

Reader Letters



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We use the picker to cut tree limbs and paint buildings. It's handier and safer than working from a ladder. (**Jake Klein, RR 1, Box 326, Flora, Ill. 62839 ph 618 662-4144**)

A lot of people who see my double-fronted, two-way car aren't sure just what they're seeing, and that's just the way I want it. I built it out of a pair of Plymouth Turismo cars, one a 1979 model and



the other a 1983. At first I equipped the car with two engines and two front wheel drives so that it could be driven from either end. However, state examiners were reluctant to license my car because other drivers might mistakenly think it was coming at them. For example, a driver could pass another vehicle and then get back into the right hand lane and find himself staring at what looks like a car coming his way.

One of the cars had a stick shift transmission and the other an automatic transmission. I operated the car from both ends for a while until the automatic trans-



mission went bad. At that point I decided to just go with the stick shift transmission and drive the car only one way. I took out one of the engines, added some weights, and made that space into a trunk. I also made one end of the car look like it was the rear. I did this by making a dummy spare wheel and mounting it on the grille. Then I found some large red tail lights and mounted them over what had been the headlights.

I like to take the car to parades in local towns. One trick I have is to lock the rear steering wheels in a slight turn. Then, as I drive down the street in a parade, the rear of the car is way off track compared with the front. Parade goers really get a kick out of this. (**Melvin Peger, 518 Pine St., Taylorville, Ill. 62568 ph 217 854-4188**)



I thought your readers would like to see the basket lift we made for our loader tractors. The basket has a 25-ft. reach and is free-swinging so it always stays

in the upright position. The boom that holds the basket bolts onto the bucket floor with four bolts and is chained to hooks welded on top of the bucket.

The basket measures 24 in. wide, 30 in. deep, and 42 in. high and pivots on a steel yoke that bolts onto the end of the



boom. The basket pivots on a pair of bolts. There are small rubber cushions mounted between the basket and the arms of the yoke, so I can adjust how much the bucket swings by tightening or loosening the bolts. We use the bucket to set rafters, trim trees, etc. I used angle iron to make the basket and welded two lengths of channel iron together to make the boom. I use the basket with my Deere 6400 front wheel assist tractor and also my Deere 158 tractor.

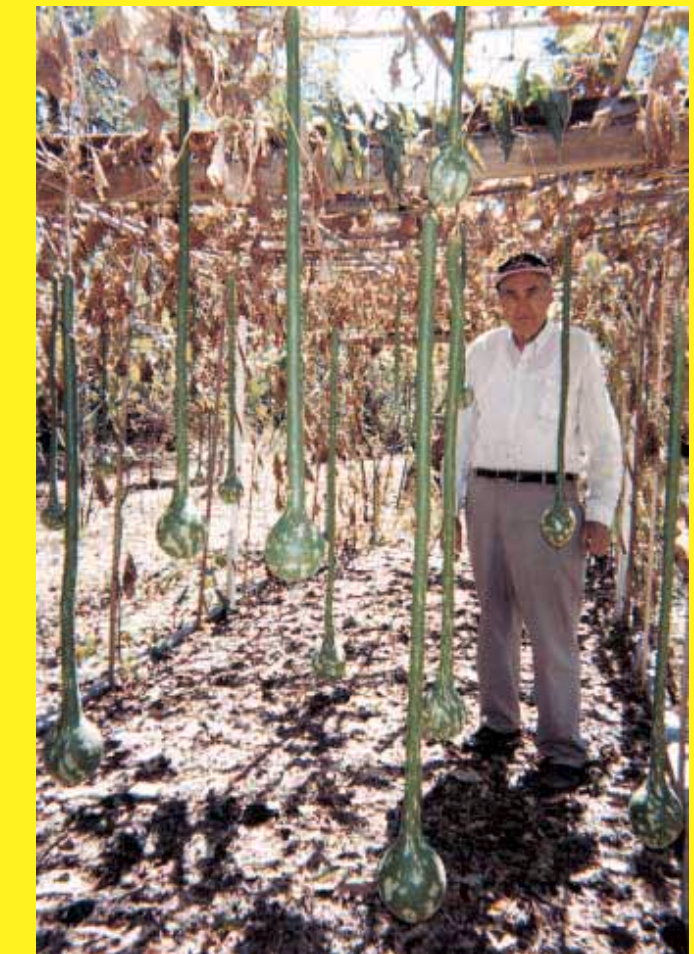
By removing two bolts I can remove the yoke from the boom and bolt a 4 by 6-in., 16-ft. wooden crane in its place. The crane has a chain at the end of it and works great for lifting rafters, etc. The crane is also chained to the bucket. (**Glen Schweppe, 1355 S. 32nd Rd., Syracuse, Neb. 68446**.)



I'm sending along some photos of wagons that I made out of metal. They are patterned after real wagons. In fact, I'm looking for photos of more wagons that I can use to make model wagons. I'd love it if your readers would contact me. My art work is now on the internet at this address: <http://www.craftsreport.com/showcase/metal/sculptural.html>. (**Ray Rodriguez, 202 E. Ross, Waxahachie, Tex. 75165**)



I used an old 10,000-gal. fuel tank to make a calf shelter. I cut the tank in half and cut a 30-in. high door into one end. The sun heats it up nicely so it gets pretty



I had a lot of fun last summer growing long-handled dipper gourds, one of which has a 59-in. long handle. Many others are nearly as long. Usually these kinds of gourds grow only about 2 ft. long. My gourds hang from a homemade 6-ft. high wooden rack and are planted in two rows about 10 ft. apart and spaced 4 ft. apart in the row. The vines climb up a series of vertical 1-in. sq. wooden strips and then across the rack, which consists of a series of wooden strips spaced 2 ft. apart. The plants need 20-ft. runners before they'll start blooming, so I have to turn the runners back over across the rack at least once before gourds form.

I applied a lot of fertilizer and used black soaker hose to irrigate the plants, which I think is why my gourds grew so long. I mixed 10 sacks of manure and 20 lbs. of 8-8-8 fertilizer into the ground, and also scattered a 4-in. layer of leaves on top. I installed the soaker hose at the base of the plants and also on top of the rack so water drips down on the leaves.

After the gourds mature, I carve out holes in them and use them as water dippers. The gourds can also be used as

birdhouses or simply as decorations.

Every fall before Halloween I put out a homemade decoration that shows an old man pulling a wagon loaded with jack o' lanterns and bales of hay. The lanterns are set on an automatic timer and light up at 6 in the evening and go off at 10 at night. The wagon looks like the ones used in the old days to haul luggage around railroad depots. I made it entirely from junk parts. The wheel rims were cut out of a 4 by 8 sheet of plywood and are covered by rubber from old bicycle tires. Both sets of wheels are connected by 6-ft. long threaded rods. The man wears coveralls, boots, and a hardhat. He's stuffed with leaves and hay. I use a big piece of styrofoam for his face and a big old mop for his hair.

I made an inexpensive play toy for my goats by bolting four tires together in a square and then nailing a sheet of plywood across the top. The animals can run through the tires from either side, then turn and jump on top of the plywood and try to push each other off. (**Johnny W. Self, 1638 Penn Rd. S.W., Hartselle, Ala. 35640 ph 256 773-0677**.)

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