

Texas Fence Fixer Back On Market

The Texas Fence Fixer is back on the market after nearly a 10-year absence due to distribution problems. Inventor Ken Evans, a Seguin, Texas, area rancher is again selling the once popular farm tool, first introduced in 1982.

"We sold thousands of Texas Fence Fixers over the years," says Evans. "We've had lots of requests for them since we stopped, and now we can respond."

Popularity of the Texas Fence Fixer is easy to understand if you've ever had to tighten fence. Taking the slack out usually means detaching the wire from all the posts on a stretch, pulling it tight and then reattaching. Evans' idea was to devise a way to tighten shorter stretches, taking the slack out of the fence as you went along. Since a loose barb or wire is often the result of a critter forcing its body through or a branch falling on it, the slack often occurs in only a limited area.

The Texas Fence Fixer consists of two steel arms hinged on one end with jaw slots part way down the arms. A chain attached to one arm has links long enough to slip over the other arm's end and catch in a notch on its handle.

To tighten a wire with the tool, the Fixer is spread wide to catch as much slack wire as possible between the jaw slots. When the two arms are pulled together, a loop of loose wire forms.

"Just lay a short length of spare wire across the face of the tool and wrap about 7 to 10 inches around the wire at either side of the arms," explains Evans. "Get at least two full wraps on either side."

The next step is to insert a fence pliers or other tool into the loop and twist it tight around the spare wire. Once the loop is tight, the tool can be removed from the wire.



Fixer is spread wide to hook onto wire and then pulled together. A chain holds jaws together while wire is tightened.



"You can make a repair in a minute without loosening staples or tie wires," says Ken Evans.

"You can make the repair in a minute without loosening staples or tie wires," says Evans. "If the wire is still a little slack, just go down the fence a few yards and tighten it again."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Texas Fence Fixer, P.O. Box 510, Seguin, Texas 78156 (ph 830 379-7344 or toll free: 866 882-2896; website: www.texasfencefixer.com).



Cabinet mounts on four canister wheels and stands 8 ft. high. Front side of bottom compartment doubles as a folding shelf that folds out at pickup bed height.



Insulated "Load-Out" Cabinet

"It makes my pressure washer weatherproof. The washer is hooked up and ready to go anytime I want to use it," says Mark Burrow, Altamont, Ill., about the insulated "load-out" cabinet he built to enclose his hot/cold pressure washer.

A fold-out shelf makes it easy to load the washer onto his pickup bed so he can use it for work outside the shop.

The cabinet mounts on four caster wheels and stands 8 ft. high. It's made with a frame of 2 by 4s covered by two layers of 1/4-in. thick plywood. There's 1 1/2 in. of foam board insulation between the plywood walls. An electric heater inside the cabinet provides warmth on cold winter days.

The cabinet has a shelf about 3 ft. off the floor that supports the washer. A hinged lid on top of the cabinet can be lifted out of the way to provide access to the washer's hose reel. The lid is held in place by a pair of gas

shocks.

The bottom compartment is for storing fuel cans and extra hoses, etc. The front side of the bottom compartment doubles as a folding shelf that folds out at pickup bed height. One corner of the cabinet is hinged to the shop wall, allowing the cabinet to be rotated 90 degrees so the washer can be loaded onto a pickup.

Burrow keeps his Aladdin 1,200 psi pressure washer inside the cabinet.

"It makes the washer weatherproof. It's always hooked up and ready to go anytime I want to use it," says Burrow. "Without the cabinet, during winter I'd have to either drain the pressure washer after every job or not use it all. The load-out shelf is really handy and saves a lot of heavy lifting."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Burrow, 11221 N. 100th St., Altamont, Ill. 62411 (ph 618 483-5598).

Handy Bale Mover Loads And Unloads Itself

If you'd like to be able to haul bales with your pickup, ATV, or garden tractor, you'll like this single-bale mover that loads and unloads a single bale. It can handle both round and big square bales and can be pulled behind any pickup.

The 2-wheeled "Bale-A-Haul" is equipped with a hinged metal claw that grabs onto bales.

To load, you back up so a short tooth on the back slides under the bale and then pull on a rope and stop. The sudden stop causes a big claw on top to swing down over the bale. To unload, you back up and pull on the rope at the same time which will cause the bale to roll out.

"It doesn't actually pick up the bale as much as it rolls it on, which is why you can operate it with only a garden tractor," says inventor Jim McCrabb. "Once you've loaded the bale you can go down the road at 55 mph. The reason the claw doesn't come down when you unload the bale is that you don't back far enough for the claw to go over-center."

Sells for \$1,500.



To load, you back up so a short tooth on back slides under bale (top) then pull on a rope which releases claw to drop down over bale (below).



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McCrabb Probe-A-Load, Inc., 121 W. 3rd St., West Liberty, Iowa 52776 (ph 800 627-7623; email: jmccrabb@lcom.net).

Skid-Steer Fork Raises To New Heights

Here's something new: A forklift mast that quick-taches to a skid steer loader or compact tractor to reach higher than most conventional forklifts.

Sheyenne Tooling's "Tele-Fork" has a 2,000-lb. capacity at its maximum lift height of 12 1/2 ft.

Company representative Ted Traeder says the company created it after a customer wanted to lift furniture, sheet rock, and other materials to the upper floors of new homes. Before coming out with the Tele-Fork, the customer had to rent an expensive telehandler, crane or other machine to do the job. The Tele-Fork provides the capability to reach new heights and also functions as a conventional forklift when used at ground level.

The fork's prongs are 4 in. wide by 48 in. long. The whole thing weighs 1,100 lbs and comes powder coated.

The Tele-Fork, which was displayed for the first time in August, sells for \$2,295.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sheyenne Tooling & Mfg. P.O. Box 647, 701 Lenham Ave. SW, Cooperstown, N. Dak. 58425 (ph 800 797-1883 or 701 797-2700; www.sheyennemfg.com).



Tele-Fork quick-taches to skid loaders or compact tractors with quick-tach loader systems.

Plexiglass Reduces Heating Bill

When George Marley bought a drafty old 12-room farmhouse with no storm windows, one of the first things he needed to do was find a way to reduce heating bills.

A carpenter recommended putting plexiglass over the windows as an inexpensive, immediate solution.

The idea worked, reducing Marley's heating bills in half. To let outside air in, he just loosens the bottom screws and bends the sheet, putting a piece of wood between the plexiglass and window.

Marley points out that the plexiglass is a lot tougher than the clear plastic covers people often use. And it's clear, unlike heavier grade plastic.

Now, he's slowly replacing each piece of plexiglass with conventional self-storing storm windows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George



To temporarily seal up windows on an old house he moved into, George Marley screwed sheets of clear plexiglass to the outside.

Marley, 26002 North 21st Ave., Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-7463).