Brother Ken Avery, Calvary Baptist Church, 6665 Push Road, Hornbeak, Tenn. 38232."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Samuel E. Alexander, 6550 Benjestown Road, Millington, Tenn. 38053 (ph 901 357-2957).

"Get Off" Handle For Riding Mower

"After a couple hours of work, older operators sometimes have trouble finding their 'land legs' when getting off a zero turn mower. So I made an assist handle from galvanized pipe for less than \$20. It bolts onto the mower frame and provides the operator with a convenient handhold," says Kenneth Preston, Wheatland, Ind.

He used 1/2-in. dia. by 30-in. long pipe, a 6-in. nipple, an elbow, cap and a railing base to make the assist handle and attached it to the mower deck using countersunk 1/4-in. machine bolts.

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Pipe "assist handle" bolts onto deck of zero-turn mower.

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