

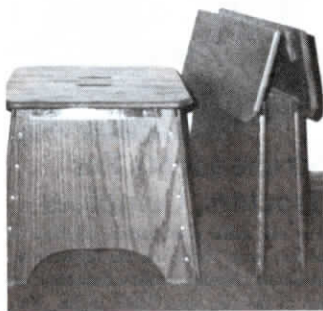
## "Best Fold-Up Stool Ever Built"

"We've had an unbelievable response from everyone who's seen it. And once they buy one, people either come back to buy another one or they make a point of letting us know how much they like it," says Donna Henschel of Tower Stools about the company's super-strong fold-up wooden stool that fits into a 3-in. wide storage space when folded up.

The stool was invented by Reed Henschel, a plasterer in South Dakota, at the request of a professional athlete who wanted a fold-up exercise stool for doing the Navy step-test exercise (step up, step down). He wanted something light yet very strong. After the man had used Henschel's stool thousands of times with no sign of wear on it at all, Henschel decided to patent the new design and go into production. He has since developed a variety of sizes, ranging from 8 in. high to 24 in., and has taken the stool to a number of trade shows throughout the Midwest.

Key to success of the stool is the use of long brass hinges that are riveted in place rather than screwed or bolted. Rivets make the stool stronger and allow it to fold up as flat as possible. Standard models are made from layered oak but any wood can be used.

"They fold and unfold quickly with the flick of a wrist, unlike many metal folding stools which often have complicated locking mechanisms. They also have a much better platform to stand on because it's secure and roomy. It sits much more solidly on the ground than most conventional metal



stools," according to Donna Henschel.

The stools are designed for sitting or standing. They can also be fitted with caster wheels for use around a farm shop. "They're great for anywhere around the house or barn. We've had a lot of interest from motorhome owners, where space is at a premium. They also make a great sitting stool at picnics or parades. We have a number of pilots who carry them in their planes for gasing up and cleaning the windshield," says Henschel, noting that the top of the stool is covered with a non-skid protector and the feet are dipped in a hard coat plastic finish. The wood is hand-stained and finished.

A 12-in. high stool, which weighs about 5 1/2 lbs., sells for \$39.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tower Stool Company, P.O. Box 337, Faith, S. Dak. 57626 (ph 605 967-2418).

## "Straight Up" Stairway Takes Up Minimal Floorspace

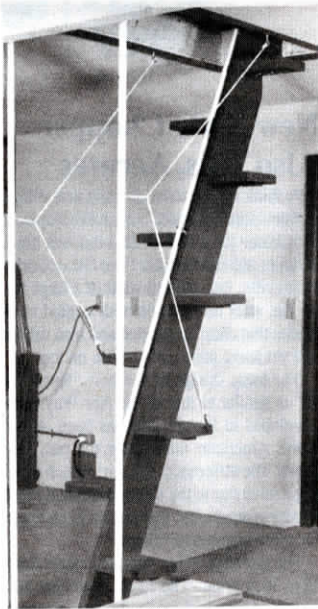
If you've got an attic in your home that you'd like to finish off or if you need a stairway into the upper level of a shop or garage but don't have a lot of floorspace to spare, you'll like this new "straight up" stairway that takes up little more space than a ladder but is as easy to climb as a conventional staircase.

Invented by Harry Merrick of Chatteroy, Wash., the "Ladderway" combines the features of a ladder and a stairway. He got the idea when he turned an unfinished attic into an office but didn't like the idea of having to climb a ladder to get to it and didn't have room for a conventional staircase.

The Ladderway is self-supporting like a ladder and yet has the tread of a stairway. It's supported by a single 2 by 10-in. board at center. Steps alternate on the right and left sides of the upright. Rise per step is 10 in., compared to 8 in. for most stairways and 12 in. for most ladders.

Key to success of the new-style climber is the Z-shaped steel bracket that supports the steps. Made out of 2-in. wide, 1/2-in. thick steel, the upper part of the bracket extends through the 2 by 10 upright, bearing all the weight. Merrick says the bracket is deceptively simple since it had to be designed to support up to 1,300 lbs. pressure without bending. The only way to get the strength needed, he found, was to weld the three pieces together at right angles.

The Ladderway attaches to the ceiling with two 90° brackets and can be made to swing out of the way if you need to hoist furniture or other equipment through the hole up into the upper room. Hand rails made out of lightweight aluminum pipe or nylon cord make climbing the new-style stairway easy even though it runs upward at a steep 68° angle.



"It uses about as much floorspace as a medium size chair," says Merrick, who's had tremendous interest in his idea since he introduced it a couple months ago. There are a number of different models available depending on the height, hinge and guard rail system. A standard stairway made out of Douglas Fir that'll extend up to 103 in., sells for \$136. Merrick also plans to offer do-it-yourself kits.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Merrick Development & Mfg. Inc., N. 31910 Pend Oreille Rd., Chatteroy, Wash. 99003 (ph 509 292-2180).

## New Products Especially For Women And The Farm, Ranch Home



### Boot Pull And Shoe Tray

Need help to remove stubborn boots, shoes or rubbers? Then have a look at Easyway, a combination boot pull and shoe tray.

The boot pull is molded onto one side of the 20 by 30-in. tray, made of durable ABC plastic that lasts for years without cracking or warping. An outer lip on the tray helps keep dirt and water from being tracked into the house. To clean the tray just dump out

the dirt and water and rinse it off in the laundry tub.

Comes in black and sells for \$14.95 including shipping and handling.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Easyway, Kenneth Jondahl, Owner, 3927 Oregon Ave., New Hope, Minn. 55427 (ph 612 535-5893).

### "Bucket Boss" Turns 5-Gal. Pail Into Toolbox

You'll like this nifty new "toolbox" made out of tough, heavy nylon and designed to fit over a 5-gal. bucket.

Invented by two Minnesota carpenters, the "Bucket Boss" has 16 pockets around the outside and 11 additional pockets that hug the inside of the bucket, leaving the entire interior open to hold larger tools, extension cords, etc.

Paul Maire and Bob Bierek have sold more than 200,000 of the innovative toolholders since they came up with the idea several years ago. They started out selling them one by one at job sites but recently set up a manufacturing business to market them to wholesalers and distributors.

Sells for \$24.95 (plus \$2.50 postage). The company also makes other designs, including one that just has pockets on the outside of the pail, one for gardening, an all-nylon tool bag (no need for a bucket), etc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Portable Products, 58 E. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, Minn. 55107 (ph 800 688-2677 or 612 221-0308).

