

Shop Wizard Creates Profitable New Career

It's difficult to put a value on the mechanical skills needed to create the kind of "made it myself" farm inventions that fill the pages of FARM SHOW. Guys that are good at working with their hands just seem to take it for granted and often forget that not everyone can do what they can do.

Dave Madar of Brown City, Mich., was featured on the cover of FARM SHOW several years ago (Vol. 21, No. 5) when he built his own skid steer loader. Recently, he sent us the following story of how he learned to put his skills to use doing custom work for others. Here's his story:

"In 1996, my firewood and scrap metal business were not going well due to circumstances beyond my control (warm weather and low prices). The bank with which I had dealt for over 20 years decided not to renew my home mortgage, and foreclosed on us. Anyone who has ever had to move over 20 years worth of accumulation knows it was a huge undertaking. On top of that, we were broke and losing our heated pole barn, where I did most of my mechanical work.

"I found a piece of farmland complete with septic, well and electric for rent. We set up a cheap mobile home for an emergency place to live.

"Out of desperation, I took a part time job at \$7.50 an hour. It wasn't much but it bought groceries and paid the light bill. But I knew there had to be a better way.

"I possessed pretty good welding and fabricating skills but did not want to be just another welder at a factory. I've always enjoyed creating things from scratch but did

not like the long hours and low monetary returns for factory work. I decided to go into business on my own.

"I started a welding business armed with my trusty 1974 Ford 4-WD, an antique torch set, a 1960 Hobart gas welder, a disc grinder, and \$75 in cash. Instead of building my own equipment and doing my own repairs, I started doing it for others.

"Things worked out so well that in less than four years, I've purchased five welders (3 brand new), a commercial bandsaw, three trucks, chopsaws, grinders, a drill press and other tools too numerous to mention. I also bought a cabin in Northern Michigan, paid off a \$9,000 debt, and met the needs of my family. Everything has been paid for in cash and I've taken on no new debt.

"I get many checks for \$200 to \$300 for a few hours work up to \$700 a day or \$2,500 a week. Once I made \$30,000 for 6 months of part time work.

"I believe there are many FARM SHOW



When Dave Madar set up his own fabricating and welding business, he learned how to price jobs for a high rate of return. For example, he built a 20-ft. truckbed equipped with five fold-down doors (above). It took him one week to do and he netted more than \$3,000. For another job, he constructed "die racks" (upper right) for a factory, making \$2,000 for less than a week of work. And he made sides for a gravel pit conveyor (lower right), which resulted in \$800 for 1 1/2 days of work.



readers who could get into this kind of work. You just have to have a desire to work on your own and know how to run a torch, welder, and other tools. If I can do it, anyone with good mechanical skills can do the same.

"I would be willing to help others get started like I did and am considering selling a video with information and examples of how I did it and how I operate now. Anyone interested should write to me at the address below and I'll get back to them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Madar, King David's Fabricating & Welding, 4584 Bentley Rd., Brown City, Mich. 48416.



Folding 10-in. stool makes it a lot easier to mount a horse.

Nifty Fold-Up Stool For Mounting Horses

If you or someone you know is on the shorter side, this folding 10-in. stool will make it a lot easier to mount a horse.

The step comes with three rubber-tipped aluminum legs that provide a firm base of support, even on slightly uneven terrain. Once you're mounted on the horse you use an attached cord to pull the step up from the ground. Then you fold the legs in and store unit in a saddle bag. Weighs only 1 1/2 lbs.

Another advantage of the step is it's easier on the horse, because you're not plunking down as hard on its back or pulling the saddle over sideways as you lift yourself up.

According to the company, when you use the step a horse that stands 16 hands high will seem no taller than a pony that stands only 13.2 hands.

Sells for \$39.95 plus S&H. A saddle pack is also available. Sells for \$16.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Giddy-Up.com, 303 Miller Valley Rd., Kennedy, N.Y. 14747 (ph 888 617-8009; fax 716 267-



Stool comes with three rubber-tipped aluminum legs that provide a firm base of support, even on slightly uneven terrain.

4002; E-mail: info@giddy-up.com; Website: www.giddy-up.com).



Immobilizer temporarily paralyzes any size animal, using an electronic pulse that prevents muscle movement.

Electronic Animal Immobilizer

Twenty years after it was first shown in the U.S., you still have to see the RAU "Immobilizer" to believe it.

We featured the device in 1981 (Vol. 5, No. 5). Invented in South Africa, the electronic device never caught on. Now a new distributor is taking another crack at it.

Essentially, the Immobilizer temporarily paralyzes any size animal, using an electronic pulse that prevents muscle movement.

James Keane-Murphy of I & G Distributors, says the device makes it much safer and easier to hold animals motionless for branding, castrating, de-horning, hoof trimming, and other jobs.

The battery-powered device simply clips to the skin of the animal. As long as the pulse is applied, the animal can't move any muscles and remains frozen in place. That means no head-jerking while de-horning and no kicking

while castrating or trimming hooves. The results can be fewer injuries, fewer bent needles, and more accurate injections so less damage to muscle tissue.

Field trials have shown no negative effects from the immobilizer, even on pregnant animals at any stage of pregnancy.

The immobilizer, priced at \$795, is primarily designed for use on cattle but has also proven effective on larger exotic animals like buffalo and elk. A mini probe is available for use on sheep, hogs or goats. It's available on the Internet and at livestock and wildlife management supply dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Keane-Murphy, I&G Distributors USA, 4965 Hidden Branches Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30338 (ph 770 350-0342; fax 770 350-0342; E-mail: james@animalimmobilizer.com; Website: www.igd-usa.com).