

# Reader Letters



I've discovered that imitation vanilla works great to keep burns from blistering. Try it. It works. **(Glen Teel, Hays, Kan.)**

It's a lot easier to back up with a deck mower on back of a tractor if you replace the top link on the 3-pt. hitch with a chain. Gives it greater flexibility so there's less stress on the mower and 3-pt. **(Allen Pederson, Nashua, Iowa)**

In my copy of your new "Great Shop Ideas - Volume III", there's a tip from a reader about how he worked for 2 1/2 hrs. inside his septic tank, relining the walls with plastic skirting to keep the tank from leaking. This is not a good idea because of the toxic atmosphere inside those tanks. You can die in there. The \$6,000 that he didn't want to spend on the tank wouldn't pay for his funeral. **(William Preuss, wpreuss2928@charter.net)**

I am concerned about the article in your last issue about the benefits of "raw milk". As a practicing dentist and a large animal veterinarian, we believe that article was highly misleading. The lady claims that mercury poisoning from her dental fillings was the cause of her medical problems but all studies I've seen do not bear that out. In any case, it would be impossible for milk to pull mercury out of anyone's body. The possible disease side effects of drinking unpasteurized milk far outweigh any benefit that may be obtained. Although some enzymes and vitamins may be inactivated by pasteurization, the primary benefit of milk comes in the form of easy calcium intake that is not available from other food sources. **(Brian D. Coerver, DDS; Valerie M. Coerver, DVM)**



The picture and brief blurb you ran in a recent issue (Vol. 41, No.3), about how I build shelves between studs in my farm shop, left out key information.

Building shelves like this is not a new idea. But the way I did it was new.

In the past when I built shelves between studs, I installed individual support blocks under each shelf. This made it difficult to make neat, level shelving.

This time, I cut plywood into a bunch of 3 1/2-in. wide strips, 7 3/4 in. long (the distance I wanted between shelves). Then, starting at the floor, I nailed a strip to the stud on each side and then placed the first shelf - also cut from plywood - over the top. Then I nailed two more pieces of plywood to each side, pushing them down tightly to hold the shelf in place, and then laid a shelf piece on top of them. I continued this process up to the top of the wall. Works great and looks very neat. **(Herman Kiefer, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada)**



Thanks for the article in your last issue on how I "clean up" brake rotors. Here's a photo of a cute "junkyard dog" that a friend made for me. The dog sits on top of a pair of welded-together car and truck wheel rims and is spray painted white and black to look like a Dalmation. The body and head are made from old muffler pipes, the eyes are lug nuts off a Chevy pickup, and bent metal forms the ears. **(Ken Burtard, W660 Co. Rd. DD, Theresa, Wis. 53091 kenburtard@icloud.com)**



I made these rustic end table lamps using seed canisters off an old Deere planter. Each canister mounts on a wooden base made from a stool top and supports a burlap-covered lamp shade.

To provide some shade when mowing, I mounted a big umbrella over my Deere mower. The umbrella handle



slides into a clamp that's bolted to the operator platform, making it easy to adjust umbrella height. I can quickly remove the umbrella when I want to mow under tree limbs.

Over the years FARM SHOW has reported several times on how I turn giant, 2-ft. long cast aluminum air horns



into an attraction at antique engine shows (Vol. 39, No. 5). I recently put together 2 different sets of 3 giant air horns made from public address speakers. They're hooked up together and mounted on a pipe stand.



Thanks for your "best buy" article on the Pea Sheller Jr. that I use to shell peas. Here's a picture of what my setup looks like. I clamp the sheller to one end of a table, power it with a power drill that's strapped to the table, and put a plastic pan underneath for the peas to fall into.

The Pea Sheller Jr. is made by Lee Mfg. Co., 1155 Ryan Road, Martin, Tenn. 38237 (www.leemfgco.com; ph 731-281-4588) **(John Owens, Paris, Texas)**

All 6 air horns are made out of 3-in. dia. pvc pipe for the body and have 8-in. diaphragms made from plexiglass. However, the pipes are of different lengths in order to produce different sounds. The horns sound like ocean liners.

I also made a much bigger, single air horn using the cast aluminum housing from an old public address speaker. It measures 1 ft. tall by 2 ft. wide and sounds like a foghorn.

I hook the horns up to a large air compressor tank in the back of my pickup. **(Dave Dam, 111 N. Buena Vista Rd., Eau Claire, Wis. 54703 ph 715 450-2943; ddamwhistler48@gmail.com)**

About 45 years ago I put together this 4-WD, articulated tractor which I still use today. It has a home-built front-end loader that can be used with a 5-ft. wide bucket,



pallet forks, or a 10-ft. snow blade. Power is supplied by a Ford V-8, 302 cu. in. engine and 4-speed transmission connected to a transfer case with high and low range.

The drivetrain is made up of two 3/4-ton rear differentials off a pair of pickups, with one differential mounted upside down on front and one mounted on back. I used 2 by 10-in. rectangular tubing off an old house trailer to build the frame.

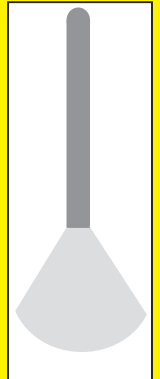
The tractor pivots in the middle using 2 hydraulic cylinders operated by a hydraulic pump driven off the engine crankshaft. Except for the pump and hydraulic cylinders, everything I used to build the tractor came from the scrap pile.

We use this old tractor a lot for clearing snow off driveways in winter, pulling tree stumps, hauling logs, moving boulders and dirt, leveling gravel and all-around farm work. Our sons also use it. It really works great.

**(Albert Fuhrer, P.O. Box 6803, Drayton Valley, Alberta Canada T7A 1S2 ph 780 542-4151)**

To keep deer out of our orchard and our vegetable patch, we attach wires to 8-ft. fence posts and then tie white plastic bags onto them that rattle in the breeze. **(Graciela Meyers, P.O. Box 520, Fairview, Utah 84629)**

I made a handy cutter for plastic field tile out of an old disc opener. I cut off about one third of the disc and welded it to the end of an 18-in. long metal bar. I sharpened the disc as much as possible. To use it, I cut a slot into the top side of the tile, then slip the disc into the slot and pound on the bar to cut through the tile. **(Sam Lambert, Pontiac, Ill.)**



There was some confusion as a result of your article in the last issue about the battery charger I built using plans from George Wiseman at Eagle Research. Anyone interested in purchasing do-it-yourself plans should contact George at www.eagle-research.com (266 Elmwood Ave., #422, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222; wiseman@eagle-research.com). This amazing charger will restore dead, sulfated batteries and is automatically current-limiting. It also has automatic voltage adjustment. It can charge and maintain the charge of various voltage batteries at the same time.

George is happy to help anyone build one of these. He says that some guys have even started businesses restoring dead batteries. **(Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio)**

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