



David Eggers uses caster-wheeled hospitable equipment to make shop equipment portable. Examples include this adjustable work bench made from a hospital bed (left) and large creeper made from a gurney.

Hospital Equipment Finds New Life In Farm Shop

David Eggers loves to find new uses for equipment that would otherwise be junked.

"If I see something that has potential, I buy it," Eggers says. Casters were one of the reasons he purchased a hospital bed, anesthesia cart and gurney at a Brookings, S. Dak., auction. He uses casters to make shop equipment portable so tools and workbenches can be taken to any project or piece of equipment he is working on.

The anesthesia cart was an obvious candidate for a tool cart.

"It's pretty cool to have that many trays. It opens on both sides so I put less frequently used tools on the back side and the most-used tools on the front side," he explains.

The bed made an ideal adjustable workbench after he mounted a solid core door on the top. He can raise it up or down depending whether he is sitting or standing.

The gurney turned into a "2-fer." Eggers turned the bottom part of the gurney into a portable welding bench by adding a steel door for a top. He took off the bed portion and mounted castors on the bottom.

"I converted it to a large creeper, and it has a crank to elevate the head part. With a



An anesthesia cart was converted into this portable tool cart.

3-in. cushion it's comfortable and large and works well under combines and tractor," says Eggers. He is a chiropractor which makes him mindful of ergonomic features that can reduce injuries.

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Cadet Parts Business Celebrates 20 Years

"When I got laid off from my job 20 years ago it was a blessing in disguise because I started restoring Cub Cadet tractors and selling parts, and that's what I've been doing ever since," says Scott Urschel, owner of Urschel CCC in Indiana.

Urschel had his first exposure to Cub Cadets when his father gave he and his brother two of the popular lawn tractors as Christmas presents. When Urschel started his business, his father helped him set up his inventory system, using the skills he'd acquired as a parts manager for a local equipment dealership. These days Urschel keeps a large inventory of parts in a new building on his farm.

"I try to keep a lot of parts on the shelf because when people call they appreciate getting the parts in a few days, rather than having me hunt them down," says Urschel. "I probably have 84 Cadets on the property now and parts from several hundred more on the shelf." Urschel recently purchased 50 Cadet tractors from a fellow he's known for several years. Many of them are restored, but some he'll use for parts.

Urschel says he prices his parts based on what he sees at swap meets and always tries to be fair. "Rare parts bring a premium because there just aren't that many of them out there." He gauges the market at swap meets, online and by visiting with other collectors.

"Just like big tractors the market comes and goes," says Urschel. "Fifteen to 20

years ago they went from worth nothing to crazy high. For example, a set of round fenders that was maybe \$10 went to \$250, which was more than a complete tractor at one time. An M & W 9-speed gearbox has always brought a lot of money because it's rare and hard to find."

Urschel says he gets most requests for parts that fit Cub Cadet originals, the 70 and 100 models, the 123, the 169, the 800 and the Spirit of 76. He says about half of his customers are retired people who are rebuilding a Cadet of their own. Another quarter are in their 50's and 60's and the rest are youngsters and young adults who are just starting to restore. "A lot of people will pay \$300 to \$400 for a tractor, spend the same on parts and almost that much for tires, and have a really nice tractor when they're done," Urschel says.

Urschel also sells complete tractors for restoration, and restores tractors if someone wants that done. "Some restoration guys have a lot of overhead," Urschel says. "I charge by the hour to cover my costs and make some money, but I'm not in this to get rich overnight. I've learned that people who want a nice restored tractor don't want to pay 3 to 4 times what it's worth just to have it looking and running like new."

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Forklift Mast Used To Build Shop Elevator

Larry Wood turned an old Clark forklift mast into a heavy-duty shop elevator by mounting it along one wall and building a platform onto the mast in place of the forks. He uses it to ride up to the upper level of his shop.

The elevator is controlled by electrically-powered hydraulics so a simple electric switch is used to move it up or down. Makes it easy to retrieve parts or other equipment from the upper storage area.

"Now I can ride up to the balcony with whatever I want to store," says Wood. "The 2-stage mast will lift 2 tons about 12 ft. high, although the barn's second floor is only 9 ft. above the floor. The platform is big enough that I can load lots of stuff on it."

He attached the mast to a 2 by 6 steel tube located between two of the posts on his shop wall. He welded a steel frame to the mast forks and bolted a 4 by 6-ft. long, 3/4-in. thick plywood floor onto the frame.

He made an electric-hydraulic power pack for the elevator by combining a 12-volt hydraulic power unit and a 12-volt battery that's attached to a trickle charger. Electric-operated elevator buttons are mounted on the forklift and on the wall.

"The elevator only uses power on the way up, so when I push the button it coasts down. I store the elevator at the second floor level just to keep it out of the way," says Wood.

He bought the hydraulic power unit used at a yard sale for \$125. He paid \$100 for the forklift mast and spent about \$200 to rebuild it, adding new rollers and repacking the hydraulic cylinders.

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Larry Wood converted an old forklift mast into a shop elevator by building a platform onto the mast in place of the forks. Elevator is controlled by electrically-powered hydraulics.



Mini Press Brake Uses Bottle Jack

"Our new compact benchtop press brake is the perfect solution for anyone who needs to bend small sections of sheet metal or plate steel. It makes use of a common 20-ton bottle jack and requires no outside power source or specialized pumps," says Stan McDonald, McDonald Enterprises, Foxboro, Ontario.

He says the sheet metal-bending press works great for making suspension and body support brackets. "With its relatively small footprint, this press is also a perfect fit for anyone with limited working space," says McDonald.

He came up with the idea when he needed to bend a bunch of brackets out of 3/8-in. thick plate steel. "I didn't want to cut and weld things together because we wanted a clean look without welding and the need for grinding and general cleanup. I looked for a commercial product that would bend like I wanted, but couldn't find one so I made my own using the bottle jack as the bending force. It allows you to bend thicker material quickly and accurately and with a high degree of repeatability."

The bender has an adjustable stop to limit the amount of bend and can even be used with 2 settings if you're making multiple parts, says McDonald. "I also added a backstop that allows the material to be bent in the same location every time," he notes.

The press brake sells for \$425 (U.S.) plus S&H.



Compact benchtop press brake makes use of a common 20-ton bottle jack. A backstop allows material to be bent in the same location every time.

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