Don Ickes built a pair of handy tri-fold door on his 40-ft. wide Quonset building.

Made-It-Myself Tri-Fold Doors

"When I built my 40-ft. wide Quonset hangar building, I saved a lot of money by building a pair of tri-fold doors for the end of the building," says Don Ickes, Osterburg, Penn.

The end of the building has three doors on each side. All together, there are 6 sections that fold out. The doors are made from the same sheet metal used on the rest of the building and slide on a pair of conventional barn tracks. Each track covers just two doors. That's because the two inside doors are hinged and swing out.

"Commercial electric-powered overhead doors for a building this size would have cost about $8,000 whereas I spent only about $1,000," says Ickes. "My tri-fold doors aren't electric-powered but they work great. They're built on frames made from 2 by 4's and 2 by 6's. At the end of the second door, I made a bracket that runs inside the barn track, which I fabricated out of scrap metal. The other end of the door is supported by large hinges that fasten to the 6 by 6-in. corner posts on the pole building."

On a Quonset building there's nothing to hang the doors on, so Ickes got a used roof truss out of another large building and turned it upside down. Then he installed two steel beams at each corner of the building and mounted the truss on top of them. "Because the upside-down truss is top heavy, I ran a brace to each corner of the building and bolted it on. I also installed a brace in the middle. Then I bolted some 2 by 6's onto the truss and mounted the track on them. I bought the truss plates dirt cheap at a manufacturer's sale," says Ickes.

On the inside, the three doors are held in place at the bottom corner of each door by a 1/2-in. dia. steel pin. "The pin extends through a metal bracket that's fastened to each of the doors, and goes down into a 3/4-in. dia. galvanized pipe that's embedded in the cement floor," notes Ickes.

Tri-fold doors slide on a pair of conventional barn tracks, with each track covering two doors. The two inside doors are hinged and swing out.

Ickes got a used roof truss out of another large building and turned it upside down. Because the upside-down truss is top heavy, he ran a brace to each corner of the building and also in the middle.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Ickes, Rt. 1, Box 300A, Bowser Road, Osterburg, Penn. 16667 ph 814 276-3353 or 814 285-8452; dickes@Bedford.net; www.eaa-aircraft.com).

Puck has two LED bulbs, one on each face, with the electronics molded inside the amber-colored material. To light the puck you just tap it against something solid.

Lighted Hockey Puck

Anyone who's ever played "pond hockey" at night or in low light will appreciate this new lighted puck.

Samuel Fisher, Paradise, Penn., says the puck has two LED bulbs, one on each face, with the electronics molded inside the clear/amber material.

The puck has the official size and weight of a real hockey puck. To light the puck you just tap it against something solid. It'll stay on for about 5 min. You can expect about 350 hours of continuous running time, says Fisher.

Sells for $24.95 plus S&H. Comes with a 60-day warranty.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Samuel Fisher, 506A Paradise Lane, Paradise, Penn. 17562 (ph 717 687-9510).

By detaching the cyclone from his Vacuvator and clamping it onto a 2-wheel trailer, Ralph Broyles is able to locate the cyclone up to 40 ft. away from Vacuvator.

Grain Vac's Cyclone Mounts On Separate Trailer

Ralph Broyles, Summitville, Ind., uses a Vacuvator grain vac to load corn and beans out of bins and sheds. He didn't like having to pull the Vacuvator close to a wagon or semi trailer in order to fill it because of the risk of bumping into it and causing damage. Also, the grain vac was too tall to fit inside his flat storage building.

To solve the problem, he unbolted the cyclone from the Vacuvator and clamped it onto a 2-wheeled trailer, which he made from the frame of an old grain auger. He replaced the flexible steel pipe that was originally attached to the cyclone with about 30 ft. of blower pipe that came with the Vacuvator system. That increased the height of the cyclone by about 6 ft. A pair of 2-in. angle iron braces were welded onto the auger frame to make the entire unit more stable.

He uses a tractor or pickup to move the unit around.

"It allows us to position the Vacuvator wherever it's most convenient for sucking grain, without having to worry about moving it up close to a wagon or semi trailer," says Broyles. "The cyclone can be located up to 40 ft. away from the Vacuvator. Because the cyclone no longer is directly attached to the Vacuvator, it can be fitted inside our flat storage shed. Also, the cyclone's extra height makes it easier to unload grain into a wagon or semi trailer because there's more clearance."

He replaced the flexible steel pipe that was originally attached to the cyclone with about 30 ft.of blower pipe. That increased the height of the cyclone by about 6 ft. for extra clearance when unloading grain into trucks and wagons.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ralph J. Broyles, 3076 W. 1850 N., Summitville, Ind. 46070 (ph 765 536-2576).

Did You Get Your Ear Of Flag Corn Yet?

We recently heard from one of our favorite FARM SHOW subscribers, Bud Thompson, Roseville, Ill. Bud's the man behind the patriotic Flag Corn that we've featured a couple of times in FARM SHOW.

Bud wrote to tell us he had just completed his 3,000th ear of corn. Since he started the hobby in 1990, the 87-year-old retired farmer has shipped ears of corn to every state in the U.S. and some countries overseas.

He got his start when he painted an ear of corn on a whim for a friend. Other people saw it and wanted to know if he had ears for sale. Each ear is painstakingly painted by hand with red and white stripes and 50 "stars". It takes about 2 hrs. to complete each ear. He sells them for $15 postpaid. That includes a small metal display stand.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud Thompson, Box 116, Roseville, Ill. 61473 (ph 309 426-2253).