



King Corn Cooker consists of a trailer with a large cooler at one end. It can cook 102 ears in 15 minutes or up to 1,600 ears in a 4 to 5-hour day.

Corn Cooker Cooks Faster And Better

"You can't make a bad ear taste good," says Jim Brandau, "but my corn cooker makes a good ear taste better."

His King Corn Cooker can cook 102 ears in 15 minutes or up to 1,600 ears in a 4 to 5 hour day. Speed is important when you are running a corn stand, like Brandau does. Quality is even more important if you want customers to recommend your corn to their friends.

"It tastes better because it is cooked upright so it cooks more evenly," explains Brandau. He should know. He has raised and sold sweet corn in a Chicago suburb for the past 22 years. He sells much of it fresh, but the real money is in roasted ears.

"At the farm stand, the average price is \$3 per dozen," says Brandau. "But when it's roasted, I get \$3 an ear. That's \$36 a dozen."

Before building his cooker, Brandau used a charcoal grill he had built from a truck frame. He knew he wanted something that would do a better job and be self-contained.

The King Corn Cooker consists of a trailer with a large cooler at one end. The combi-

nation LP and charcoal heat unit is at the center. He can use one or both sources depending on whether charcoal is or isn't allowed at an event.

The cooker with turnstile is at the other end. An electric motor rotates the corn slowly inside the 300° to 450° roasting chamber.

"Figuring out what the height of the chamber should be for heat and the time it would take for the corn to cook was the toughest part of the entire project," recalls Brandau.

He has used the cooker for both sweet corn and baked potatoes, but he prefers corn, as it needs fewer condiments. "All I do is cook 'em, shuck 'em and dip 'em in water and butter," says Brandau.

He has patented the cooker and will sell a complete unit for \$25,000. He says he paid for his unit in the first couple weekends he used it but notes that your success will depend on the type of events you attend.

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Rebuild Batteries Better Than New

You don't have to toss your old cordless drill just because the battery's worn out and the company stopped making replacements. Primecell, a Bedford, Penn. company, has been rebuilding batteries for nearly 20 years.

"Battery technology changes so quickly that a lot of product today is made to be disposed of after 3 to 5 years," says Joel Cunard, owner of Primecell. "People can't find a replacement for their battery, so they have to throw out the tool."

Even when a dealer or manufacturer says a battery cannot be rebuilt, Cunard says his company can often do so. Primecell has developed a way to open batteries to replace the cells, then reseal them without damage. Not only are rebuilds less expensive than a replacement, but more than 97 percent end up with increased capacity.

One way to increase capacity in NiCd batteries is to rebuild with NiMh cells. Original NiMh batteries normally have to be recharged with expensive NiMh chargers. Primecell is often able to install circuits that allow the rebuilt batteries to be charged with the original NiCd chargers, yet enjoy the greater NiMh cell capacity.

"The company works with orders of all sizes," says Cunard. He cites customers as diverse as AT&T and NASA to individual ham radio operators, paramedics and home handymen.

"We pride ourselves on single orders for individuals, but we also do large orders for



Primecell has developed a way to open batteries to replace the cells, then reseal them without damage.

companies," says Cunard. "A new battery might cost \$100. We can rebuild for \$40."

One battery the company hasn't developed a process for is lithium ion rechargeables. Popular for their energy density, they are very expensive to replace, notes Cunard, and can be killed if undercharged or overcharged.

Visit Primecell's website for a long list of batteries that can be rebuilt and information on assessing your battery's health. Cunard suggests requesting an estimate before sending in a battery.

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Mark Adams used two 1986 Suzuki Samurai rear-ends to make this 4-WD, articulated skid steer loader. It's powered by a 4-cyl. Wisconsin engine.

"Built From Scratch" Skid Steer Loader

"I have enjoyed building things out of steel for years," says Mark Adams, Bristol, Vermont. "Last year I started to build a skid-steer loader as a hobby project. I don't even know how many hours I've spent on it, but it sure taught me a lot about hydraulics and hydrostatic drives.

"I decided the loader would be four-wheel drive with articulated steering," says Adams. "I also wanted the loader to be hydrostatically driven. The first thing I needed was two rear ends that I could use. Two 1986 Suzuki Samurai rear-ends had what I needed, but I narrowed them up by 6 in. so the loader wouldn't be too wide," he says.

"The frame is made of 2 by 4-in. box steel that's 1/4-in. thick. The tinwork around the machine is 16-ga. steel, and the bucket is 1/4-in. steel."

To power the loader, Adams turned to an unusual source. "I took the hydrostatic transmission out of a small street sweeper, and it works great," he says. "I made my own transfer case in order to get the gear ratio right for the two rear ends.

"The engine is a 4-cylinder Wisconsin. I put the engine on back of the loader for good traction. And a separate hydraulic pump powers the lift arms and the bucket. A joystick steers the loader and shifts it from forward to reverse.

"I have been using the loader for about 4 months and it works great. The project really taught me a lot about hydraulics."

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Net fence has vertical lines every 3 in. "As long as it's electrified, it's an excellent ground barrier for predators like coyotes, skunks and dogs," says the company.

Electric Poultry Net Keeps Predators Out

Growing demand for free range poultry is providing small farmers with a new market opportunity. But predators see it as a new meal opportunity. Energized PoultryNet from Premier Fence is designed to keep non-flying and clipped wing birds in and predators out.

"In the last few years, demand for PoultryNet has just exploded," says Stephanie Sexton, marketing director for Premier Fence. "It provides a more friendly and natural environment for birds and lets them get out and move around."

The 42-in. tall poultry net has vertical lines every 3 in. Horizontals start out at only 2 in. apart at the bottom of the fence, move to 4 in. and finally 8 in. apart at the top. The company also recommends using high impedance energizers because poultry legs have a higher internal resistance to electricity.

PoultryNet can be used with larger animals,

too. Some intensive grazers believe chickens running in a paddock after cows or sheep will spread manure around and help control flies and other pests.

Sexton emphasizes that the net is never a physical barrier, but always has to be electrified to be effective. "As long as it's electrified, it is an excellent ground barrier for predators like coyotes, skunks and dogs," she says.

PoultryNet comes in 82 and 164-ft. rolls, has line posts (uprights) every 9 1/2 ft. and an expected life of up to 7 years. A 164-ft. roll can be installed in only 6 min. and costs 77¢/ft.

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