



Battery-powered Easy Jack offers a much safer way to change tires and gearboxes on center pivot irrigators, and also can be used for other jobs.

## “Push Button” Electric Lift Jack

“Our new battery-powered Easy Jack offers a much safer way to change tires and gearboxes on center pivot irrigation systems, as well as for any other job where you’d use a jack,” says Dan Kennicutt, TD Technologies LLC, Sutherland, Neb.

The electric-over-hydraulic jack operates on a 12-volt rechargeable lithium ion battery and can be used up to 30 times off a single charge. It can lift up to 3,300 lbs.

A steel arm on one side does the lifting. The operator simply pushes a 2-way switch on top of the jack to make it go up or down.

The jack has 17 in. of travel. However, the base has an adjustable “lifting lug” with a series of holes in it, and by changing the position of a pin, the jack can lift up to 3 ft. high.

“A lot of farmers use manually operated high-lift jacks, but they can be very unsafe. Many farmers have been injured when the locking mechanism on the jack failed and they got hit in the head, resulting in lost teeth or even broken jaws,” says Kennicutt, who invented the new electric jack along with Tye Baumgartner.

“Our jack has infinite adjustment up or down. It weighs 65 lbs., but we think the safety advantage is worth the extra weight.”

Kennicutt and Baumgartner are developing a tire carrier that lets you use the jack to haul center pivot tires on back of a pickup or



Steel arm on one side does the lifting. Operator pushes a 2-way switch on top of jack to make it go up or down.

utility vehicle. The jack fits into the vehicle’s receiver hitch and is used to carry the tire. “The carrier lets you haul the good tire into the field and carry the bad tire out,” says Kennicutt.

The battery-operated jack sells for \$1,500 plus S&H.

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When clearing saplings from pastures, Harold Hart gets the roots and all using a pair of forklift forks with a section of road grader blade bolted across them.



## Simple Setup Clears Trees Fast

Harold Hart likes to get the roots and all when he clears saplings from pastures. His skid steer, with its fork-mounted blade, does just that and does it fast. Being able to change angles on the forks makes them extra effective.

“The forks let me put the blade right into the dirt and lift saplings out by their roots,” says Hart. “I start back a ways and drive the blade in where it either cuts it off clean or hooks the sapling at its base and pulls it out.”

Hart’s sapling remover couldn’t be simpler. It consists of 2 forklift forks with a section of maintainer blade from a road grader bolted across them. He burned 5/8 to 3/4-in. holes

about 3 to 4 in. from the ends of the forks. He did the same on the blade and then bolted it in place.

“You can make it as wide or narrow as you want, but it doesn’t have to be very wide to do the job,” says Hart. “I only set my forks about a foot apart.”

Hart likes to dress the blade sharp with his angle grinder. “The sharper it is, the better,” he says. “Just talk to the local township maintainer operator. They are always replacing blades.”

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Darrell Hartzog replaced the driver’s side running board on his mother’s pickup with electric-operated, retractable steps that he bought from a local RV dealer.

## “Retractable” Steps Replace Running Board

“My 81-year-old mother loves her 2002 Chevrolet Silverado HD 2500 extended cab diesel pickup, but due to her age, height and health issues she would’ve had to replace it with a new vehicle that she could get in and out of easier. She loves this pickup and was almost in tears at the thought of having to give it up,” says Darrell Hartzog, Zephyrhills, Fla.

The pickup came from the factory with running boards but they were too high off the ground for Hartzog’s mother, who is barely 5 ft. tall. “Three years ago I lowered the running boards four inches which helped for a while, but due to her increased age she still had trouble climbing in and out of the pickup. I had to figure out a way to keep her in the pickup she loves so much,” says Hartzog.

He solved the problem by replacing the pickup’s driver’s side running board with a pair of electric-operated, retractable steps that I bought from a local RV dealer. The steps measure about 24 in. wide. The bottom step folds down about 1 1/2 inches above the ground, which makes getting in and out of the pickup as easy as walking up a small set of stairs.

The steps are activated by electric door sensors so they quickly drop down into position when the door opens. “When you shut the door, the steps fold back up out of the way,” says Hartzog.

He bought the automatic retractable steps at Lazydays RV’s (ph 855 211-3333; www.lazydays.com). The steps came with a magnetic door switch and a control wiring harness. He used angle iron and flat steel to make new mounting brackets and bolted the



Bottom step folds down to about 1 1/2 in. above the ground, creating a small set of stairs.

step to them, then cut away part of the original running board bracket and welded the new brackets on for added support.

“I used a floor jack to jack the stairs up and hold them in place while I was measuring for the mounting brackets, and I used a 2 by 4 to help keep it level on the jack,” says Hartzog. “I also painted the steps black.”

“Now when my mother opens the door the steps automatically lower down to the ground, allowing her to step up into the truck. When she closes the door, the steps automatically go back up. She has no trouble getting in and out.”

Hartzog says his total cost was \$784.12. He paid \$684.47 for the step, \$39.93 for the homemade mounting brackets, \$48.91 for electrical wiring and breaker, and \$19.81 for paint.

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## Duffel Bag Used To Make Great Small Site Seeder

“Seeding grass on small strips of ground alongside a road or sidewalk is difficult with a wheeled seeder, so we came up with our method that works a whole lot better,” says Joe Williams of A. Liberoni Landscaping near Pittsburgh.

Williams and his cohorts use a seeder they made from a duffel bag. An 18-in. length of 1 1/2-in. dia. pool hose extends out the bottom. To use, a worker fills the duffel bag with seed and carries it over his shoulder, waving the hose back and forth to seed small areas. “A worker just slings the bag onto his back and can cover a lot of ground very quickly,” says Williams.

He says one of the workers named the duffel bag seeder ‘Snork’ because he thought it looked like a cartoon character from an animated TV series that ran back in the 1980’s. “Snork has been a big help to us and when people see us using it, they stop and admire how well it works,” Williams says.



Worker carries duffel bag over his shoulder, waving hose at bottom of bag back and forth to seed small areas.

“It holds about 20 lbs. of grass seed, enough to cover almost a quarter mile of ground 2 feet wide on both sides of a road or trail.”

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