

The Rokon motorcycle has a lot of unusual features, including front and rear wheel drive and a 3-pt. hitch.



Two-Wheel Drive "ATV"

Whether you call it an all-terrain motorcycle or a 2-wheel "ATV", the Rokon Ranger has a lot of unusual features:

- Front AND rear wheel drive that lets you tow and carry big loads.
- An automatic transmission with a choice of three speed ranges to provide power at slow speeds.
- Wide, deep-cleated, low pressure tires that grip any surface.
- A rugged, welded steel frame with high ground clearance (15 in.). A steel skid plate to protect the engine and allow climbing over large obstacles. There's even a tow bar on back.
- 12 or 15-in. sealed aluminum wheels that allow the motorcycle to go through water up to 2 ft. deep. The hollow wheel housings can also be used to store fuel or water.
- Front, rear and brake lights and front and rear storage racks.

The Rokon is powered by a 4-stroke Kohler 172 cc engine that's quiet and has easy compression release starting. Its top speed is 40 mph. Tire chains are available for traveling on snow or ice. The lightweight rig weighs only 208 lbs. It leaves a track lighter than a person's footprint, according to the company. A rear seat allows you to carry a passenger.

A complete line of accessories is available, including a 3-pt. hitch, 10-in. moldboard plow, belt-driven power take-off kit, log skidder, and a bolt-on side car that attaches with one bolt. The pto can be used to operate pumps and small generators, and the log skidder can be used to haul logs up to 20 in. in diameter. A universal holder allows you to mount a GPS, cell or satellite phone and adjust it for a variety of angles.

"It's a versatile vehicle that can help you do a lot of jobs. The automatic transmission makes it easy to drive," says Tom Blais. "It's ideal for hunting and for herding animals because the 4-stroke engine is very quiet. It also works well for dragging logs out of small woodlots. It's easier to maneuver than a 4-



Rear hitch raises and lowers 10-in. moldboard plow.



Rugged trailer tows heavy loads. It features a tilt box and removable tailgate.

wheeler in the woods. You can use it to tow loads up to 3,000 lbs. It comes in handy for checking crops because it's narrow enough that you can drive down between the rows. Even if the ground is muddy you won't get stuck.

"The pto allows you to pump water or generate electricity in remote areas. The side car makes the vehicle wider, but some people want the ability to carry more cargo. The hollow wheels allow this motorcycle to float in water. You can walk beside it in water that's 5 ft. deep, and if you hold it up it'll float right next to you."

Sells for \$4,875.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rokon International, 50 Railroad Ave., Rochester, N. H. 03839 (ph 603 431-5100; fax 603 431-9506; E-mail: info@rokon.com; Website: www.rokon.com).

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Braton cut a couple of empty grain bins in half to make two quonset-like sheds that are open at both ends.

Wrecked Bins Make Low-Cost Shelters

When Jeff Braton, Barnesville, Minnesota, quit grain farming to raise cattle, he figured he should provide the cattle some relief from winter winds.

At the same time, though, he didn't want to make a major investment in buildings.

"A windstorm in 1996 knocked over a couple of empty grain bins. I had salvaged the drying floors out of them, but the bins were wrecked and lying there on their sides," he says. As he looked at those bins, it struck him that he could turn them into cattle shelters.

He unbolted and removed the roof from the bins and then, using a cutting torch, cut each bin in half to make two quonset-like sheds, open at both ends.

"I cabled the bottom edges together so they wouldn't spread, putting the cable down low to the ground so I can drive into them with a tractor and scrape out manure," he says. "I was going to drive posts and anchor them, but they've stayed put, so that may not be necessary."

His grain bin shelters are 18 ft. long, 18 ft. wide, and about 9 ft. high at the peak of the arch. They're set with the open ends facing northeast and southwest, to avoid becoming wind tunnels when winter winds blow from the northwest.

He turned one arch into a calf shed by putting rails of 2 by 6-in. boards across the ends at the right height to keep the cows out. He puts a creep feeder inside this one when calves are small.

The sheds can be relocated by driving a loader tractor inside and lifting the loader in the center of the shed. With the shed centered over the tractor and lifted off the ground a few inches, he can drive it to wherever he wants. "Moving them makes cleaning up around them a lot easier," he says.

Braton says cutting the bins in half with an acetylene torch took less than half an hour. "I started trying to unbolt the panels and cutting the ones that didn't line up, but that was taking a long time," he says. Since having a perfectly flat edge to put onto the ground wasn't important, he figured it would be better to do the job quickly. He adds that unbolting the roofs to remove them took longer than cutting the bins in half. He says his only costs were the cables and hardware to tie the sides together and the gas to run the torch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeffrey Braton, 2862 110th St., Barnesville, Minn. 56514 (ph 218 493-4582; E-mail: jeffreyb@rrt.net).

"Spray Tank" Seed Bins

Brian Haubrich, Glenbain, Sask., converted a pair of old metal spray tanks into seed holding bins which he uses to fill his grain drill.

Each tank - one 300 gal. and the other 400 gal. - sits inside a four-legged metal stand at a 45 degree angle. The tanks have a fill opening on top - made from a short length of welded-on auger tubing - and an endgate at the bottom that's used to unload the seed into an auger hopper.

"I use them mainly to store small amounts of flax seed. One tank holds 40 bu. and the other 50 bu. Flax seed is very small so a small amount goes a long way for planting," says Haubrich. "The tanks keep mice out and are easy to use. I use an auger to fill the tanks and also to unload them. I had been hauling the tanks on a spray wagon and using the same stand to support them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Haubrich, Box 21, Glenbain, Sask., Canada S0N 0X0 (ph 306 264-3809).



Brian Haubrich uses these metal spray tanks - set inside a four-legged metal stand at a 45 degree angle - to fill his grain drill.