

## Great Deals On Used Humvee Engines

Planning a repower or need to replace a 6.2 or 6.5L Chevy or GM diesel engine? Ted's Trucks 'N Stuff may have the engine you need. For the past several years, they've been buying military surplus Humvee engines and reselling them for civilian use.

"The military is going through a from-the-ground-up rebuild program on all the Humvees they have in service," explains Ted Hills, owner of Ted's Trucks 'N Stuff. "They completely disassemble and put the Humvees back together with new components. We've been able to buy the used engines direct from the contractor taking them out."

Hils says the used engines have from 10,000 to 40,000 miles on them. All engines are started several times and run up to temperature, and multiple compression checks are run to check heads. Oil pressure checks are also carried out.

"We even use a mini camera we saw in FARM SHOW (Vol. 34, No. 3) earlier this

year to inspect the interior of the engines," says Hils. "If an engine doesn't meet our standards, they go in the scrap bin."

Trucks 'N Stuff workers paint the engines that pass inspection, shrink wrap them and band them to a pallet for shipping.

Hils points out that the 6.2L engines are shipped without starters and may have slightly different accessories on them than their civilian counterparts. He advises retaining components from existing engines for use with the surplus replacements.

The 6.5L engines are long blocks – block, heads and timing cover only. Hils stresses that all parts for civilian 6.5's, both turbo and non-turbo, will fit.

"The engines we sell are normally used in pickups, but will work as a power unit or in other unique applications with the addition of a starter, alternator and some minor modifications," says Hils. "We make every effort to make sure the engines run the way they are



Ted's Trucks 'N Stuff buys military surplus Humvee engines and resells them for civilian use.

supposed to and will not have problems. We back the engines we sell."

In the past few years, Hils has sold more than 2,000 6.2 and 6.5L engines. The 6.2's are priced at \$975 each. The 6.5 long blocks are priced at \$1,600.

"Our prices are much cheaper than the cost of rebuilding," says Hils. "We get a lot of

repeat business and referrals from satisfied customers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ted's Trucks 'N Stuff, 1181 County Rd. 560, Midland City, Ala. 36350 (ph 334 983-1092; khils@veriqikdsl.com; www.teds-trucks-and-stuff.com).

## Multi-Purpose Plastic Sheetting

Sheets of 4 by 8-ft. thick plastic are finding a multitude of uses from landscaping to horse barns, says Steve Coley. He and his wife are marketing the sheets, which come in 1/2, 3/4, 1, and 1 1/2-in. thicknesses. While sized like plywood, they are much heavier and stronger. A 3/4-in. sheet weighs 94 lbs., and while it bends under pressure, it will return to its original shape.

"My father-in-law is a house mover, and he lays down full-size sheets beneath the wheels as temporary roadways. Landscapers cut them up into 2-ft. wide strips to drive on so they don't damage lawns."

Coley says one customer even lined his horse stalls with the sheets. They were easy

to hose down, and the horse couldn't chew on them like he could on wood.

The sheets stand up better than plywood does in caustic or wet environments. Like plywood, they have a textured surface that provides some traction.

Sheets are priced at \$60 each for 1/2-in. and 3/4-in. sheets, \$70 for a 1-in. sheet and \$85 for a 1 1/2-in. sheet. Shipping is extra. Quantity discounts available.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jayne McCulloch-Coley, 1020 Pitkin Ave., Glenwood Springs, Colo. 81601 (ph 970 230-0009; jc@sopris.net).



Sheets of 4 by 8-ft. plastic have many uses. Here a house-mover has laid sheets beneath a truck's wheels for use as a temporary roadway.

## He Puts Tracks On Mini Trucks

After putting rubber tracks on his lightweight Daihatsu mini truck, Brad Paul can drive nimbly over 10-ft. deep drifts and easily plow through 3 ft. of fresh snow.

"There aren't many places I can't go with this rig," he says. Besides hauling his fish house he uses it to pull a snowmobile trail groomer and maintain trail signs. The tracks can be left on year-round.

The Daihatsu is just one of the rigs he's converted as part of his business, Brad's Offroad Service. It started about 20 years ago when he discovered Mattracks, made in Karlstad, Minn.

Paul worked with the company, first testing Mattracks on a full-size pickup. "Their design was one of the first usable designs out. It's good research and technology, and they have very loyal customers."

Mattracks are solid rubber tracks with an internal drive sprocket. The track reduces the gear ratio 30 percent to give the vehicle power with a small sacrifice of top end speed.

Paul explained the tracks can be installed on all types of rigs from ATV's to heavy-duty pickups. Mattracks bolt on to existing lug nuts with adapter plates and anti-torsion brackets customized for each vehicle. A few models also require lift kits so the tracks don't rub on the fenders.

When Paul does a conversion, he explains to his customer how to convert back to tires within about an hour with typical shop tools.

"It's something FARM SHOW readers could easily do," Paul says.

Besides snow, Mattracks are useful in wet and muddy conditions. They are used by hunters, trappers, loggers, off road maintenance workers, people who service wind towers and even at Yellowstone Park, where the tracks are on a vehicle to take people in and out of remote areas of the park.

There are many Mattracks to fit everything



Brad Paul installs Mattracks on everything from ATV's to pickups. Photo shows his own Daihatsu mini truck fitted with tracks.

from ATV's to 4WD tractors up to 25,000 lbs.

The benefit of converting a small rig like the Daihatsu is cost, Paul says. He can convert one with Mattracks for \$6,000 to \$7,000 that provides cheap transportation to do all sorts of jobs — including driving through slush to take the fish house off the lake.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad Paul, Brad's Offroad Service, 6907 236th Street, St. Augusta, Minn. 56301 (ph 320 252-4004 or cell 612 290-0897).

## Portable Backscratcher For Cows

When his cattle started messing up the doors and walls of his new barn by rubbing on them, Tyler Hayes needed to find an alternative for them. He designed a backscratcher that he could move with the cows to keep them satisfied while protecting his facilities and fences. The "scratcher" is a recycled tractor tire chain.

"The idea was to have a scratcher you could put where you want," he says. "I built it on a steel plate base. To use it, they have to stand on it. Their own weight keeps them from being able to knock it over."

Hayes used a 48 by 60-in. checkered plate for the base. The rough surface provides good footing.

He centered two, 1/2 by 4-in. long flat bars at either end of the plate and welded them in place. He then welded the ends of a 160-in. length of tire chain to the steel bars to get the spread he wanted.

"I picked up the middle of the chain with a skid steer and used two 63-in. lengths of 1/2-in. pipe for uprights and a 48-in. piece



Tyler Hayes made this portable backscratcher for cows out of a recycled tractor tire chain.

of pipe between them to make an arch under the chain," says Hayes.

Hayes welded the pipes to the checkered plate and then welded the chains to the top of the arch. He also welded the chain together near the base to keep cattle from getting their feet stuck in it.

"It didn't cost much, but it works great," says Hayes. "I used mostly scrap steel from our farm machinery manufacturing business."

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Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our website at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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