

Foot Pedal Starter For Rope-Start Mowers

Rope-start lawn mowers can sometimes be hard to start, especially for people without a lot of upper body strength. This new foot pedal starter eliminates the need to ever pull a cord again.

The EZ Foot Pedal Starter fits most walk-behind mowers without a rear bagger. Once attached to the mower, the cord is never pulled by hand.

The attachment requires no tools to install and no modifications to the mower or engine. It attaches to the mower handle with four adjustable clamps. The pull cord is fed through a series of pulleys which provide the leverage to easily pull the cord.

To start the mower, you turn a crank on the mower handle which drops the pedal starter down. Then you step on the pedal, which goes all the way to the ground.

Once the engine has started, you turn the crank to retract the pedal back up under the mower handle.

"It's not for everyone, but people who need it, really need it," says inventor Dave Lyon. "A lot of people don't have enough strength to pull an engine pull cord, or they have a medical problem like pulled tendons in a shoulder or a heart condition. Typically they can mow their lawn fine, but they just can't pull the cord. The alternative is to buy a new high priced electric starter mower, and then you have the added expense of battery chargers and replacement batteries.

"Another advantage of the step start is that it improves your mower's balance which causes it to handle more like an expensive rear engine model. The attachment adds 10 lbs. of weight to the mower handle, which helps balance the weight of the mower and makes it easier to maneuver. The added weight on back makes it easier to push down



To start mower you simply turn a crank on mower handle and then step on pedal.



Unit attaches to mower handle with four adjustable clamps.

on the handle and lift the mower for turning.

The unit can easily be moved to your next mower, he adds.

"Some people have asked if my pedal starter will work on snowblowers, but it's not designed to do that," says Lyon.

Sells for about \$70 at selected hardware stores.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Lyon, Step Start Corporation, 560 N. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Monroeville, Ala. 36460 (ph 334 356-4860; email: Dave@stepstart.com; website: www.stepstart.com).



Darco's 2,000-gal. poly storage tanks are designed for use underground.

Poly Tanks Store Water In A Big Way

Poly storage tanks from Darco Inc., in Bennett, Colorado make it easy to store a large supply of water underground.

The 2,000-gal. units can be plumbed together to extend storage capacity to more than 10,000 gal.

These tanks can be used for capturing rain water as cisterns to store well water.

Before filling, the tanks must be buried and backfilled with sand to provide proper support. The tanks can be insulated in cold climates.

According to Darco Inc. president John Small, the tanks aren't likely to require maintenance for decades other than standard cleaning.

Because each tank weighs just 800 lbs.,

they can be installed by an average contractor or homeowner with small equipment.

Darco also sells fiberglass tanks for larger storage requirements. These individual fiberglass units range in size from 10,000 gal. to 50,000 gal.; however they may also be interconnected to increase volume even more.

Retail prices for poly and fiberglass tanks work out to an average of \$1 per gallon or less, depending on the system size and accessories used.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Darco Incorporated, 980 Darco Drive, P.O. Box 779, Bennett, Colo. 80102 (800 232-8660 or 303 644-5001; email: info@darcoinc.com; website: www.darcoinc.com).



Mark Richter built two 10,000-gal. fuel containment structures and covered them with a metal roof to shade the tanks and keep rain off them.

Fuel Containment Structures Save Money On Fuel

There are a multitude of reasons why Mark Richter of Endicott, Washington built two fuel containment structures.

The primary reason is that Richter has quadrupled his farming acreage over the past few years, and his old fuel system was no longer efficient.

"As we've acquired more land spread out over more locations, I needed an updated system with more capacity," Richter explains.

So he built two 10,000-gal. containment structures and covered them with a metal roof to shade the tanks and keep rain off them.

"Because of my increased capacity, I can hedge on fuel prices so the system has paid for itself already in fuel costs," he says. "These containment structures are a kind of insurance in the event there is ever any leakage or a spill due to tank failure."

Using 14-gauge sheet metal, Richter built the first structure to hold an 8 by 28-ft. long tank. The structure is 11 by 30 ft. long and 4 1/2 ft. deep. The second tank measures 10 by 18 ft., so its containment structure is 14 by

25 ft. long and 4 ft. deep.

Richter used 3-in. sq. tubing for the top ring and base of the containment structures, some 3-in. angle iron for uprights and then sheets of 14 gauge steel that was 4 by 5 ft. wide by 20 ft. long. It had to be continuous welded for the containment portion.

"I constructed both structures in my shop. After painting them, I used a crane to place them in the location I wanted. They are plumbed together so I use one pump and just have separate shutoffs to each tank," Richter explains. "The covers for them overhang by at least a foot and a half, so rain can't get in. The roofs also keep the fuel cooler and the expansion and contraction down as much as possible."

Richter filled and leveled the area with a foot of gravel prior to setting each containment tank in place.

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Pickup-mounted ramp is strong enough to load the biggest ATVs. It'll also carry the back end on road trips.

ATV Ramp Fits Receiver Hitch

"We made our first prototype hitch-mounted ATV last year and we tested that unit every which way for ten months," says Ed Bergen of Bergen Industries. The result is a sturdy pickup-mounted rack that is strong enough to load the biggest ATV's and, on short box trucks, carry the back end on road trips.

"The rack mounts onto any standard 2-in. hitch," says Bergen. "The two ramps fold up and lock to keep the ATV from rolling of the back during transport."

On the short box truck, the front two wheels rest on the pickup bed and the back two wheels on Ramp Rack. The rack can support up to 1,200 lbs. more than enough for half an ATV load. And with the ATV at the back of

the box - on a short or long bed truck - there's plenty of storage space in front of the ATV for hunting, camping or farming supplies.

"We constructed the ramp out of steel tubing so it's light and strong," says Bergen. "It weighs only 175 lbs. The Ramp Rack also has side and taillights that hook up to the truck's trailer lighting harness."

The Bregen Ramp Rack sells for \$615 (U.S.).

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