

He Replaced Wooden Disk Bearings With PVC Pipe

"My friend had an old 10-ft. disk equipped with wooden bearings that were worn out. He asked me for help but I didn't have the right tools to make new round wooden bearings, so I used pvc pipe instead," says Willard Wickey, Hersey, Mich.

The disk's axle housing is built in 5-in. long sections that bolt together around the axle. Wickey unbolted the sections and replaced the wooden bearings inside them with ones that he made from 2 different sizes of electrical conduit pvc pipe. One pipe (white) was 2 in. in dia. and the other (grey) was 3 1/2 in. He used a chop saw to cut the 2-in. pipe lengthwise and then cut the halves into 4-in. long sections that fit together in pairs around the axle. The sections are spaced 1/2 in. apart inside the axle housing, in order to make room for a series of metal ribs built into the axle that held the original bearings in place. He also drilled a hole in each section to make room for a grease zerk.

He cut up the 3 1/2-in. dia. pipe to make a layer of shims that are glued together and fill the gap between the 3-in. pipe and the axle housing.

"I made the pvc pipe bearings last fall. My friend uses the disk on his 1-acre property so it doesn't get a lot of use. But electrical conduit pvc is as hard as wood, and as long as the bearings are kept greased they work as good as new," says Wickey.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Willard Wickey, 913 170th Ave., Hersey, Mich. 49639 (ph 231 832-1123).



Wickey unbolted 5-in. long axle housing sections from disk and replaced the wooden bearings in them with ones he made from 2 different sizes of pvc pipe.



One pipe (white) was 2 in. in dia. and the other (grey) was 3 1/2 in. He cut the 2-in. pipe lengthwise, then cut the halves into 4-in. long sections that fit together in pairs around the axle.



Sections are spaced 1/2 in. apart inside axle housing, to make room for the axle's metal ribs.

Leonard Downing converted a Harbor Freight motorcycle lift to handle his collection of antique riding lawn mowers.



Motorcycle Lift Adapted For Lawn Mower Work

Leonard Downing made working on his collection of antique riding lawn mowers easier by widening a motorcycle lift that lifts them up to a comfortable height.

"It's a lot easier than crawling on my hands and knees," says the Warren, Ohio, collector who recently turned 80.

He got the idea when he saw a 1,000-lb. capacity motorcycle lift at Harbor Freight, and told his family it would be a good Christmas gift, especially when it went on sale for \$300. He spent part of last winter modifying it.

Downing purchased two 6-ft. long pieces of 8-in. wide cold rolled metal (1/8-in.) for \$50 to add to each side of the lift. He attached the sheets to the lift by welding one end of 1-in. square tubing to the metal and running 5/16-in. bolts through the other end of the tubing and the motorcycle lift bed. The 10 bolts can be taken out to remove the side wings and quickly restore it back to a motorcycle lift, Downing says. He used a 4 1/2-in. grinder to cut slots for the tubing to

lie flat on the lift platform.

"For the foot pump that raises it up I added key stock to the handle," Downing adds, because the extended width of the table covered the original handle. He also lengthened the release with a piece of an old Deere lawn mower blade.

In the down position, the lift is about 4-in. off the floor. Downing uses ramps to roll his riding mowers on the lift. He sets the brake, and the tubing keeps the mower in place. The lift pumps up about 3 ft. off the ground. A round steel bar, which runs through holes between the lift's front arm and the frame, acts as a safety to keep the lift up.

The clamp on the end of the lift also comes in handy for holding pieces when using a grinder. Topping it with a sheet of plywood also made the lift a handy serving table when Downing celebrated his 80th birthday on Christmas Eve.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Downing, 3056 Palmyra Rd., Warren, Ohio 44481 (vdowning@neo.rr.com).

55-Gal. Plastic Garbage Barrels

"Ordinary metal garbage cans rust and can get bent by garbage haulers. Instead, I convert old plastic 55-gal. barrels into garbage cans that are lightweight and won't rust. I drill holes into the bottom of the barrels so they don't collect rain water," says Gary Swensen of Yankton, S. Dak.

