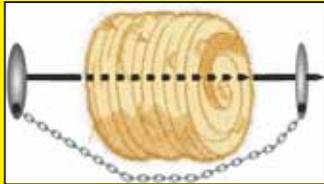




When my Comfort Cover tractor heater wore out, my son said, "Just use one of your fitted gravity wagon tarps." So I attached the 6 by 10-ft. tarp to the framework of the old Comfort Cover, and used tarp straps to hold it in place. It keeps the platform and seat snow and ice-free, and I stay warmer. Works great. **(Gary Swenson, Yankton, S. Dak.)**

Sometimes when I have to move a big round bale and my tractor is not available, I use what I call an Arkansas Bale Mover. It consists of a round 1-in.



dia. steel bar about 7 ft. long. I sharpen one end and weld a hand-sized steel plate to the other end, attached to a 15-ft. length of chain. I attach another hand-sized plate to the other end of the chain, drilling a hole through the center of the plate. I insert the bar into the center of the bale so about 1 ft. sticks out of either side, and then slip the plate with the hole in it over the sharpened end. Then I just loop the chain over the ball hitch on my pickup and roll it to wherever it needs to go. Works great. **(William Sowell, 11798 Hwy. 110, Shirley, Ark. 72153)**



I made a nifty belt buckle using the ends of old box-end wrenches. **(N.J. Pawley, Cody, Wyo.)**

I'm 88 years young and have back problems, but I still love to mow our 7-acre lawn. I replaced the seat on my Hustler FasTrak zero-turn riding mower with an air ride seat made for an IH tractor. It really rides nice - I can drive with the throttle wide open but still feel like I'm just floating along. Helps take the bumps right out. I love it.

The air ride seat attaches with 4 bolts using existing holes in the mounting platform. I had to grind out the holes a



bit to make the bolts fit. I wired the seat to the mower battery to power the seat's air pump. A lever on front of the seat is used to raise it up or down. The lower the seat, the softer the ride.

I bought the seat at Northern Tool for about \$990. But I figure that at my age, if you're going to spend \$8,000 on a new mower you might as well spend a little more and get a really nice seat, too. **(Alvin Schmidt, 108 8th Ave. N., Saint James, Minn. 56081)**

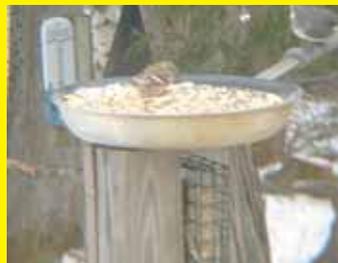


I haul firewood on these little 4-wheeled dollies so I don't have to carry it into our house. I just roll the dollies right up to the fireplace. **(Michael Myers, 2942 CR 474, Kirbyville, Texas 75956 ph 409 423-4142; Michael.myers7@icloud.com)**



Here's a photo of a "chain crate" that I use to keep my chains neatly stored. It's an old milk crate that attaches to a small 3-pt. mounted box scraper that I pull behind my Kioti tractor.

Three sheet metal dividers placed inside the crate help keep the chains apart. The chains hook onto metal rods over each divider. **(Steven Chalmers, 4829 N. Mesa Drive, Castle Rock, Colo. 80108 ph 303 981-9879; steven@lightguards.net)**



If you like to feed birds, don't throw away that old frying pan. Just drill small holes in the bottom of the pan to let water drain out. Then nail the pan onto a post and fill it with bird seed. Birds love it and even use the handle as a perch while they wait for their turn to eat. **(Gus and Gloria Murray, Dennysville, Maine ph 207 214-8640)**



Last year my grandson turned 2 years old, and for a birthday present I wanted to make him a 2-ft. long toy milk truck like the real one driven by both of his grandpas. However, I couldn't find a toy milk truck anywhere that was bigger than a Hot Wheels toy. I even called the Ertl Company, which makes die-cast toy replicas, but they said they've never made a toy milk truck as big as I wanted.

So I went to Fleet Farm and bought a 2-ft. long toy grain truck. I replaced the grain box with a milk tank that I built using a length of 4-in. dia. pvc pipe. I cut the grain box off, leaving the frame rails in place, and screwed the pvc pipe onto a length of 1/4-in. plywood that forms a base for the tank and also serves as a catwalk on both sides. I used 1/2-in. plywood to fill in the tank ends. I attached 1/4 round molding between the plywood base and the tank. I also drilled a hole in top of the tank to serve as a loading port and installed a small metal plug as a cover. Then I sprayed all the pieces with bumper chrome paint.



A local graphics company made a sign that I placed on both truck doors. It reads "Peter's Milk Transfer, Goodhue, Minn."

The truck cab came with three buttons on top. One produces an engine sound, one blows a horn, and the other shows flashing lights. My grandson and his little brother really get a kick out of playing with the truck, and seeing their excitement is priceless to me.

I paid \$35 for the truck and it took me about 6 hrs. to rebuild, so I'm willing to build trucks for others for \$125. **(Ken Kramer, Pine Island, Minn. ph 507 272-8738; VK77@Bevcomm.net)**



Torch strikers are a pain in the neck to use, especially as they get older and become less reliable, so I made my own low-cost ignitor from an old torpedo-style space heater. It operates on 110-volt electricity. I keep it on my welding table where it's always handy.

I removed the ignitor and transformer from the heater as a one-piece unit and placed the transformer inside an

electrical box. I ran the unit's wiring out through connectors to the ignitor, which I bolted to the outside of the box. I also mounted a push button on top of the box.

To light my cutting torch, I just hold it up to the ignitor and press the button, creating an arc that ignites the gas. It's easy to use and reliable. **(John Stuber, DeSoto, Mo.)**

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