Rebuilt Battery Packs "Better Than New"

If you have a power tool battery pack that's gone bad, you don't have to replace it. You can rebuild it instead, and it should be more powerful than ever.

"We rebuild more than 1,000 battery packs a month," says Peter Peterson, Voltman Batteries. "We rebuild any brand. You will receive your original case back with brand new batteries on the inside."

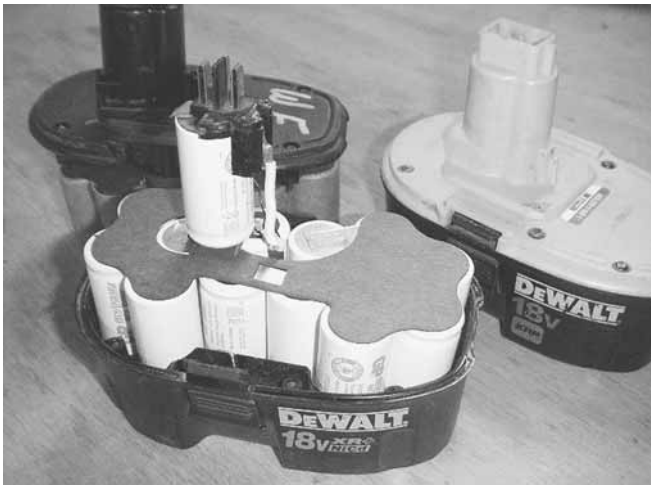
Peterson says the batteries are rebuilt better than the original. All connections between batteries are spot welded instead of soldering, which can create heat and damage cells.

"We've invested more than $10,000 in each of our welding systems," he adds. "Each strap receives several spot welds to ensure the best connection."

Rebuilt 2100 mAh NICAD batteries receive a 90-day warranty. The larger 3300 mAh NIMH rebuild offers 60 percent more run time than the original and carries a 180-day warranty. Peterson claims the rebuild will outlast lithium batteries.

All old batteries are recycled. The company claims to recycle more than a million pounds of batteries each year.

Cost of rebuilding varies by power. Prices range from $25 to $140. Any Nicad battery 9 to 18 volts is $50. Voltman Batteries will rebuild and return the pack within 2 to 4 weeks. We do not rebuild lithium batteries. Same-day-turnaround service for a $20 premium is also available.



"Just prepay by phone or online, or enclose a check with the battery," says Peterson. "We will replace every cell with new high drain cells, and when you get it back, it will be better than new."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Voltman Batteries, 320 North Mulberry St., Mansfield, Ohio 44902 (ph 419 526-1570; fax 419 526-1571; voltmanbatteries@yahoo. com; www.voltmanbatteries.com).

Reader Inquiry No. 109

Automatic Firewood Processor

Making more firewood in less time was the main objective of Warren Aikins, Rainier, Ore., when he first designed his "Chomper" Firewood Processor several years ago. Since then, he has reworked and refined the machine to the point where he now produces several versions of it for sale through his company, Rainier Hydraulics.

The Chomper processes firewood from cut logs of any length. It uses a shear blade to slice logs into lengths from 12 to 20 in. long. All functions are hydraulic, including the winch that pulls logs into the processing chamber and shear.

Here's how it works: A winch pulls logs into the processing chamber. Once the log is loaded, a shear blade cuts 80 percent of the way through the log. Then the shear blade moves forward, pushing the log through a set of fixed splitting blades. Once the log is split, the shear blade completes the cut. As the split firewood falls forward, the shear blade raises up and moves back to begin the process again.

"What makes the design unique is the way the shear blade cuts only part way through the log and is then used as the mechanism for automatically feeding logs into the splitter," notes Aikins.

A winch pulls log into chomper. Shear blade cuts 80% of the way through log and then drags log forward, pushing the end against a fixed set of splitting blades. Once the log is split, the shear completes its cut.

Prices range from $14,500 for the pto model to $45,500 for the largest self-powered Chomper. Belt conveyors to stack or load wood are available. Other options include trailer packages, fenders and lights, automatic engine shutdown system, and tachometer/hour meter for the engine.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Warren Aikins, Rainier Hydraulics, Inc., P.O. Box 748, Rainier, Ore. 97048 (ph 800 457-9136; E-mail: sales@chomper.net; Web site: www.chomper.net).

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