

Easy-To-Make PVC Boot Rack

Andy Offenburger of Chariton, Iowa loves his home-built boot-drying rack because it was easy to make, saves space, and holds 24 pairs of boots.

"You can make any size you want," he says. "You just buy 1 1/2-in. pvc Y's, elbows and pipe. The pipe and the elbows are used to form a rectangular frame, and the Y's are what you hang your boots on. I've got mine spaced so that there's a 5-in. long section of pvc between each Y. The Y's are on a 45° angle."

Offenburger's boot rack mounts to the wall in his basement, and consists of three horizontal rows of eight boot holders.

"When I come in from work, I wash my boots off and hang them there. The pieces of pvc pipe that you hang your boots on are 16 in. long," he says. "I used spare pipe, so it didn't cost me much, but you could probably make one for about \$50, using new materials. If you were close to a furnace vent, this rack could be hooked up so you can push air through it. I really like mine and I built racks for my dad and brother, too."

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Andy Offenburger made this boot-drying rack from 1 1/2-in. pvc pipe. It mounts to the wall in his basement.



Eugene Keener turned a New Holland 717 forage harvester into this "chipper-chopper." A 3-ft. long, tapered chute extends out from the gathering rolls.

Wood Chipper Made From Old Chopper

Nuisance brush around the farm is easier to deal with for Eugene Keener of Smithville, Ohio, since he turned a 717 New Holland forage harvester into what he calls his "chipper-chopper."

"Almost any pull-behind pto-driven harvester would work as a chipper," he says. "This one is probably 30 years old or so and you could likely pick one up at an auction for \$500 or less."

The conversion took Keener a total of five hours.

"The head is removed so all that's left is the basic chopper. The unit originally had nine blades. I removed six of them," he says. "The three blades make about a 1/2-in. long chip. I fabricated a 3-ft. long, tapered chute that extends out from the gathering rolls."

During use of the unit, the operator feeds the big ends of branches into the gathering rolls, which pull them into the chopper knives. For safety's sake, Keener says you need to reverse the direction of the gathering rolls' kick out controls (kick out control stops brush from feeding into the chopper.) Since

the operator stands beside the unit, feeding it, pushing the kick-out control is safer than pulling it.

"It takes about a 50 hp tractor to run it right, and it will handle 4-in. or smaller diameter brush," he says. "It's really good for clean up after you fell a tree or for cleaning up brush along fence lines. You can load the chips right into a wagon if you want, and they can be used for mulch around buildings. The advantage is that you don't have to burn the brush to get rid of it, and I was surprised how small a pile it makes after you run through a large amount of brush."

Keener says the rig could be easily converted back to forage harvester mode. He does this whenever he wants to chop up swaths of old weathered hay and put the organic material back on the field.

"I run it without the six knives because it takes less power," he says.

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Electric Bedding Recycler Shakes Out Manure

"It lets you clean manure out of horse stalls without wasting expensive bedding," says Phil Higgins, Childersburg, Ala., about his new electric bedding "recycler" that you roll right into a stall to be cleaned.

The 4-wheeled machine consists of a 2 by 4-ft. metal screen set at an angle above a 1 3/4-bu. plastic bucket. A 120-volt electric vibrator mounts at the top of the screen. Bedding is forked onto the screen. As it vibrates, bedding falls through while manure rolls down into the bucket.

"It saves all your bedding except for the wet spot where the horse urinates. Only manure ends up in the bucket. Keeping all the bedding saves you a lot of money, because shavings are expensive," says Higgins, noting that the key to success of the machine is the design of the screen, which makes the manure and bedding hop around like jumping beans. "The only type of bedding it can't handle is wheat straw. It'll even handle curly shavings."

"It works fast and will take manure as fast as you can throw it. You can completely strip and turn bedding in a 12 by 12-ft. stall in less than 10 minutes."

When you're done, the machine folds flat against a wall for storage.

The vibrator has variable speed control which helps with different types of shavings. "The larger and heavier the material, the faster you'll want to operate the vibrator. Fine sawdust requires only a very slow speed."



Electric bedding "recycler" consists of a 2 by 4-ft. metal screen set at an angle above a large plastic bucket. A 120-volt electric vibrator mounts at top of screen.

The machine has a handle on back which makes it easy to move. By removing the bucket, you can use the machine as a utility cart to carry feed sacks, fertilizer bags, etc.

Sells for \$1,000. Higgins says he's looking for investors to further develop the product.

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Being 80 years old didn't stop Alvin Vandenbrink from building his own motorized cultivator - a knockoff of an Allis Chalmers G.

Home-Built Motorized Cultivator

At 80 years old, Alvin Vandenbrink looks for the easy way to do things in his 1/3 acre garden. So when he needed an easier way to till the ground, he simply created a motorized cultivator. "It's a knock-off of an Allis Chalmers G," he says of the machine and the tractor he got the idea from.

Vandenbrink took an Allis Chalmers WC two-row cultivator and remodeled it by putting one row in front and the other in back. Both have a red hydraulic cylinder that raise and lower the shanks.

An Onan 20-hp vertical shaft engine drives a hydraulic pump that powers a Nissan pickup rear end. "The engine is out of the way and it's convenient to hook up that way," he says. "I wanted to keep the whole thing compact."

The "hydrostatic drive" lets him precisely control the cultivator's speed. Hydraulic brakes control the wheels with a pedal and cylinder on each.

Vandenbrink narrowed up the axle and housing to get the "G" back wheel spacing down to 36 in. to fit the garden rows.

He made the hood and fenders out of scrap sheet metal.

The front wheels are throwaway spares. He painted all the tire rims and steering wheel



He took an Allis Chalmers WC two-row cultivator and remodeled it by putting one row in front and the other in back.

blue. Vandenbrink shortened a Volkswagen steering column that's telescopic. The plastic gas tank is a portable one from a boat.

He spent about \$1,100 for new rear tires, a motor, a hydraulic pump and new valves.

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