

# Made It Myself

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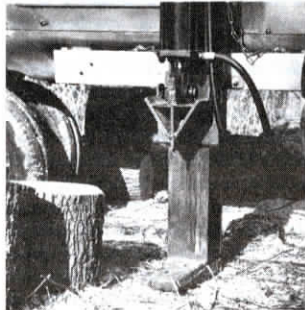
## Tractor-Mounted Wood Splitter Retracts

Raymond Rush, Peru, Ind., came up with a nifty design for a retractable splitter to mount on the side of his Oliver 77. "It lets me split wood on the ground without lifting it and then the splitter lifts itself up off the ground for transport. It's simple. One cylinder splits wood and also lifts the splitter for transport," he says.

The vertical splitter is made out of an H-beam mounted on angle iron mounting brackets between the front and rear tractor wheels. The two angle iron brackets cradle the H-beam so that it can slide up and down.

A 3-in. cylinder mounts on the outside of the beam with a splitting wedge on the piston. It splits against a plate steel end-plate welded to the bottom end of the H-beam. For splitting, the bottom plate rests directly on the ground.

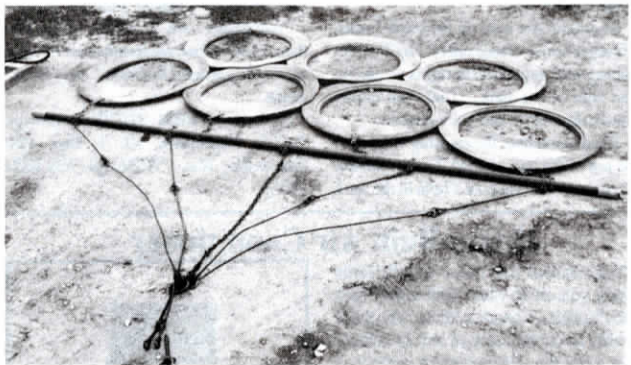
For transport, the splitting wedge is raised all the way up and two small chains - one on either side, attached to the angle iron brackets - hook onto the splitting wedge. Then, by extending the cylinder



again, the back end of the cylinder raises the H-beam up off the ground since the wedge is held in position.

"I've used it for six years without any problems. I also built a 3-pt. mounted log lift which consists of a single mast made out of a heavy steel beam that lets me lift even the heaviest logs into position for cutting up with a chainsaw," says Rush.

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## Tractor Tire Bead Harrow

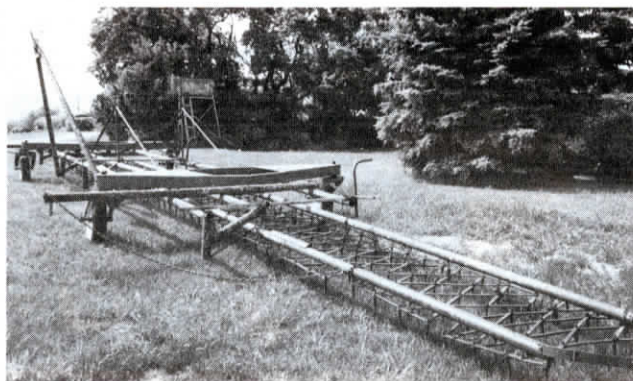
Old tractor tires can be easily converted into low cost "tire bead harrows", says Bob McIntyre, supervisor for Iowa State Research Farm near Rhodes, Iowa.

McIntyre cuts the beads out of 38-in. rear tractor tires and bolts them together in two rows, with the front row chained to a 16-ft. long steel pipe salvaged from an old conventional harrow.

"It does an amazingly good job and works especially well when pulled behind a disk or chisel plow to level out the ground and seal it back up," says McIntyre, who uses a Sawzall to cut out the

beads. "The tire beads won't break on rocks which is a key advantage over spring harrows. Each bead weighs about 35 lbs. Two beads can be stacked together to make the harrow heavier so that it does an even better job of plowing through ridges. The top side of the bead should face upward so that the bead digs into the ground instead of floating above it."

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## 50-Ft. "Oscillating" Harrow Lifts Up For Transport

"It's easy to lift and clean on the go and is also easy to transport," says Frank Edwards, North Battleford, Sask., about his home-built "oscillating" harrow which is carried by an ingenious crank-up lift frame.

"You can carry it at any height which makes it handy for different chores. For example, by lifting it up a little it'll do a good job spreading straw after combining but won't plug up. But when you're harrowing cultivated stubble fields, you can lower it all the way to the ground and it'll do an excellent job. Leaves practically no lumps of straw in the field. If you have to, you can always lift it up a little to reduce any plugging problems you might have," says Edwards.

He constructed the harrow cart from 3-in. dia. boiler pipe carried on 4 caster wheels taken from Versatile 103 self-propelled swathers. The casters are

mounted on the original frames from the swather. The large carrying pipes on top of the cart are bolted to the swather frames.

Below the main frame, hanging on chains, are four 25-ft. pipes. Below these pipes are 16 sections of diamond harrow suspended from the 25-ft. pipes by short chains.

The harrow sections are lifted up by two cross pipes on either end of the main frame that are fitted with cranks. Edwards simply turns the cranks by hand, locking the lift pipes in place when the harrow sections are at the desired height.

For transport, sections are cranked up off the ground and the cart is pulled by a built-in drawbar at one end. The swather caster wheels turn as needed.

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## Cheap Gates Made From Cattle Panels

"We made gates out of low-cost cattle panels thanks to a homemade gate hanger that lets you latch a cattle panel onto any steel post," says Bob McIntyre, supervisor at Iowa State Research Farm, Rhodes, Iowa.

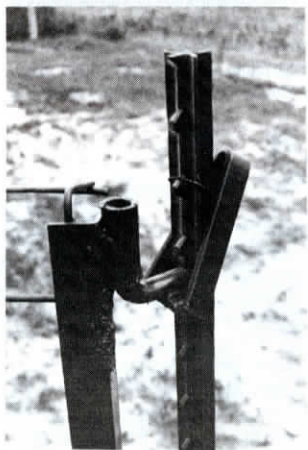
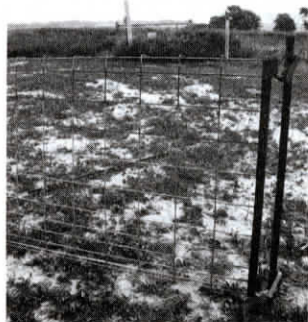
"The hanger makes it a simple job to latch gate panels and eliminates the need for wooden gate posts. I got the idea because we have a lot of gate posts that aren't in very good shape. We can install these gates by driving a steel post down next to the corner post. It eliminates the need to put in new posts or drill holes in the old ones."

McIntyre bends down the top couple inches of each panel and bends up the bottom couple of inches in order to make the panels rigid. The panels from the top down and from the bottom up in order to strengthen them. He also welds a length of angle iron to the end of each panel. A 2-in. long section of pipe is welded on each end of the angle iron.

He made the hanger by welding a 3/4-in. dia. L-shaped steel rod to a triangle-shaped holder made out of 1-in. strap iron. The hanger can be placed at any height on the post and is held in place by a piece of wire.

"Cattle panel gates cost much less than conventional steel gates. We paid \$16 for each cattle panel. I use a shop press to bend the rod and strap iron, then weld them together."

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