



Pehovic has used his home-built "column hoist" to do everything from putting up buildings to drilling a well.

## One-Man Column Hoist Handy For Lots Of Jobs

When Ken Pehovic set out to build a 30 by 30-ft. arch-type steel storage building, he faced two problems: a lack of skilled help to raise the arches into position, and the lack of a high-lift scaffold. He solved the problem by building his own "column hoist" for less than \$600.

"It's very versatile. I've used it for everything from putting up buildings to stuccoing my two-story house. I even used it to drill a well," says Pehovic.

The hoist has a 5-ft. sq. base. It's equipped with a pair of lift arms that are adjustable for width. The hoist is equipped with a hand winch that's used to raise or lower a trolley which carries the lift arms. Additional pieces of 3-in. sq. tube can be coupled to the main column when additional height is needed. For example, two pieces were added to reach a working height of 20 ft. to build the arch building.

One corner of the building was cut into the side of a high bank, so the building was set on top of a concrete wall 4 ft. above the finished floor. "Even if I would have been able to use a conventional scaffold to raise the arches, they would still need to be raised straight up 4 ft. in order to get them up on the sill channel. A completed arch weighs about 200 lbs., so it wouldn't have been an easy job without this hoist," notes Pehovic.

He used lightweight rectangular tubing to build the base and 3-in. sq. tubing to build the column. The lift arms, made from 2-in. sq. tubing, can be turned upside down to gain an additional 12 in. of height.

Not long after Pehovic had the building enclosed, he decided to add a loft. He used the hoist to raise 12-ft. long, 4 by 8 timbers up to the loft which were used as floor joists. He also uses the hoist to move heavy power equipment up to the loft for storage.

The hoist was designed so it can be easily taken apart to get it into rooms or other small



Hoist is equipped with a 12-volt, battery-powered winch that makes it easy to lift heavy items.

areas. For instance, he took it into the house to lift 4 by 12-ft. sheets of drywall when finishing off a ceiling.

Pehovic also used the hoist to drill a 55-ft. well on his farm, installing a submersible system with a 4-in. pump. The hoist's lift arms were used to support a hydraulic auger drive that turned a 5-in. dia. drilling bit. "I used a shop-built swivel to hook up a water injection system to a 1-in. dia. drilling pipe. I was constantly going up and down with the drill to add and remove drill stems, so for this project I converted the hand winch to a 12-volt, battery-powered winch," notes Pehovic.

He could sell a complete set of plans with an itemized parts list, including sources for mechanical parts, if there's enough interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Pehovic, Coventry Berries, 15012 Balsam Lane, Ocqueoc, Mich. 49759 (ph 989 734-4990; fax 989 734-2794; email: berryworks@core.com).

## Skid-Proof Trailer Idea

Clendon Nichols had a bad experience a few years ago. He's a tractor puller who was loading a Deere 420 onto a flatbed trailer after an event. It was raining and the trailer was parked at a slight angle on a hill. As he got up on the trailer, the front end slid off the side of the trailer. Although it didn't tip over, it scared him enough to decide he was never going to let it happen again.

After thinking about it, Nichols came up with a skid-proof coating for the trailer by first covering it with a light coat of sand, and then rolling on a coating of Herculiner bed

liner – a hard plastic coating that goes on as a liquid and dries hard. It's normally used as a bed liner for pickups.

He says the hard gritty surface really did the trick and he's been using the idea ever since. After about three years of hard use, he says the original coating started to wear off in areas so he simply recoated it.

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"Just about any boat that can pull skiers can handle a parasail," says the manufacturer of this new "personal use" parasail.

## Personal Use Parasails Catching On Fast

Ever been on vacation to some seaside resort and been tempted to try your hand at parasailing? A Texas company says now you can try it at home - if you have access to a lake and a speed boat.

Sandra Clark first tried parasailing several years ago. She loved the sport, but figured there were ways to improve the sail so she began to make a few on her own. It wasn't long before she was running a business from her garage. That business grew until today, her Sport Chutes is one of the largest parasail makers in the world.

Sport Chutes sells a variety of chutes for personal or commercial use. Todd Wells, a manager with the company, says sales to individuals for their own personal use is growing.

"We have three chutes that are strictly for occasional use," he says. These measure 24, 26 and 28 ft., and will lift 250, 350, and 450 lbs. respectively. "With the largest one, you

could fly two average sized adults at a time," he adds.

Sport Chute Parasails come with a carrying case, a deluxe padded harness, 300 ft. of towline, and an instruction manual.

Wells says you'll need a tow boat with a minimum of 90 to 95 hp. "Just about any boat that can pull skiers can handle a parasail," he says.

He says the chute, when airborne, will exert about the same pull on the boat as three or four skiers, so it's important that the tow line be properly anchored. He recommends a tow bridle like those used on some ski boats to keep multiple water-ski tow lines centered.

A 28-ft. parasail and accessories from Sport Chutes sells for about \$1,800.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sport Chutes, 15610 Wright Brothers Drive, Addison, Texas 75001 (ph 972 661-1166; fax 972 661-1144; email: salesinfo@sportchutes.com; website: www.sportchutes.com.)

## Old Fashioned Milk Paint Gives Bright, Durable Finish

People who needed paint before the middle 1800's usually made it themselves. And chances are, they used a formula that dates back to ancient times and is based on, of all things, milk. The most common recipe in early America contained milk protein, quicklime, and pigments from the earth, according to the Old Fashioned Milk Paint Co., Inc., Groton, Massachusetts.

The company was formed in 1974 to market milk paint using antique recipes, but produced with modern technology and packaged in dry form. Instead of milk, the user just adds water.

Pigments used include ochre, umber, iron oxide and lampblack. Milk paint contains no hydrocarbons or any other petroleum derivatives. It is environmentally safe and non-toxic when dry. The company says the paint has a slight milky odor when it is applied, but it's completely odorless when dry. It's safe for children's furniture and toys, and can also be used for interiors of homes of people who are allergic to modern paints.

The company says its milk paint authentically reflects the deep rich colors found on existing antique furniture and buildings. It says modern paints cannot compare with either the colors or the texture of the finish that can be achieved with milk paint. And, like the paints used hundreds of years ago, the colors in Milk Paint will not fade.

Since Old Fashioned Milk Paint is packaged as a powder, you can mix up the exact amount of paint you'll need, whether it's a pint, quart or a gallon. And you can control the thickness of the paint.

While Milk Paint is intended for use on



Milk paint is packaged in dry form. It authentically reflects the deep rich colors found on existing antique furniture and buildings.

wood, you can use it on other surfaces by mixing the company's special extra-bond concentrated acrylic into the first coat of milk paint applied. The paint is intended for indoor use, but with a good urethane outer coat, it can be used outdoors, too.

It comes in 16 different finish colors and a primer. If those colors don't suit your needs, you can also order a base formulation and add your own pigment. It's been featured on several HGTV specials. Prices vary. Check the website or call the company to direct you to a local dealer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Old Fashioned Milk Paint Co., Inc., 436 Main Street, Groton, Mass. 01450 (ph 866 350-6455; fax 978 448-2754; website www.milkpaint.com).