

# Reader Letters



In the reader letters section of your last issue, William Erickson recommended sucking wasps into a shop vac and then spraying insecticide into the running vac to make sure the wasps are dead. This could be a dangerous idea. Vacs exhaust air through a running motor, which could cause an explosion hazard when using flammable aerosols. (Ed Darowski, eddarowski@hotmail.com)

I remember reading a FARM SHOW story about a fellow who collected antique lift jacks (Vol. 37, No 1). He said hydraulic bottle jacks were invented in the 1940's. However, I have an old bottle jack that was patented in 1921. I've never seen another one like it.

According to the name plate, it's called a Patton hydraulic jack. I found it in Florida about 20 years ago while rebuilding a private radio communications tower for someone. The owner had probably taken the tower apart in sections and used the jack to straighten them.

The jack is about 1 ft. tall and 2 in. in diameter. I haven't restored it to working condition and don't plan to. (Keith Klingensmith, Lake Alford, Fla. ph 321 438-3141; k.klingensmithsr@att.net)

I stumbled onto an idea someone may already have thought of, but here it is anyway. As I was sitting at our kitchen table one day my wife wanted me to use a key fob to unlock the car doors. The car was parked about 60 ft. away from me. Instead of unlocking it, I accidentally pushed the fob's panic button which set off the horn.

It got me thinking that if someone was hurt or got sick at home alone, they could hit the red button on their key fob and the horn would blast away. After it kept honking someone would surely come to your aid. Or, if there's a home break-in they could use this idea to scare off burglars. (Gary Swensen (g\_swensen@msn.com)



Old plastic jugs can be used to make cheap doggie toys that are hard to destroy. I put four or five jugs on a rope with a 4-ft. long "tail". Dogs love the noise the jugs make as they play with them. (Ronald Post, 726 Skeels Rd., Celina, Ohio 45822)

Thank you for your article in the last issue on my idea for treating severe rust problems on cars and trucks with foam insulation. There was a lot of interest in the idea but, unfortunately, I forgot to mention that the foam cannot be "Great Stuff" or any of the other off-the-shelf foaming products. They are open-cell so they'll take on moisture, which will accelerate the rusting problem. You need to use an industrial home-insulating foam, which is closed cell foam that can support 2 lbs. of pressure per square inch. Open cell foam can only support 1/2 lb. per square inch.

Industrial foam cures almost immediately and you can sculpt it with a sander or grinder once it's on the vehicle. And paint it to match. (Bob Halaska, N1712 Catherine Way, Waupaca, Wis. 54981; robhalaska@gmail.com)

I thought FARM SHOW readers might like to meet my pet squirrel, Rascal. We found him when he was very small and raised him, having no idea what an adorable pet he would make. He was



probably just a week or two old when we started giving him water with an eye dropper and yogurt on a spoon. He sucked that up and then I tried granola, cheerios, and any kind of nuts. He makes little chirping sounds whenever he's got something he really likes and that's when he doesn't want you to touch him. He sleeps in a big pocket on an old winter coat hanging on our coat rack.

I take him out to play in a big maple tree in the yard and he can be up there for hours. Once he's had enough, he'll hang upside down from a branch waiting for me to come and get him. He rides around on my shoulder and, if my nephew stands about 3 ft. away, he'll jump back and forth between us. He also likes playing hide and seek in the drapes.

He drops little hard balls of poop that are easy to clean up. I've only seen him pee a couple times. (John Johnston, Baltimore, Ontario; bald@eagle.ca)

Here's a photo of a rare 1963 International Scout Series 80 pickup that I recently rebuilt. IH Scouts were built from 1961 to 1980, created as a competitor to the Jeep. They could be set up as a 2-door



enclosed sports utility vehicle or as a 2-door pickup. My 4-WD version has a 4-cyl. engine and is painted bright red with a white top. I replaced the original front bumper, installed a new hydraulic pump and hoses, added new windows and roll-down door handles as well as a new windshield, installed new rubber around the doors, and added decorative bolts on the dash as well as new oil, amperage, and engine heat gauges.

I thought the original wheels were too



I mounted a mirror on the hood of an old yard tractor that we primarily use to move and spot trailers. Saves a lot of time lining up and it saves you from continually twisting to look back. It also helps keep an eye out for grandkids. Another tip is that I use a smaller 2-in. ball for hooking up to 2 5/16 ball hitches when moving trailers just a short distance. Makes it easier to connect. (Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.)

small and narrow so I replaced them with Ford pickup wheels that had the same bolt pattern.

I removed the body from the frame and cleaned it, then painted it black. I installed a new fiberglass floor liner in the bed, and a new floor in the cab that he made by covering the original floor with chrome-plated, diamond plate steel. The cab has the original leather seats and the original A.M. radio, which still works."

My Scout was ordered with an optional hydraulic-operated 3-pt. hitch and pto

shaft on front and back so it could be used as a tractor. The pto shaft is activated by pulling on a knob on the dash and can be used to operate implements such as a bush hog or wood splitter.

He says he bought replacement parts for it from Scout Parts in Portland, Oregon (www.scoutparts.com; ph 888 288-0550).

Carroll says he's willing to sell his Scout for \$10,000. (Wylie Carroll, 170 Arkansas Rd., Hohenwald, Tenn. 38462 ph 931 796-5048)



My Royal Enfield Bullet 500 motorcycle had a blown engine, so I had to do something. I decided to convert it to electric so it's now powered by a Motenergy ME1003 permanent magnet DC electric motor that goes where the transmission was and is located in front of the swing arm. Two stacks of batteries fill in the space where the engine used to be. They consist of 11 lithium battery modules taken from a Nissan Leaf electric car (the Leaf uses 48 modules).

A pair of large rectangular boxes are mounted on back of the motorcycle. One is used for cargo, and the other contains the on-board charger and DC/DC converter. The motorcycle's toolboxes - smaller rounded boxes on the sides - contain the electrical components.

It's a simple, clean system without a lot of complex moving parts, oily grime,

and maintenance requirements. The motorcycle still has its original gas tank, just to preserve the style of the bike.

I did a lot of research before I built it. I read everything I could find at www.elmoto.net and www.evalbum.com, websites that feature thousands of electric vehicles.

The most fun part about riding my electric motorcycle is the acceleration. High torque is available from a stand-still so it's always ready to go. It'll go from 0 to 10 mph in one second, and 0 to 60 mph in 9.3 seconds. It reaches top speed of 73 mph in about 13 seconds and has a range of about 30 miles at highway speeds. However, at city speeds I've driven more than 55 miles.

(Aaron Rouland, www.electriccycle.wordpress.com)

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