



Load-sensing control switch starts a gas-powered generator automatically whenever it senses a demand for power.

On-Demand Switch Starts Generator Automatically

A new load-sensing control switch from HM Lectronic starts a gas-powered generator automatically at full speed when it senses a demand for power.

"Powering water pumps and small appliances are the main uses for my load sensor," says Henry Miller, HM Lectronic. "When water pressure gets low, the switch connecting the pump to the generator closes. The load sensor detects it and signals the generator to start at full speed with the eco-throttle off."

Miller explains that there is a warm-up delay of about 10 seconds before the generator takes the load and begins pumping water. Four seconds later, the engine speed drops to the level needed. When the water pressure reaches its set point, the pump switches off, and the load sensor shuts down the generator.

"If used on a light circuit, you just have to wait 10 seconds for the lights to come on," says Miller. "When you hit the switch to shut off the lights, the generator will shut down 10 seconds later."

Miller's Load Sense Control can be set up to work with any auto-start generator, but is totally "plug and play" with his own Auto Start systems, both wired and wireless.

Another feature of Miller's system is its automatic/non-automatic split phase for use with battery-powered systems. It allows

a battery charger wired through the non-automatic phase to kick in when battery power for a pump or other use gets too low. If the power draw exceeds the ability of the charger to maintain battery power, the load sensor switches to automatic.

"When the sensor kicks over to automatic, the generator kicks in," explains Miller. "When the load demand falls off, and the batteries are recharged, the load sensor shuts the generator off and switches back to non-automatic."

Miller sells and installs most load sensors and auto-start systems on the Honda generators he sells. About 30 percent of his business is with other Honda generator dealers. However, anybody can order load sensors and auto-start systems directly from him.

"I would recommend you work with a knowledgeable electrician," says Miller. "Just give me a call for prices and a recommendation for your uses."

Miller also offers a choking servo for automatic choking, wireless remotes and other products in a print or digital catalog available on request.

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Realistic Owl Decoy Scares Birds Away

Artists and technicians who recently redesigned the Bird-X Great Horned Owl decoy made it look almost identical to the real thing.

"We wanted it to be as realistic as possible, so we redesigned the head so it flows into the neck like on a real owl," says Allison James, Bird-X avian expert. "It has the forward looking attitude of a flying owl with the head and the eyes pointed in the right direction."

Even the plumage printed on the belly and wings of the decoy is accurate. Photos from different angles of owls in flight were used to get the correct detail.

The owl measures 23 in. total head to tail. The 6-in. dia. head is made from a hard plastic resin. The body and 4-ft. wings are durable, waterproof, non-woven fabric supported by flexible cables and plastic struts. The airfoil wings are designed to move naturally in the lightest wind.

"The body and the wings catch the wind," says James. "You always have the best success in deterring pest birds and animals from an area when there's change in movement of the decoy."

James recommends the decoy owl be mounted in open areas on a pole or fence post. Periodically moving it to a slightly different location extends its effectiveness and prevents target pests from getting used to its presence.

James recommends a single owl decoy for a small strawberry patch, but multiple owls and other Bird-X sonic repellents in a field of several acres.



Bird-X Great Horned Owl decoy has the forward looking attitude of a flying owl. Fabric wings catch the wind.

"The owl is extremely effective on its own," says James. "However, when you frighten with sound and visual, you get a synergistic effect."

The redesigned Prowler Owl is priced at \$64.10 on the Bird-X website. Older models are still available at reduced prices.

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David Sager built his own tree spade, mounting it on his loader's quick-tach hitch.

He Built His Own Tree Spade

With a plan to plant trees around his farm pond, retired machinist David Sager decided to build his own tree spade. He had seen a homemade version in a previous issue of FARM SHOW (Vol. 34, No. 3).

It took a couple of revisions, but his creation worked well, and Sager planted 60 white spruce trees between 4 and 8 ft. tall last summer along with a few hardwood trees, including a skinny 25-ft. tall maple.

"We only lost one tree, but it didn't look good to start with," says the Ontario resident.

He mounted the spade to his loader's quick-tach hitch and used 6 by 6-in. tubing on the base and 2 by 2-in. tubing for the uprights. Sager added a hinge so he can swing the auger around a tree and not break limbs, then close it and pin it. Instead of running hydraulics off the tractor, he mounted a 6 hp motor with a hydraulic pump on the spade to drive each of the three spade cylinders separately.

Sager lowers the back spade first about 6 to 8 in., then lowers the other two and continues to go around until he's deep enough to lift the tree and roots. The spade digs about 26 in. deep. Digging goes best with two people — one on the tractor to keep the down pressure on the loader, and the other person standing on the ground operating the three levers that control each section of the spade. The spades are made of 1/4-in. plate, which Sager cut into a spade shape and had rolled.

He estimates the spade weighs 1,200 to



A 6 hp motor and hydraulic pump is used to drive each of the spade's 3 cylinders separately.

1,400 lbs., which he is able to use with his 50 hp industrial loader. The spade cost about \$4,500 to build including the motor, pump and cylinders.

Sager plans to move more trees this year. He adds that when the ground is dry, he waters the ground the night before around the trees he plans to dig.

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Michael Friedman made this low-cost bale hauler from an old 1950's-style baby carriage.



"Baby Carriage" Bale Hauler

Bale haulers come in all shapes and sizes but we've never seen one made from a baby carriage, until Michael Friedman sent in a photo of one he made from an old 1950's-style baby carriage.

"I use it to haul small square bales to my goats. It was a low-cost way to make a bale cart," says Friedman.

He started with an old bassinet-style baby carriage with a convertible top that can be slipped up or down. "Some parts had rotted out," says Friedman. He stripped the carriage down to the frame and metal wheels, and then

used 2 by 4-in. welded wire fence to make a basket that he attached to the carriage frame.

"I use it to make 2 trips a day going about 400 ft. from my hay shelter to my goat pens, so over the years I've put a lot of miles on it," says Friedman. "I can't use it in deep snow. Some day I'll probably replace the metal wheels with balloon tires, which would make the carriage easier to push."

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