



Sled-type "track setter" is a steel toboggan pulled by a snowmobile.



Points are welded on the bottom about 18 in. apart to make the tracks.

He Loves His Simple Ski Track Maker

Matt and Doris Meinczinger of Busby, Alberta, use a simple but very effective home-built "track setter" when they're in the mood for some cross-country skiing.

They bought the sled-type unit from someone else who had made it, and then Matt modified it to his liking.

"It's just a steel toboggan with points welded on the bottom, about 18 in. apart to make the tracks," Matt explains.

Before he sets the tracks, Meinczinger uses his snowmobile to pull a 2 1/2 by 6-ft. sleigh (carrying cement blocks) for packing the first few snowfalls. Then the trail is ready for track

setting. "Depending on how icy the conditions are, I load cement blocks onto the track setter for weight."

Meinczinger says he pulls the unit with his snowmobile at 9 to 12 mph, and he has done over 930 miles of track with it so far.

"It does a good job. It'll cut through fairly

icy conditions," he says. "I pull it with an air-cooled skidoo, which I geared down so it won't ever overheat."

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Ski trail groomer uses 34-in. dia. wheels fitted with thick urethane rings to make grooves in the snow for skis to follow.

Ski Groomer Makes Perfect Tracks

Hans and Marianne Pfaeffli of Busby, Alberta, are retired dairy farmers who enjoy cross-country skiing in their spare time. To make the sport more enjoyable, Pfaeffli built a ski trail groomer.

It has 34-in. dia. wheels and axles salvaged from an old steel-wheeled plow. The wheels are spaced about 40 in. apart, framed with flat iron.

Pfaeffli then welded 1 1/4 by 5/8-in. pieces of channel iron about 3 1/2 in. apart, to the outside of both wheels, tying them together.

Four thick urethane strips are bolted around the outside of the packer to form rings that make grooves in the snow for skis to follow. Pfaeffli made the strips by building forms and mixing the urethane himself.

"Most of the packer is metal, so it's heavy enough to do a good job of packing," Pfaeffli says.

He pulls a "smoother" behind the wheels that's made from an old car hood with a pair of cut-off downhill skis bolted to the bottom. To make it more sturdy and rigid, 2 by 4's are bolted between the skis and the car hood.

Pfaeffli bolted a half barrel onto the hood for carrying extra weight when necessary, to make a smoother trail.

"The main things to consider are the width of the trail and if it's firm enough to ski on easily," he says.

This unit can be pulled by a larger snowmobile, or in Pfaeffli's case, a tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hans



A car hood "smoother" trails behind.

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Allen Mason used a couple of trampolines and chicken wire to make an inexpensive chicken coop.

Trampoline Chicken Coop

"I was looking for a cheap and easy way to build a chicken coop when I came up with the idea of using a couple junked trampolines," says Allen Mason, Dublin, Ga.

He simply laid one tramp frame on the ground with the legs up in the air, and inserted lengths of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe into the legs that match the height of a big roll of chicken wire. Then he put a second trampoline over the top with the legs pointing down over the pipes.

Once the frame was in place, Mason used self-drilling metal screws to attach chicken wire to the frame. To put a door in the pen, he attached another piece of pipe as support in one side.

"I also used this idea to make a storage shed. Instead of chicken wire, I stretched a tarp over the top," says Mason.

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