

Hydraulic Power Unit Runs On Small Electric Motor

Gene Luoma has been an inventor all of his life. He recently developed a hydraulic power unit to run any tools that need a hydraulic power source.

“One day I figured out it would be nice to have hydraulic power without having to start up a tractor,” Luoma says, so he designed and built a portable hydraulic unit that’s powered by a 1 hp single phase motor. Its output is 1/2 gpm at 3,000 psi. The oil reservoir is made of heavy gauge steel and holds 9 gal. of hydraulic fluid. Luoma installed a suction filter to remove any impurities in the oil. The filter also protects the pump from contamination.

Luoma can run any small tool or implement with the power unit. He can regulate flow control with a valve located on top of the tank. A gauge on the pump outlet displays operating pressure. A flexible metal coupling connects the motor to the pump, which works smoothly, pumping the no. 10 grade oil that has an anti-foaming agent.

“It’s like a small tractor without wheels,” says Luoma, who uses his rig to run several tools in his shop. He says it’s ideal for running power shop equipment like punch presses, sheet metal rollers, metal brakes and more. It’s mounted on swivel casters so it’s easy to move around his shop.

The hydraulic control valve has quick disconnect hoses so any device is easy to attach or detach.

Luoma says after he built the power unit and showed it to friends and neighbors they wanted to either borrow his or build one themselves. “I didn’t really plan on that much interest for the machine,” Luoma says, “but that got me to thinking maybe other people want to build something like this too.” That thought spurred him to draw up plans for his design, which are now available on the website www.GizmoPlans.com. “I don’t think there’s a market large enough to warrant building a rig like this for store inventory,” Luoma says, “but I do think there are people who like to have a power unit available and would put their own rig together.” Luoma’s plan sells for \$14.95 and includes a complete parts list plus instructions on how to build the machine.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Luoma, 4423 Normanna Rd., Duluth, Minn. 55803 (ph 218 591-4382; www.GizmoPlans.com).

Gene Luoma’s portable hydraulic power unit is powered by a 1 hp single phase electric motor and designed to run any tools that need a hydraulic power source.



“Stay Clean” Chicken Waterers, Feeders

“They keep your chickens’ drinking water and feed clean at all times and take the mess out of changing water and feed,” says Leonard Wogsland, Pensacola, Fla., about his new “Chicken Kooler” waterer and “Chicken Feeder” for backyard chicken enthusiasts.

Darla R. of Des Moines, Iowa says, “I have been using one of your chicken waterers for 2 months now. This product is amazing. It has really streamlined my chore time. I haven’t had to scrub it one time. It’s still clean, I just keep adding water. My chickens took right to it when their other water sources were taken away. This product is really worth the cost, it saves a lot of chore time, no more scrubbing, and their water is always clean. Not sure if it is related, but the size of my eggs has increased since my chickens have plenty of clean water. I can’t emphasize how much time this saves to use your product.”

Erin K from South Carolina says “The Chicken Kooler is a great product! It’s high-quality and very durable. I only have 2 hens, so the small size is perfect for them. I love the fact that I can rinse & refill through the small cap on the lid, rather than taking the whole lid off. It’s easy to clean, too. I feel like my chickens are so much healthier because their water is always clean- no more poop, bedding, and spilled feed in the waterer. It took them about a day to get the hang of drinking from it, but they’ve done fine ever since.”

Several models are available. The CK1 is made for small flocks of 5 or less. It comes with a 1-gal. pail and 2 drinker valves and sells for \$22.90. The CK2 comes with a 3 1/2-gal. pail and 3 drinker valves and sells for \$29.90. The CK3 includes a 3 1/2 gal. see-through bucket with an EZ Access Lid and 4 drinker valves on the bottom.

The 20-lb. Chicken Feeder CF-2 consists of a see-through bucket that makes it easy to see feed level, and a deep-well eating



Four drinker valves fit into bottom of plastic bucket, which hangs 18 in. above ground.



Chicken Feeder features a wide plastic tray that provides easy access to feed and prevents waste.

tray that provides easy access to feed and prevents feed waste on the ground.

“With the high price of feed, you’ll pay for this feeder in just a few months,” says Wogsland.

The CF-2 Chicken Feeder sells for \$38.88. The CF-1 is a 5-lb. feeder used for smaller flocks. It looks exactly the same as the larger version and sells for \$31.88.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Wogsland, Water Wellness USA LLC, 217 Saint Eusebia St., Pensacola, Fla. 32503 (ph 850 221-7077; lwogsland@cox.net; www.cheerychicks.com).

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