

Reader Letters



Using my Deere X485 garden tractor and a home-built dump trailer, I was able to move an 8 by 12-ft. storage shed about 100 ft. to a concrete slab next to my shop. To move the shed, first I bolted three planks on the vertical studs. Then I jacked the shed up 5 in. and backed the trailer under it and used welding clamps to clamp the planks to the top of the trailer. Then I pulled the shed to the spot and set it down.

The shed weighs about 1,500 lbs., but the 2-wheeled trailer rides on a car axle so it was plenty strong. I had built the shed on a concrete slab in front of my garage.

I built a Waterloo Boy pedal tractor for my friend Scott Gottschalk. The Water-



loo Boy was built from 1914 to 1924. Deere bought out the Waterloo Boy company in 1918. Then in 1923 Deere came out with the D model and discontinued the Waterloo Boy.

My tractor's wheels and spokes are made from strap iron. The metal seat is off another old pedal tractor. I bent some steel rod to make the steering wheel. The tractor's body is made from part of an old car radiator. The kerosene tank is a length of pvc pipe with wood blocks at each end. The pedals are made of wood. (Patrick Prom, 12661 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55347 (ph 952 944-9266))



I built this "dual engine" 1940's Allis Chalmers WD tractor just for fun. My goal was to make it look as much like the original tractor as possible, and I think I succeeded. It rides on big 23-in. wide by 5 1/2-ft. tall rear tires and sports a pair of 4-in. dia. chrome stacks that come straight off the manifold. It has about 90 hp when both engines are running.

The rear engine is original, while the front engine came off another WD tractor. I overhauled the add-on engine, installing new pistons and sleeves, grinding the crankshaft, and redoing the heads. Then I cut the tractor in half next to the radiator and lengthened the frame by 6 ft. by welding in the frame rails off another WD. A 3/8-in. thick steel plate runs the full length of the tractor to rein-

force the frame. The tractor's front axle is off a Gleaner E combine, and I gave it an arched shape to better fit the tractor.

The two engines are connected by a shaft. I installed another clutch pedal on the tractor so if I want I can operate only the back engine.

I've driven this tractor in parades and get a lot of compliments on it. (Dave Frank, 9950 County Road 147, Kimball, Minn. 55353 ph 320 398-2564)

I made this tractor from a Volkswagen, to look like an Allis Chalmers G. I cut the axle off and mounted a 9-tooth sprocket



on the axle with a bearing at the end. I mounted a 56-tooth on each wheel so I can use a roller chain to gear it down. It works great for cultivating our garden. I also made a 5-ft. mower that mounts under the tractor. (Homer E. Miller, 564 Gampff Ln., Portsmouth, Ohio 45662)

Back a few years ago I made this small scale rock crusher. My goal was to crush 3/4-in. dia. granite rocks into dust that would enrich the soil in my garden; and to use rock dust as a homeopathic medicine.



The rock crusher mounts on a metal frame and is powered by a 2 hp electric motor. The motor chain-drives a shaft that in turn drives a belt that loops around the rock-crushing drum, causing it to rotate at about 60 rpm's. The drum consists of a 1-ft. length of 21-in. dia. steel pipe, with both ends welded shut with 3/8-in. thick steel plate. The drum rests on four small castor wheels, which allow it to rotate. Two larger wheels, one on each side, keep it from shifting from side to side.

Rocks are loaded into a 5-in. dia. hole on one side of the drum. I welded four 1/2-in. studs next to the hole to bolt on a dust-proof door. Rocks are crushed by a series of steel shafts. I cut several pieces of 2-in. dia. shaft into 9-in. lengths and mounted them inside the drum to produce the grinding action.

The drum holds about 25 lbs. of 3/4-in. dia. rocks. After the rocks are crushed I open the door and remove the shafts, then scoop the rock dust out by hand.

