



The 3-pt. mounted Fence-Mate holds, unrolls and stretches wire as it goes.

Fast Way To Put Up Woven Wire Fence

Fencing, especially with woven wire, couldn't get much easier than it is with Fence-Mate. The rear-mount unit holds, unrolls and stretches wire as it goes. Although also designed to handle multiple rolls of barbed wire, it's woven wire fencing where the Fence-Mate really excels.

"I was working in a farm supply store when a customer complained about an existing fencing unit," recalls Lou Popp. "He said it was hard to load and required getting on and off repeatedly to feed and alternately stretch the wire."

With the help of an uncle who is a metal fabricator, Popp built a prototype of the Fence-Mate and received a worldwide patent on it. The two are building and selling them direct, with the hope to license or sell the rights.

The Fence-Mate mounts on a 3-pt. hitch. Once loaded, the operator drives along as the roll of wire feeds out directly behind the tractor. A side delivery attachment is available to feed the wire out in line with the tractor's rear tires and closer to the fence line. With or without the attachment, when the desired length has fed out, pulling an overhead lever stops the wire feed.

"With the brake on, you just pull forward until the wire is stretched as tight as you desire," explains Popp. "Then you can get down and fasten that stretch of wire to your posts. The best fence is built by tightening short stretches at a time. With the Fence-Mate you can do 20-ft. sections all day, quickly and easily."

Popp estimates the Fence-Mate will cut fencing time by a third to half. It eliminates having to stop and attach or detach a come-along or other stretcher. It also eliminates kinking or damage to the wire with the use of a cam-style braking mechanism.

"Some fence unrollers use angle iron brakes that crimp the wire," explains Popp. "Once you damage the wire, you have a weak spot that can break. That doesn't happen with ours."

The Fence-Mate is not only easy to use when fencing, it's practically self-loading. Popp and his uncle devised a unique cantilevered, loading mechanism.

When loaded, the roll of wire is held in place by a steel rod that runs from the base plate to the overhead frame where it locks in place. To load the unit, the rod is unlocked from the frame and tipped to the side toward the roll of fence. Once the wire roll is slid over the rod to the base plate, the center of gravity shifts under the weight, even if parallel to the ground. The loaded base plate swings back into its working position on its own. Once the center rod is locked into the top frame, fencing can start.

"You can load it from the ground, from a truck bed or from a trailer," says Popp. "It may take two people to slide the roll of wire onto the Fence-Mate rod, but once there it lifts into place by itself."

The standard unit comes equipped with one barbed wire attachment and room for a 4-ft. roll of woven wire. With the attachment removed, woven wire rolls up to 6 ft. high can be loaded in the nearly 7-ft. tall cradle.

"Depending on the tractor and the maximum height of its 3-pt. hitch, you could unroll, tighten and attach a second level of 4, 5 or 6-ft. high fence above the first," says Popp. "We believe that is a unique function of our design. We also offer the option of custom fabricating a taller cradle to handle taller fence rolls."

Additional barbed wire spool holders can be added. However, Popp points out that the tensile strength of woven wire and barbed wire is different. This makes it difficult to stretch both well at the same time. He suggests making a single pass for woven wire and then unrolling, stretching and attaching the barbed wire on a return trip. Likewise, multiple rolls of barbed wire are best stretched and attached in separate passes.

"Even with multiple passes, it's still faster, easier and makes for a tighter fence than other methods," says Popp.

Popp has priced the units at \$1,200. Extra barbed wire spool attachments are priced at \$150. The side delivery arm attachment is priced at \$200.

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Loading the roll of wire is easy, thanks to a cantilevered loading mechanism on unit.



Robert Underwood used a deer feeder and a solar charger to make his own automatic chicken feeder.

Chicken Feeder Made From Deer Feeder

"I couldn't find anyone to feed my chickens when I went on vacation, so I got a deer feeder and a solar charger to do the work for me," says Robert Underwood, Red Oak, Texas.

His automatic chicken feeder consists of a shortened-up, 3-legged deer feeder that has a 40-gal. plastic barrel, with a ceiling-mounted metal chicken feeder suspended from it. The barrel mounts on three 2-ft. legs and has a metal spinner at the bottom. A 6-volt battery hooked up to a solar panel and an automatic timer operates the spinner. Underwood has the timer set to deliver feed 4 times a day down into the chicken feeder.

He used baling wire to attach the chicken feeder to bolts that protrude from the middle part of the barrel. The chicken feeder hangs a few inches off the ground so chickens can't scratch the feed out.

"It really works slick. When chickens hear the feed hitting the metal feeder, it sounds like a dinner bell to them. They come running right away," says Underwood. "I fill up the barrel about once a week. Another benefit is the feed is always enclosed so if it rains the feed stays dry. I drilled holes in the chicken feeder so any water that gets in the pan can drain out."

"The solar panel is really handy. I keep my chickens in a pen about 200 ft. from my house, which would be too far to run an electric line."

"I paid \$100 for the deer feeder and \$20 for the chicken feeder, which I bought at a flea market. My total cost was about \$170."

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Klean Wheel "dust shields" fit behind wheel, keeping brake dust and road grime from coating outside of wheel.

"Dust Shields" Keep Wheels Shiny And Clean

Klean Wheel "dust shields" fit inside the wheels of pickups and cars like an inside hubcap to keep corrosive brake dust and road grime from coating the outside of the wheel.

Klean Wheels are made of high strength aluminum alloy, coated with a durable matte black powdercoat finish. They fit between the wheel hub and wheel and feature a "turboventing" design that assists in brake cooling.

To install, remove the wheel and place it with the inner side of the wheel facing up. Each Dust Shield has a red arrow label clearly indicating the direction of rotation. Make sure the red arrow will be rotating in the direction that the wheel will roll when the vehicle is going forward.

Install the Dust Shield into the wheel by applying firm pressure evenly along the

outside circumference of the Dust Shield. The flat area of the dust shield should fit flush against the flat hub surface of the wheel.

The company recommends installing a set of Klean Wheels on both the front and rear wheels of the vehicle.

Custom engineered sizes are available to fit the factory wheels on most cars, trucks, and SUV's.

A set of Klean Wheels retails for \$69.95 plus S&H. Commonly offered on the internet for \$40 plus S&H. Comes with a lifetime guarantee.

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