First-of-its-kind "multi-wedge" splits chunks into 16 pieces no larger than 3 1/2 in. square.

16-Way "Multi-Wedge" Log Splitter

"Our new wood splitter is equipped with a 16-way multi-wedge design. It can split wood that's up to 16 in. in dia., into 16 pieces no larger than 3 1/2 in. sq. And it does all this in one pass," says John Smith, Built-Rite Mfg. Corp., Ludlow, Vt.

The wedge is also an option on the company's hydraulic-operated, pull-type wood processor, which is designed to cut logs into firewood length and then split them. The operator sits in a chair and controls all operations.

Wedge uses two different sized splitting rings, one located just ahead of the other.

The wedge uses two different sized splitting rings, one located just ahead of the other. The first ring splits the log into four pieces, and the second ring splits it into 12 more pieces. A round steel plate, operated by a large hydraulic cylinder, pushes the log through both rings.

"It allows you to make small pieces of firewood without having to re-split," says Smith.

Two splitter models are available. One model has a 24 hp gas engine; the other a 33 hp diesel engine. The gas model sells for $11,450; the diesel model for $14,450. The wedge is also offered as an option on the company's models 50 and 86 SCP firewood processors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Built-Rite Mfg. Corp., 750 East Hill Rd., Ludlow, Vt. 05149 (ph 800 757-2520; builtrite@tds.net; www.built-rite.com).

"Sock" lets you leave aeration fan on the ground and just connect the tubular canvas sock to the bin.

Aeration "Sock" Makes Fan Hookup Easy

Anyone tired of hooking up heavy aeration fans when moving them between bins will like the idea of this aeration "sock" that makes them easy to hook up.

The sock lets you leave the aeration fan on the ground and just connect the tubular canvas sock to the hopper cone outlet. It also works on ground level openings, eliminating the need to bolt the fan in place.

"It lets you get the job done faster and easier. In some cases, you might be able to get by with one fan where you might otherwise have bought two," says Alex Getzlaf at Tarpco Mfg., who says the company has already sold 600 of the aeration socks this summer.

One end of the air sock simply buckles to the fan and the other end buckles to the bin inlet. You can custom order the sock to fit your bin and fan. Socks can be made in any diameter and length. The bin end of the sock is designed with inner housing skirt to prevent back pressure.

"Some customers tell us every bin fan should be sold with one of these so you don't have go through the hassle of hooking up," says Getzlaf, noting that Tarpco specializes in semi rolltops and that the aeration socks are made of the same tough material – an 18-oz. pvc fabric.

Fire retardant material is also available for use on drying fans fitted with burners.

Aeration socks sell for $125 for a 10-ft. length up to 18 in. dia., plus or minus $5/ft. for more or less length. A 10-ft. sock over 18 in. sells for $145. Prices are in US funds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alex Getzlaf, Tarpco Mfg., Box 360, Avonlea, Sask. S0H 0C0 Canada (ph 800 345-8277 or 306 436-4449; agetzlaf@sasktel.net; www.tarpco.com).

Cable Spool Waterwheel And Satellite Dish Pond

Ken Allison wanted to set up a waterwheel in his backyard. A local retailer told him they sell for between $600 and $800. He looked on the internet and couldn't find anything cheaper. He found some free plans but they looked like too much work.

That's when he got to thinking about the large piles of cable spools down at his local electric co-op. He contacted the manager who said to take whatever he wanted because they just break down the spools and burn them.

Allison hauled two of them home. "I walked around one of the spools for a couple of days then decided I needed to cut it down by a third. It was just too wide," he says.

Using a skill saw, Allison cut 24 in. off the 36-in. wide wheel. After that, he discovered that the depth from the edge of the wheel to the core was too deep for the paddles. To correct this, he added a second outer layer of cedar 8 in. from the spool's core and attached the 14 paddles to that. He attached two pieces of cedar together into an "L" bracket, then attached them to the spool using self-tapping screws and caulk.

A weight lifting bar cut in half serves as the axle. He just welded a couple of plates on each side to run it through the center of the waterwheel.

He made a 4 by 4 brace to support one end of the axle. An oak tree holds up the other side. "It was just standing there so I figured it might as well support one end of my project." So Allison drilled an 8-in. long hole in the tree and filled it with grease.

After he finished that project, Allison created a pond using an old 10 1/2-ft. wide satellite dish that he'd been saving.

He dug a 10 1/2-ft. wide, 4-ft. deep hole in front of the waterwheel and laid the dish in it. He painted the inside of the tan-colored dish blue. "It not only looks more appealing but also covers up a host of sins with respect to leaves and pine needles that get in," he says. A 1/6 hp recirculating pump that's rated at 950 gph pumps water up a garden hose to the water wheel which turns it and returns the water back to the pond.

His wife and neighbors like the pond and waterwheel. "I haven't seen many other backyard waterwheels but when I do, they always catches my eye. I don't think I'm alone in the magnetism of a waterwheel. It harkens back to the days of grinding grain and wheat and running different tools. It's a part of our history."

Allison also says that his project could be turned into a sideline business. He suggests putting one up on display and letting passersby stop by to look at it. He thinks it'll sell itself.

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Ken Allison used a cable spool from a local electric co-op to build an eye-catching waterwheel. He also created a pond using a 10 1/2-ft. dia. satellite dish.

He cut 24 in. out of the center of the 36-in. wide spool and attached 14 paddles. A weight-lifter bar serves as an axle.