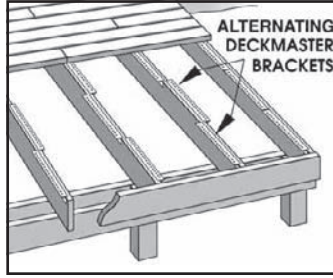




Brackets fasten to top edges of deck joists, allowing deck boards to be secured with screws from the bottom rather than top.



Brackets are installed on joists by alternating from side to side of joist.

“Out Of Sight” Deck Brackets

You can keep nails and screws out of sight on decks and stairways with the new Deckmaster® fastening system.

Deckmaster was designed by professional deck builder Wesson Leavens, who wanted to give his customers a fastening system that enhanced the look and life of the deck. Leavens felt that screwing or nailing through the top of the deck boards was unsightly, and allowed the wood to crack, warp, split, and rot.

His brackets fasten to the top edges of the deck joists, allowing deck boards to be secured with screws from the bottom rather than from the top.

Deckmaster brackets are easily installed on joists by alternating from side to side of the joist. Since the screws go into decking at a 60-degree angle rather than straight into the wood, alternating the brackets keeps tension

on the boards equal on both sides, holding them firmly in place.

Deckmaster brackets can be used to make steps and also to install vertical boards where there are multiple deck levels.

Deckmaster brackets are available in galvanized or stainless steel and are sold in packs of 10 or 100, complete with all necessary screws. Galvanized brackets sell for \$27.99 for 10, or \$251 for 100 when purchased from the company's Website. Stainless steel brackets are \$49.99 for 10, or \$451 for 100.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Grabber Deckmaster, P.O. Box 4060, Concord, Cal. 94524 (ph 800 723-1246 or 800 869-1375; E-mail: deckmaster@deckmaster.com; Website: www.deckmaster.com).

“Made-It-Myself” Foam Marker

Many of the “made-it-myself” ideas in FARM SHOW never go out of date, as proved by Brady and Kent Hodgson, brothers who run a dairy farm near Ste. Marthe, Quebec.

“Several years ago, FARM SHOW ran an article about a foam marker made with 12-volt air compressors. We looked it up last year and made one for our field sprayer,” says Brady.

Like the one in the original article (Vol. 18, No. 3), they used a couple of 12-volt air compressors set up to pump air into a pair of 5-gal. plastic pails. Flexible, clear plastic 1-in. dia. tubing is fastened to the pour spouts on the pails and runs to the end of the boom.

When the foam solution runs low in the pails, they simply unscrew the ring holding the pour spout in place and refill through that opening.

Air enters each pail through a length of 1/4-in. brake line inserted through the vent hole in the top of the pail. The brake line is cut, fastened and sealed just short of the bottom of the pail, so air blowing into the marker solution creates a build-up of foam inside the pail. After the pail is full of foam, it's pushed out through the tube to the end of the boom.

“It doesn't take much pressure or air volume to push foam out of the bucket and through the tubing,” Brady Hodgson notes.

The Hodgsons wanted to leave a visible mound of foam in the field, so they made foam accumulators at the ends of the booms by running the plastic tubing into 1-liter plastic soft drink bottles with the bottoms cut out. They put a rigid gray PVC elbow in the end of the plastic tube. “It fits over the top of the soft drink bottle and you can clamp it on with a hose clamp or even a piece of wire,” Kent Hdgson says.

“When foam in the bottle gets heavy enough, it drops out to the ground,” Hodgson says. He says they use plastic quart oil



A couple of 12-volt air compressors pump air into a pair of 5-gal. plastic pails.

If there's too much space between the foam drops on the ground, he says you can shorten the distance by cutting off more of the bottom of the bottle. The size of the mark will be reduced, however.

They wired the compressors into the tractor's electrical system and put toggle switches for each one in the cab. They can easily switch on either or both pumps as needed. Because the compressors aren't made for dusty field conditions, it's a good idea to cover them or mount them where they'll be protected from dust and debris.

“The original idea in FARM SHOW used a tubeless tire valve inserted through a hole in the bottom of the bucket. We buy all our cleaning solutions and soap in 5-gal. containers with pour spouts and vent holes in the top. We figured we could seal the brake line in the vent hole and save the price of the valves,” Brady says.

