

## “Poor Man’s” Service Rack Made From PVC Tubing

Using pvc pipe, Robert Wallrath of Houston, Texas, built his own “service rack” for walk-behind mowers.

“It gives me easy access to sharpen blades and change belts or motor oil,” says Wallrath. “Once the mower is on the service rack I can pull up a chair and do all my work from a sitting position.”

The 4-legged service rack measures about 3 ft. sq. and is built mostly from 2-in. dia. pvc tubing. The mower’s wheels ride inside a pair of troughs made by cutting a pvc pipe in half. Wallrath tilts the mower’s front wheels up onto the rack, then lifts the mower’s rear end and slides the mower forward.

A pair of long pipes, which swivel 360

degrees and also pivot up or down, are used to prop the mower up from the side or front. The rack’s legs pin into a series of holes in the tubing and can be adjusted narrower or wider depending on the mower.

A short pvc “T” clamped onto one side of the rack serves as a funnel holder, or as an umbrella holder if Wallrath is working outside. “The funnel always stays clean because it’s off the ground,” says Wallrath, who says he’s willing to sell plans for the rack.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert O. Wallrath, 7422 Nodding Pines Lane, Houston, Texas 77044 (ph 713 614-5538).



Walk-behind mower rests on a pair of troughs made by cutting a pvc pipe in half. You can prop the mower up from the side or front.



TrakJak slips under tractor’s rear end, attached to the 3-pt. hitch. Tractor hydraulics are used to raise the rear end off the ground.

## A Tractor Jack You Can Drive On

Our British correspondent Andy Sewell recently spotted a new-style tractor jack from an Irish company. The new jack is designed to make it easier to service rear brakes which, he says, go bad too often because so much equipment is trailered on narrow roads. And the trailers often either have poor brakes, or none at all. So the tractors do all the work.

The new TrakJak from PFE farm equipment slips under the rear end and fastens securely to the tractor’s 3-pt. hitch. Tractor hydraulics

are used to raise the rear end off the ground so the rear wheels can be removed. Once the brakes, or rear end, have been repaired, the tractor can be driven around on hard ground with the jack in place to test the repair before replacing the tires (you can see a video of a tractor moving with jack in place at farmshow.com).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, PFE TrakJak:paucifay@gmail.com; ph 011 353 872678902).

## Handy Ties Made From Cat. 5 Electrical Wire

Cat. 5 wire can be used to make handy, inexpensive multi-purpose ties, says Jim Rist of Granbury, Texas. He recently sent FARM SHOW samples of the ties he makes by pulling wires out of damaged sheathing and then cutting it into the desired length.

“It’s easier to use than baling wire or zip ties and makes a great substitute. It’s also reusable,” says Rist. “After using it once, you’ll never again throw away a scrap piece of Cat. 5 wire.”

He uses a stainless steel linesman’s scissors, often used by the phone industry, to score the sheathing. Then he pulls the sheathing off by hand to expose the wires, which come out loose and twisted in pairs.

“You can cut the wires to any length, and you don’t need a special cutters like you do with zip ties,” says Rist. “I use the wires to tie garden hoses and extension cords together and to hang different kinds of stuff in my garage. The wires don’t take up much space so you can keep them in your truck or toolbox, or at work in your desk drawer.”

Rist says the wire is commonly available from local construction sites and cable



Jim Rist makes inexpensive ties by pulling Cat. 5 wires out of damaged sheathing.

companies. “Go to a construction project and it’s likely an electrician will have tons of this stuff on hand. Cable companies often give the stuff away, even if it just gets nicked a little, because it doesn’t meet their standards. Of course, you can also buy Cat. 5 wire at computer and hardware stores, but it’s more fun to repurpose it.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Rist, 2708 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury, Texas 76049 (ph 817 573-1150; jim@bennettsrv.com).

## New Link Belts Offer Long-Lasting Fix

Urethane link-V-belts from BDH make it easy to replace worn or broken endless rubber belts. They are quick to install like other link-V-belts, but last longer.

“The new urethanes make our belts way stronger than previous link-V-belts while maintaining a link belt’s main design approach — adjust the belt, not the drive,” says Barry Hershey, BDH, Inc. “Our DuroDrive belts can be used almost anywhere an industrial grade V-belt is used.”

All DuroDrive belts feature the exclusive modular link fabrication. The link-V-belts have a wider operating temperature, from 40°F to 200°F. Hershey says the new polymers are resistant to water, oils, grease, dust, dirt and most common chemicals and solvents. The DuroDrive belt absorbs vibration and is abrasion and shock load resistant. It can even handle misaligned drives and 1/4 turns.

Hershey says the link-V-belts are ideal for use with modified or newly designed equipment. “A lot of times when building or modifying a piece of equipment, the last thing you think about is a belt to fit the pulleys,” says Hershey. “The beauty of our belts is that you can make them the length you need. You always have the size belt you need.”

DuroDrive belts are available in 6 1/2-ft. sleeves or in rolls 25, 50, 100 and 500 ft. long. Pricing for the sleeves is in the \$30 range with bulk lengths costing \$4 to \$5 per foot.

“Our belts are more expensive than the



“Our new urethane link-V-belts are much stronger than previous link-V-belts,” says Barry Hershey, BDH, Inc.

standard V-belt because of the way they are made,” says Hershey. “They are worth more because of their longevity and how quick they are to install.”

Adjustable length belts means no need for maintaining a supply of replacement belts of various sizes. They also eliminate the need to disassemble most drive components to replace belts.

“DuroDrive offers standard industry power ratings and operates on standard pulley grooves,” says Hershey. “They offer a smooth transition from sheave to sheave.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BDH, Inc., 6975A River Rd., Conestoga, Penn. 17516 (ph 717 871-0994; www.bdhbelt.com).



Hinged bracket on retractable hose reel allows the hose to pull out much easier. Reel folds up against shop wall when not in use.

## “No Leak” Pivoting Hose Reel

“I bought a retractable hose reel that holds 50 ft. of 1/2-in. hose. I made a hinged bracket that makes it a lot more convenient to have a hose inside the shop,” says Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N.Dak.

“It folds up against the wall when I’m not using it so we don’t keep bumping into it. Also, by making it pivot, the hose pulls out much easier. When a hose reel is rigid, you have to pull direct or it will bind up. I paid \$400 for this unit and it’s far superior to the cheap plastic hose reels you find at Walmart. It doesn’t leak a drop of water and, because

it’s retractable, the hose is easy to store.

“One downside is that it only uses 1/2-in. hose instead of 5/8 or 3/4-in., like most garden hose. I didn’t have room for a unit that would work with larger hose. This one is fine inside the shop. Outside the shop I have a 3/4-in. hose for filling sprayer tanks and I don’t care if that one drips a little.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58842 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@dtel.net).