

## Chisel Plow Box Scraper

"After heavy spring rains filled our waterways with dirt, I had to either hire someone to do the clean-out, or invent something to do it myself," says Louis Smith, Fort Atkinson, Iowa, who converted an old pull-type chisel plow into a low-cost scraper.

He bought the 12-ft. Brady chisel plow at a sale for \$200. He removed the back row of shanks on the chisel plow and replaced them with a 24-in. high reinforced sheet of steel, welding the steel to vertical lengths of 4-in. sq. tubing. He mounted some of the removed shanks between the plow's front row of shanks, resulting in 15-in. spacing. He also welded a "half moon" sheet of steel onto each side of the chisel plow's frame to form a box.

"It takes time, but it'll move a lot of dirt. The box fills right up to the frame," says

Smith. "I use my 150 hp 2-WD tractor to pull it. The chisels loosen the dirt, and the box traps it so I can move it where I want. I first used it to remove dirt that had washed into our waterways but later I used it to make a new waterway. Neighbors who have borrowed the machine also say it works great.

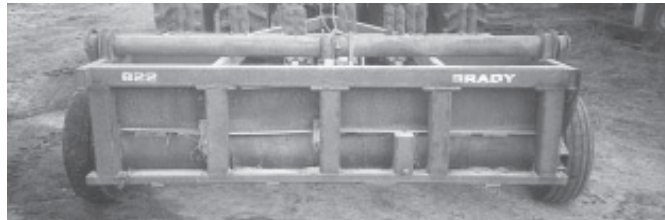
"I usually set the chisel points to go about 6 in. deep into the ground.

"I cut a water pressure tank in half to make a curved cutting edge for the back blade. However, the blade doesn't need to cut very much because the ground has already been loosened by the chisels."

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Louis Smith removed chisel plow's back row of shanks and mounted some of them between the plow's front row of shanks (above). He welded a 24-in. high sheet of steel on back and also welded a "half moon" onto each side of the plow frame to form a box.



## Do-It-Yourself Post & Beam Building Kits

Shelter-Kit is a Tilton, N.H., company that precuts and drills lumber and hardware for post and beam building kits up to 36 ft. wide for do-it-yourselfers.

"Everything is designed so that two people can handle all the material," says David Kimball of Shelter-Kit.

Shelter-Kit's goal is to produce kit buildings for assembly by owners with no prior building experience. In 3 to 15 days most people can put up a weather-tight building for a home, barn or garage.

Post and beam frames are much easier for amateurs, and allow for more flexible interior floor plans and door and window placement. No large equipment is needed to assemble the building. Shelter-Kits come with an easy-to-follow, detailed instruction manual and quality materials.

"The siding on barns is Eastern white pine 1 by 12 shiplap. The other buildings have white pine clapboard siding," Kimball says. All wood

is handpicked for the best quality lumber.

The kit includes all of the materials required to construct a weather-tight shell on your foundation: hardware, fasteners, framing, sheathing, floors, roofing, flashing, drip edge and trim.

Shelter-Kit has shipped all across the U.S., Canada and overseas including Japan and Spain. Many customers are women.

"People are looking to save money and this is the way to do it without involving a contractor," Kimball says. Their kits cost about \$20/sq. ft. for barns and garages, and average \$30/sq. ft. for homes.

"All of our products can be customized," Kimball says. "Customers can choose to delete components, including windows, doors, roofing, etc., and buy those locally."

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Kit uses pre-cut and drilled lumber and hardware. No prior building experience is required to erect a building.



Art Freymiller converted a 250-gal. oil tank into this big loader bucket. It holds about a 1/3 face cord of wood.

## Oil Tank Converted To Loader Bucket

Art Freymiller needed a large capacity tractor bucket to move firewood, but he didn't want to spend any money. Instead, the Woodman, Wis., innovator turned a 250-gal. furnace oil tank into a big cargo bucket.

Freymiller got the lightweight tank for free, laid it on the flat side, took its legs off, and cut the top and front side off, leaving the bottom, back side and a 10-in. lip at the top.

"I cut a hole on each side at the front so you can slide in a piece of 3/4-in. steel water pipe once you're loaded to keep the wood in place during transport," he explains. "Underneath, I bolted on a couple of boards as skids, using 1/4-in. bolts. That way I can pick it up with pallet forks and chain the bucket to the forks."

Freymiller also drilled six holes in the bottom of the homemade bucket to allow rainwater to drain out.

He likes the fact that he can unchain the unit and park it without having to unload it first.

The bucket holds about 1/3 of a face cord of wood.

"Besides a bit of scrap, all it took was a little acetylene, oxygen, and about four bolts," he says, noting that steps must be taken to eliminate all fumes in old fuel barrels before cutting into them.

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Cherry picker attaches to bucket on Eilers's Case backhoe and will lift up to 25 ft. high.

## Loader-Mounted "Cherry Picker"

"We use it all over the farm. It's handy and far safer than using a ladder," says Mark Eilers, Tower Hill, Ill., about his loader-mounted cherry picker.

It attaches to the bucket on his Case backhoe and will lift up to 25 ft. high. The 2 by 4-ft. self-leveling "basket" is made from 1-in. tubing. It swivels on a pair of steel pins and is kept level by a metal rod, which goes through a rubber tightener secured by a pair of bolts. Once the working height is reached, the person inside the bucket tightens one of the bolts so the cage can't swing.

The cherry picker frame slips over a pair of metal forks welded to the bucket and is held in place by a cable and chain. "It takes only five minutes to hook the frame and chain up to the bucket," says Eilers.

"It was far less expensive than buying a new commercial lift. I came up with the idea because it's so much safer than working from a ladder when trimming trees or putting Christmas lights on trees and buildings, and other such jobs.



Self-leveling "basket" swivels on a pair of steel pins and is kept level by a metal rod.

"The beauty of this cherry picker design is that it can be adapted to fit any bucket."

Eilers says he's willing to sell plans. He estimates the cherry picker could be built for about \$300.

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