

# Made It Myself

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## He Turns Tires Into Water Troughs

Roger Powell, Ashton, W. Va., turned a worn-out tire off an earth mover into an inexpensive water trough that won't leak and will never wear out.

He used a chainsaw to cut off the top sidewall of the tire, then poured concrete inside to seal the bottom of the tank.

"This tank is practically indestructible," says Powell. "It doesn't get damaged like metal or wood tanks do and will never rust out. The top of the overflow pipe is 1 to 2 in. from the top of the tire. A float valve regulates water level. By unscrewing the drain pipe I can flush all the water down the drain hole to clean out the tank. It's 26 1/2 in. in diameter and holds about 400 gal. of water. It can be positioned under a fence (as pictured) so cattle can reach



it from either side."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Powell, 5575 Zid Camp Road, Ashton, W. Va. 25503 (ph 304 576-2752).

## Toolbox Doubles As Rear Bumper On Pickup

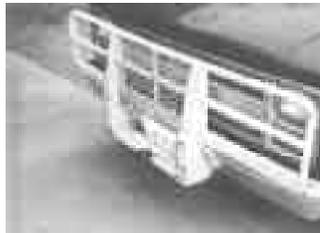
Bruce Gamble, La Feria, Texas, mounted a heavy duty toolbox on back of his Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup in place of the original rear bumper. The 6 by 8-in. toolbox-bumper is fitted with a sliding drawbar that makes hookups easy.

Gamble bolted a pair of steel plates to the bottom of the pickup frame, then welded the toolbox to the plates.

"The toolbox is made of heavy-gauge metal so it makes a solid bumper when closed. The toolbox comes in handy for storing bulky tools such as chains, bars, jacks, sledge hammers, etc.," says Gamble. "Such tools always seem to be on the bottom of your toolbox whenever you need them so you have to move everything out of the way first.

"The sliding hitch consists of a wedge-shaped steel plate that's free to slide 18 in. forward or backward and 12 in. from side to side so I don't have to back up perfectly in line with the trailer."

Gamble also welded a hitch onto the grille guard on front of the pickup to back trailers into his barn. He simply welded a steel plate to the bottom of two vertical pieces on the grille guard and drilled a hole in the center of it. The hitch plate doubles



as an access step to the engine.

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## Box Scraper Doubles As A Road Grader

"It does the job of a commercial road grader that would cost thousands of dollars more than what we spent to build this," says Darin Boone, Pasco, Wash., about his home-built pull-type scraper.

The 10-ft. wide scraper's blade tilts 42 degrees to the left or right and is fitted with hydraulically-controlled steel "end caps" that flip up out of the way to use it as a straight grader blade. The unit is equipped with eight hydraulic cylinders - two to raise or lower the blade, two to tilt each side of the blade up or down, two to angle the blade from side to side, and two to raise or lower the end caps. It rides on four 9.5 by 15 flotation tires.

"Works great for making roadways because you can move soil toward the center of the road and later level it to create a 'crown'. By setting the blade straight

across and putting the end caps back down the blade can be used like a box scraper to move dirt.

"We use it to do custom work on irrigated land that has a lot of canals, waterways, and ditch banks that farmers have to keep graded," says Boone, who built the scraper with his father-in-law David Brubaker. "We made it just 10 ft. wide because we also use it to scrape manure out of our corrals and they have 10-ft. gates. We pull it with a Deere 7400 96 hp MFWD tractor which is a perfect match. It cost about \$7,000 to build. The blade's 3/8-in. thick cutting edge is off an old road grader."

Boone used 4 by 6, 5/16-in. thick steel tubing to build the rig's frame.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darin Boone, 3834 Dogwood, Pasco, Wash. 99301 (ph 509 266-4423).



## "Chute Guides" For Gravity Flow Wagon

A pair of plastic strips with welder's magnets bolted onto them make it easy for Daryl Scheer, Mapleton, Iowa, to direct grain flowing out of his gravity flow wagon into an 8-in. dia. hopper bottom auger without having to make sure that the unloading chute is directly centered over the hopper.

Scheer attaches the 4-in. high, 1 1/2-ft. long plastic strips to the galvanized steel unloading chute on his 530-bu. gravity flow wagon. He cut the sheets out of worn poly skids salvaged from his combine's soybean header. He bolted a welding magnet to one

end of each strip, using cut-out circles of plastic as washers. The other end of each piece of plastic bolts directly to the chute.

"The magnets hold the bottom end of each guide in place but also allow them to be moved from side to side to control grain flow," says Scheer. "One advantage is that the auger seems to take in corn faster when it flows directly into it."

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## Tire-Mounted Warning Reflectors

Oncoming traffic can judge the width of your tractor or combine with these new reflector warning lights that attach to wheel rims.

Inventor David Rausch, a Ft. Atkinson, Iowa, farmer, won a prize for the innovative new safety lights in Successful Farming's recent Edisons of Agriculture contest.

The lights attach to rims with a 1 by 6-in. strap steel clamp that hammers into the rim. Brackets mount flush with tires so they're less likely to break off or pick up residue in the field.

As tires rotate and reflectors catch lights from oncoming traffic, they create a pulsating strobe-light effect that's easily visible from the front and back.

Rausch, who's looking for a manufacturer, hopes eventually to market his "Width



Lights" for around \$5 apiece.

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