



After our article on the “mystery wood splitter” in the last issue, FARM SHOW reader Will Patterson sent us a link to this Rhinoceros splitter built by “Miki” in Hungary.

More Info On “Mystery Wood Splitter”

In the last issue we asked readers if they knew anything about a “mystery” wood splitter video we found on the internet. Splitting wood seems to require very little effort, and the user appears to be very comfortable operating it in an upright position (you can check out the video at www.farmshow.com).

FARM SHOW reader Will Patterson

found a couple of helpful links with more information on the splitter design.

“If you watch closely, you will note that the head that does the splitting is very heavy, but the spring counterbalances that weight,” Patterson says.

At www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kDG_oiUjew, Miki of Hungary flashes diagrams of how he built his “Rhinoceros” wood splitter. Built on a wheeled tubular steel frame, the splitter rolls easily to the woodpile. Miki lines up the heavy splitting head over a stump and cranks a pulley to set the tension on the spring. He places chunks of wood on the stump and pulls down on the head to split wood. Miki emphasizes how easy the work is by smoking a cigarette as he sets it up.

Another video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSBVoWj6XQQ features the “Clever firewood mechanical”, obviously made out of recycled materials. The operator shows how to balance the car spring and demonstrates the splitter’s ability to split hardwood as well as tiny wood pieces for kindling.

There is a commercial version of the splitter on the market through Sprut Technology, a Russian website. It appears to be a lighter weight unit than the home-built ones we’ve seen. The powder-coated unit weighs in at about 200 lbs. No price was listed on the site. You can check it out at: www.sprut-technology.ru/node/418.

This Russian version of “mystery splitter” design is sold by Sprut Technology. It’s the only commercial version of the splitter design that we could find.



Jeremy Meinert says he had never seen a video of any other similar wood splitter when he built this one last fall.

“Mystery Wood Splitter” Built By Pennsylvanian

After reading the report in our last issue on a hand-powered “mystery wood splitter”, Jeremy Meinert sent us photos of a similar wood splitter that he built last fall and uses in front of his wood shed. He had never seen a video of any other similar wood splitter.

Basically, it’s a heavily weighted, spring-loaded arm with a splitting head on the end. The operator splits chunk after chunk of wood with little effort.

“It works fast and lets me stand up straight while working. I had never seen another one before I built it,” says Meinert. “My friends didn’t think it would work, but once they tried it they were surprised at how little effort is needed to operate it. It can split one cord of wood per hour with no problem. It cost next to nothing to build.”

He welded an old splitting maul to a solid steel, 500-lb. weight made from a 3-ft. length of 5-in. sq. steel tubing. The weight is attached to one end of a 5-ft. long arm made from 5-in. sq. tubing with 1/4-in. thick walls. The arm pivots on a bracket that’s bolted to an old telephone pole sunk 4 ft. deep into the ground.

The arm moves up or down on a big coil spring welded to a metal upright that’s bolted to the pole.

“It’ll split anything that I could split by hand,” says Meinert. “It can’t split really twisted wood, but the wood doesn’t necessarily have to be straight-grained for it to work.”

“I lift the 500-lb. weight by hand to start the process, then let go of it to bring the splitter down. It takes a lot of strength to lift the weight at first, but once the spring starts moving it takes over and I can easily move the splitter up or down with one hand.”

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Unit consists of a heavily weighted, spring-loaded arm with a splitting head at the end. The spring counterbalances the head’s weight.



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Seed-Filled Shotgun Shells Used To Plant Flower Garden

A FARM SHOW subscriber tipped us off to a “novel approach to lazy gardening” from a Swedish company that sells shotgun shells packed with flower seeds.

Inventor Per Cromwell, in Sweden, started selling the \$50 shotgun flower shells in January.

“I like gardens more than gardening. I also like guns more than killing,” he told Wired UK Magazine.

Flower Shells allow him to shoot and garden at the same time. Twenty shots with 100 poppy seeds/shell will plant an average-sized garden, he says.

Cromwell says he likes to fire from the hip, aiming 6 to 12 ft. ahead. “It’s a good feeling, the violent blast, knowing this is the birth of a flower.”

The article explains that loading shells for flower seeds requires similar care as reloading shells for game. Cromwell removes the lead from existing 12 gauge shotgun shells, fills them with 10 to 100 seeds, and adds fabric to create a barrier to protect them. The amount of gunpowder added varies according to the type of seed (columbine, cornflower, daisy, poppy, sunflower, clematis, lavender, sweet pea, lupine, carnation, peony and various meadow flowers).

Whether or not folks will shoot rather than plant a flowerbed remains to be seen. Some detractors point out the potential dangers in populated areas. (Yes, poppy seeds shot at close range can inflict pain.) Also, it’s generally not allowed to discharge a shotgun within city limits.



Modified shotgun shells are packed with flower seeds.

We contacted Cromwell through his website (www.flowershell.com) and received this email: *We are deeply humbled for this enormous interest from around the world. We are a small studio and in the middle of working with the practicalities to bring this to market, so we sadly don’t have the time to answer to all emails just now.*