

## Horses Like This Easy-To-Use Restraint Tool

By Heather Thomas

Buck Wheeler, Ellendale, Minn., came up with a new tool to restrain and train horses that he says is the best on the market.

"It's a modern adaptation of the old Indian 'war bridle'. It's more effective and also more humane than anything else I've seen," says Wheeler. "It works better than tranquilizers, lip chains or twitches for restraining or calming an unruly horse. It's very effective when you have to give shots, medical treatment, trim or shoe its hooves, load it into a trailer, clip it, or do any other procedure that it might not like."

The "Stableizer" slips over the horse's head and goes behind the ears and under the top lip next to the gum. It is then tightened up, using a cord handle which is fitted with a pair of small pulleys rigged up like a miniature fence stretcher. The device is designed to put pressure behind the ears and under the lip. The pressure points behind the ears stimulate release of endorphins, which are natural narcotic-like substances produced by the body. The endorphins tend to block out pain and make the horse feel calm and relaxed. The pressure point beneath the lip blocks the

release of adrenalin, which also tends to relax the horse. The portion of the cord that goes under the lip is covered with plastic tubing so it doesn't cut into the gum or lip and cause pain.

The unit is made in five sizes to fit foals and miniature horses, on up to large draft horses. It also works on donkeys, mules, and llamas.

"Horsemen, veterinarians, and farriers really like it because one person can apply it and leave it in place, then work on the horse without needing anyone to help - the horse just stands quietly," says Wheeler. "The reason it works so well is that the horse experiences pleasure rather than pain while wearing it. He also remembers the experience (hoof trimming, clipping, etc.) as a good experience rather than something to fear, and is more cooperative the next time. Horses don't seem to mind having the Stableizer put on again and often stay calm and relaxed for up to 10 minutes even after it's removed. Many horses get to where they tolerate the activity (the clipping, wound doctoring, or whatever they're being restrained for) so



"Stableizer" puts pressure behind ears and under lip to stimulate release of endorphins. It calms horses, mules and donkeys so you can work on them.

much better that they no longer need the restraint of the Stableizer.

"It works better than a twitch because horses don't resent it and it's easy to put on. It stays on and won't fall off. The horse can still move with it on so you can lead him,

load him in a trailer, or even give him training lessons."

Sells for \$47.95 plus S&H.

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## Home-Built Skid Steer Attachments

"I saved thousands of dollars by building attachments for my Bobcat skid steer loader," says Ron Zunberger, who made a set of pallet forks, a subsoiler, and a rake which he uses on his farm near Quincy, Ohio.

"I spent a total of about \$100 to build all three attachments. Comparable commercial units would cost at least \$5,000 so I saved a lot of money," says Zunberger.

He used 2-in. sq. tubing off an Allis-Chalmers cultivator to make a rectangular frame that mounts on the loader quick-tach brackets and supports the pallet forks, as well as the subsoiler and rake. The frame is welded to a Bobcat bucket plate which he bought new. He welded the 60 by 20-in. frame to the bucket plate.

**Pallet Forks** - Zunberger cut a 50-in. long steel T-bar off the cultivator frame and cut 1/2-in. deep notches on top of it, then welded the T-bar to the Bobcat loader frame. He bought a set of standard 3-ft. long pallet forks, which slip on and off the frame from either side via a steel lip.

The position of the forks can be adjusted by sliding them to different notches on the T-bar.

**Subsoiler** - He used five worn out, 14-in. long moldboard plow shears to make the subsoiler. He cut a 2-in. notch at the end of each shear, then welded all the shears to a 2-in. sq., 60-in. long steel bar, spacing the shears about 1 ft. apart.

**Rake** - To make the rake he salvaged 5-in. long steel spikes off an old harrow gator, welding the spikes 2 in. apart onto a 60-in. long steel bar off an old 3-pt. blade. He then welded the blade to a length of 2 1/2-in. sq. bar. He made grips out of 2 1/2-in. bar covered by 1/2-in. steel plate to hold both the rake and the subsoiler. He bought 1/2 by 2 by 14-in. steel plate for the side bars and welded a rectangular box around a 2 by 2 by 10-in. bar with 2-in. openings at both ends. Side brackets slip on and off a 2-in. frame.

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Moldboard plow shears are spaced about 1 ft. apart on subsoiler.



Rake spikes are made of 5-in. long steel tines off an old harrow.



Forks are standard 3-ft. long pallet forks.



Therkilsen doubled the width of bucket to 68 in. and added a grapple fork.

## Custom-Built 5-Yard Bucket With Grapple Fork

Machinist Terry Therkilsen, Comfrey, Minn., converted a 3-yard front-end loader bucket to a 5-yard bucket and grapple fork designed to quick tach to a Deere payloader.

"I built it for a big cattle feeder who uses the payloader mainly to load manure and to handle corn stalk bedding. The original bucket was only 34 in. deep from front to back and didn't have grapple forks. He wanted more capacity because corn stalk bedding doesn't weigh a lot. He makes the bedding in stacks that measure 8 ft. wide by 16 ft. long. The bigger bucket and grapple forks allow him to grab about one third of the stack at a time," says Therkilsen.

He welded on new sheet metal to double the depth of the bucket and mounted a new cutting edge on front. The bucket now measures 68 in. from front to back. Therkilsen

built the grapple forks entirely from scratch. To make the quick tach brackets he adapted the quick tach brackets designed for a Caterpillar 966 payloader.

The forks are opened and closed by a pair of 10-in. hydraulic cylinders and swivel up or down on a 4 1/2-in. dia. steel pipe. There are four forks and each one is made in three sections. The section next to the swivel pipe is made from 2 by 4-in., 3/16 in. thick sq. tubing; the middle section is made from 2 by 3-in., 3/16-in. thick sq. tubing; and the end section from 1 by 3-in. solid steel.

"The total conversion cost was about \$3,000 but there's nothing on the market like it," notes Therkilsen.

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