

# Breakaway T-Post System Protects Against Floods

"It's a fast, easy way to keep flood waters from tearing out a T-post fence," says Neil Barnett about his new "breakaway" T-post system.

The patent pending Bartpost system provides everything needed to attach barbed wire to a T-post fence line and comes with T-posts that have pre-drilled holes. The components for each post include a 22-in. long U-shaped metal base with 3 holes on each side, a bolt, and a 4-in. long, 7/16-in. dia. pressure-treated wooden dowel that acts as a shear pin.

The T-post fits into the base and you insert the bolt through the lower set of holes to create a hinge point, then hammer the base into the ground. Then insert the dowel through the upper set of holes, which will keep the post upright. When a flood happens the dowels will break, causing the hinged posts to fall to the ground. The barbed wires will stay attached to the posts as the water and debris float over them.

Once the water recedes, you lift the posts back to their upright position and replace the broken dowels with new ones. If desired, 2 dowels can be used with each post for a stronger hinge point.

"The design allows the entire fence line to fall down before the pressure from water and debris can pull the posts out of the ground," says Barnett. "We tested it out last year when we had a big flood and it worked like a dream. With the Bartpost system a 200-ft.

long section of fence that used to take about 4 hours to repair, now takes only about 5 min."

Barnett says he includes T-posts with pre-drilled holes because it's difficult to drill holes into T-posts. "I tried using a drill press with a tungsten bit but the posts just chewed the bits up, so I switched to a 40-ton punch press."

A single T-post, metal base, bolt and dowel sells for \$20 plus S&H. "A 200-ft. fence will need 12 to 14 posts, depending on how far apart you space the posts," says Barnett.

He offers a couple of other accessories for the system. One is a metal "cap" that's used to hammer the base into the ground. It sells for \$15 plus S&H.

The other is a metal end post support bracket that bolts onto a wood post at each end of the fence. It also sells for \$15 plus S&H.

"With my hinged T-post system, you can't attach the barbed wires to the wood posts so I designed an L-shaped metal bracket that bolts onto both wooden posts. The bracket holds the T-posts and allows you to pull the wires tight."

You can check out a video of the Bartpost system at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

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T-post fits into U-shaped metal base with 3 holes on each side. A bolt inserted through lower set of holes serves as a hinge point. You hammer base into ground, then insert a wooden dowel through upper set of holes to keep post upright.



Dowel breaks when a flood happens, causing hinged posts to fall to ground. Barbed wires stay attached to posts as water and debris float over them.

## "Fitters" Like First Cordless Shears

After nearly five years of development, a new cordless shears for grooming livestock debuts this year. The Pro-Vado is the industry's only cordless model, says entrepreneur Nate Hitson of West Milton, Ohio. He and his wife, Cindy Hitson, began working on the shears in 2012.

"I absolutely love fitting livestock for shows," says Hitson, who grew up showing sheep, working for a fitter, and competing in 4-H and FFA livestock judging.

He first experimented with a cordless multi-tool to see if the idea was feasible, then connected with the University of Dayton's Innovation and Design Center. With the help of students, Hitson decided a brushless DC motor was the best way to power the shears.

He made connections with Bosch to use their 2AH (30 min. run time) or 6AH (1 1/2 hr. run time) batteries. The aluminum heads are from Germany's Hauptner-Herberholz, a well-known company in the shears industry.

The body of Hitson's shears is similar to

the Premier 4000, and the same blades and sheep shearing head work on both models. It has been tested and approved by professional fitters. "One fitter has finished 1,300 cattle on one with our shears," Hitson says.

Professionals love the freedom of not having a cord. Product-tester fitters say they appreciate the speed of a cordless shears as well as the smooth running, quiet, and quality of cutting. With two batteries and a charger, fitters can work continuously.

As the Hitsons make final adjustments before going to an Ohio manufacturer, Pro-Vado is taking pre-orders. The sheep shear combo, with a battery charger and two 2.0AH 18-volt batteries, costs \$699. A clipping head combo, suitable for other livestock, is \$679. Sullivan Supply will also carry the shears.

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Cordless shears works great for grooming livestock for shows.

## He Adds Big Cargo Baskets To Bikes

"I was in Mexico on vacation, and saw workers with cargo boxes on front of their bikes. I like to build things, so when I got back home, I made one," Tim Zelenski explains about where he got the idea for what he calls "The Rover" that he often rides between his place and his father's farm. His St. Bernard, Macy, often rides inside.

Zelenski modified a 21-speed bike by removing the front wheel and welding a tube – perpendicular to the ground – to receive a pin, resting on Teflon bearings where the bike pivots. Because he needs the brakes and gear shifter on the handlebar, he slipped it into the hollow tube. But he steers using the cage.

"The large aluminum handle on the cage allows for more steering control and is a lot more rigid and easier on the rider," he says.

"The two front wheels are held in place by the original front fork and one from another bike. Figuring out the pivot point was challenging."

Zelenski made the cage out of lightweight aluminum square tubing, netting and a plywood floor.

He also replaced the tires with airless tires so they roll easier and won't go flat.

Zelenski notes that a single-speed bike with coaster brakes would work well, and the handlebar wouldn't be needed. He plans to make a second cage bike, strong enough to hold a load of tools.

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Tim Zelenski modified a 21-speed bike by adding a big cargo basket on front. His St. Bernard dog often gets a ride.