The Hodgsons say if they were doing it again, they'd use the tire valve. “It takes time to pressurize the system using these small compressors. With a tire valve, you could pressurize it with a shop compressor before going to the field.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brady and Kent Hodgson, Hodgson Farm Reg'd., 24 St. Henri Rd., Ste. Marthe, Quebec, Canada J0P 1W0 (ph 450 458-5508 or 450 458-0027).



Green uses his log lathe to “turn” logs to a uniform diameter for building houses.

Giant Lathe “Turns” Whole Logs

When Gerald Green needs a special tool for something, he usually makes it himself. So over the years, the Queen Creek, Arizona handyman has built sawmills, booms, dozer blades, and rock forks. Recently, he came up with one of his most interesting ideas - a giant “log lathe”.

FARM SHOW readers Harlan and Jackie Dalthorp, Young, Arizona, were so impressed they wrote to tell us about it.

Green uses his log lathe to turn down logs to a uniform diameter for building houses.

The lathe consists of a 32-ft. long frame made of 8 by 16-in. rectangular steel tubing. Like smaller shop lathes, it has a powered head stock and a tail stock that can be adjusted to fit the length of the material.

An electric hydraulic pump powers a 2 hp hydraulic motor that's geared down to turn the head stock at 15 to 20 rpm. “Because logs are not uniformly sized, turning them too fast might throw it off balance and could damage the lathe or even be dangerous,” Green says.

A second hydraulic motor, powered by the same pump, pulls a tool trolley across the top

of the log, using gears and roller chain. The tool trolley carries two router heads, powered by a 10 hp 3-phase 220-volt electric motor. The first router head takes off up to 2 in. of material, evening out the surface and taking out slight bows in the log. The second router head takes off about a quarter of an inch more, smoothing the log.

The big lathe handles logs up to 16 in. in diameter and 26 ft. long. It will peel a 12-in. diameter log down to 9 in. in one pass. Green says it sometimes takes multiple passes to turn a log down to the right size. The tail stock can be adjusted in 2-ft. increments from 6 ft. up to 26 ft.

“It takes about a half hour to peel and size a 14-ft. log,” Green says who's turned enough logs to build 14 houses.

Green has two log lathes for sale. He'd also be willing to consult with anyone interested in making either a lathe or a sawmill.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Green, 20134 Superstition Drive, Queen Creek, Arizona 85242 (ph 480-987-0308).



Trailer deck lowers via DC motor powered, self-contained hydraulics.

Skid Steer Trailer Drops Flat To Ground

When Darrin and Bruce Schmidt needed a trailer to haul their skid steer loader, they looked at what was on the market and then came up with a totally new design.

The Schmidts, owners of Holstein Manufacturing, Holstein, Iowa, put together a trailer with a deck that lowers flat to the ground hydraulically. “Safety is the number one feature of this trailer. There are no ramps, no tipping, no lifting, and no ramps to drop and fold back up again. It makes it easy for one person to load something onto it.”

The Schmidts liked their trailer so much they figured their customers would too, so they started building the Hi-Lo Hydraulic trailer for sale. The trailer features 4 by 12-in. steel tube framing, diamond floor plating, adjustable hitch height to fit almost any pickup or tractor, and DC motor powered, self-contained hydraulics with its own 12-volt battery.

A single axle version of the trailer is 15 ft. long, with a 10-ft. cargo deck, for loads up to 5,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight. For bigger loads, tandem axle versions are available with 12, 14 and 16-ft. decks, to handle loads up to 14,000 lbs. GVW. All models are 101 in. wide. Electric brakes and lights are included, with a 7-wire connector.

Schmidt says they're making the trailer in construction yellow, but if you'd prefer another color, just let them know. The single axle Hi-Lo Hydraulic trailer is priced at \$7,500, while tandem axle models start at \$8,500. Options include a surge brake actuator, winch, spare tire, and enclosed panels for tools, etc.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darrin Schmidt, Holstein Manufacturing, 5368 110th Street, Holstein, Iowa 51025 (ph 712 368-4342; E-mail: hmi@pionet.net; Website: www.holsteinmfg.com/hilo.html).