The barrels originally contained windshield washer fluid. Swensen's son got them for him.

"I use a reciprocating saw to cut the top of the barrel out, leaving a small lip that serves as a handle," says Swensen. "I also add some reflective tape. I put a metal handle at the bottom of the barrel to make it easier for the garbage man to dump. Another advantage is these barrels won't get bent if they're banged against the garbage truck like metal ones will.

"A few weeks ago our local garbage collector came by and thanked me for my plastic containers because of the handles and drain holes. They said that without drain holes, an open-topped garbage can really gets heavy after a big rain."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Swensen, 1408 Sunrise Drive, Yankton, S. Dak. 57078 (ph 605 660-3489; g_swensen@msn.com).



Gary Swensen converts old plastic 55-gal. barrels into garbage cans that are lightweight and won't rust.

Portable "Fuel Station" Made From 55-Gal Barrel

"I have a small acreage and use older machinery that runs on gas. I wanted a portable, self-contained fuel transfer tank that I could easily load into my pickup. Most of the ones I found on the market are rated only for diesel and they aren't portable. Also, they cost hundreds of dollars. So I made my own out of a 55-gal. barrel and other materials I already had," says Tom Chaney, Sr., Chrisman, Ill.

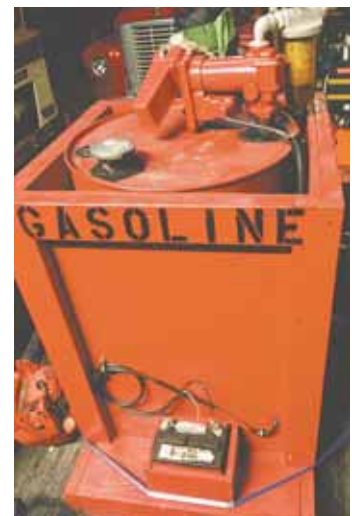
The barrel stands on a wooden pallet cut in half and is held in place by a homemade wood cage made from 3/4-in. thick plywood and 2 by 4's. The base is extended 1 ft. on 2 sides to provide stability. Metal hooks are embedded in each corner of the sleeve, making it easy to lift the entire setup into a pickup bed with an overhead chain hoist.

The barrel came with 2 bung holes - a large one that serve as a fill port and a smaller one fitted with a spigot. Chaney mounted a 12-volt fuel pump in the large bung, which is operated by the battery off a garden tractor. The battery is stored in a small box on the side.

Chaney now needed a fill and vent cap, so he removed the spigot from the small bung and used a sawzall to widen the hole. He cut a large bung out of another barrel that he already had and welded it into the hole, then installed the vent fill cap from a junked 50-gal. portable fuel tank.

"It works fast," says Chaney. "I can quickly lift it into my pickup, then haul it out to the field where I'm working and drive my tractor up to it every time I need to refuel. And if I need to use the pickup for something else I can quickly set the barrel and pump down on the ground. If the barrel ever rusts up I can always replace it.

"I came up with the idea because I operate a sideline business making hay for area farmers. I got tired of carrying 5-gal. gas cans, and it wasn't always safe to carry one on a tractor or combine. I needed something to speed my operation up, without tying up my pickup. My dad and grandpa always said



Tom Chaney made this portable "fuel station" out of a 55-gal. barrel. A 12-volt fuel pump mounts in barrel's large bung and is operated by the battery off a garden tractor.

to use whatever you have on hand and make it work if you can. Then if you can't make it work but still really need it, go buy it."

Chaney says he came up with the wood cage idea because the barrel is top heavy and would have been hard to strap down on its own. "It makes the barrel more stable and provides a safe, convenient way to haul the barrel in my pickup. It also provides anchor points for tie-down straps in the pickup bed," says Chaney.

He says he already had almost everything he used to build the unit. "A friend gave me the fuel pump a few years ago because it didn't work, and I fixed it up. I added a fuel filter onto it in order to catch any debris."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Chaney, Sr., 14732 E. 1800th Rd., Chrisman, Ill. 61924 (tomchansr@yahoo.com).