I use mostly granite rocks for my garden. Various colors of granite contain produce different mineral elements. It takes about two hours to grind the rocks into dust. The rocks make a lot of noise as they're being ground up. (Harry Scott, P.O. Box 1265, Walsenburg, Colo. 81089 ph 719 738-3847; rockworm80@msn.com)

You don't have to spend a lot of money to build a garage. Last winter I built this 22 by 24-ft. garage largely from material that was salvaged from several small remodeling jobs. For example, when someone tore down a cottage I got some

of the wall studs; and when the volunteer fire department I belong to tore out a room and storage loft they gave me the material for hauling it away, which included a lot of concrete blocks, 2 by 8 floor joists, and 12-in. flooring boards. I ripped the 2 by 8 floor joists into 2 by 4's which I used to build all of the garage's



roof trusses. I used the 1 by 12-in. flooring boards for siding, installing them at a 45 degree angle for extra strength and then covering them with vinyl siding. I had enough accumulated lumber to completely cover the building.

The garage has three large new windows which I bought at an auction for \$40, and I bought a like-new 36-in. wide entrance door at an auction for \$3. The only new materials I had to buy were 30



concrete blocks (installed five blocks high as a base for the sides), ten 2 by 4's, three sheets of plywood, a steel roof, the vinyl siding, and concrete for the floor. My total cost was only about \$1,600, plus the cost of the two overhead doors, yet to be purchased.

I guess my garage could be considered a true recycling project. (Glenn Dawson, 398 E. Fred Mummey Rd., McConnellsville, Ohio 43756 ph 740 962-5463)

My dad, Frank Kocina from Glencoe, Minn., built this go cart for my son Evan. We live on a lake in northern Minnesota and have a really steep driveway, so dad decided to build him a go cart that he could pull up the driveway. The go cart



has an eye hook on front so it can also be towed by an ATV.

He started with a two-wheeled cart that he bought at a local farm store. He laid it down and cut off the handles. Then he built the front axle and added a riding mower steering wheel and a salvaged boat seat. He bought two additional tires for the front wheels. The cart is steered by a cable and pulley system. It has friction brakes with rubber pads cut from the bottom of flip flops. An aluminum floor pan was used to keep the weight down. The exhaust pipes on back are from an old vacuum cleaner hose. Finally, he painted the seat for a race car look.

Dad used mostly recycled parts, keeping the cost to a minimum. The entire cost of the project was about \$40. My brother John helped with the welding. (Mary Kline, Menahga, Minn.)

I found this 4-ft. wide steel roller, originally designed for use on highways, in a



field at a local county airport. I converted it to use on my lawn. Someone had removed the front end so I welded a new frame and hitch on it that's made from 2 by 6-in. channel iron. I pull it behind a Kubota 30 hp tractor. It weighs two tons and does a nice job of smoothing things out. (Don Ickes, Rt. 1, Box 300A, Bowser Road, Osterburg, Penn. 16667 ph 814 276-3353 or 814 285-8542; dickes@Bedford.net; www.eaa-aircraft.com)

Cold frames work great for setting plants outside during the early spring, but if it gets real cold at night all your plants can still freeze, which obviously defeats the purpose. To solve the problem, I built this 4 by 8-ft. portable cold frame to grow vegetables and other plants.

My cold frame is made from plywood



with three hinged windows (old combination windows) on top. It rides on two bicycle wheels. If it looks like it's going to freeze I just grab a pair of wooden handles on front of the unit and wheel it into my garage. It's easy to roll - even when it's full of plants my wife can still easily move it. I use it for all my bedding plants including tomatoes, peppers, radishes, cauliflower, and cabbage, etc. Each window is attached by two sheet metal screws so I can easily remove the windows when the plants get bigger. A vertical wooden board with a metal hook on it is bolted on in front of each window, so I can pull the windows open to different positions. (Doug Kramer, S131 Overbrook Ave., Elroy, Wis. 53929 ph 609 462-5632 or 609 890-5435)



Thanks for your article in the 2007 Best of FARM SHOW on my first-of-its-kind concrete mixer that mixes ingredients automatically and feeds the finished product out of an auger at one end for convenient unloading. It's unlike any other mixer you've ever seen and we've had tremendous response from FARM SHOW readers.

Unfortunately, your article left off our web address where readers can get do-it-yourself plans for this mixer, as well as many other very unique projects we have developed. Readers should go to www.gizmoplans.com for details, or call us at the numbers below. (Gene Luoma, 4423 Normanna Rd., Duluth, Minn. 55803; ph 218 721-4382 or 218 591-4382; gene@designproforms.com).