



David Sand used grain bin panels to make these beautifully curved raised garden beds. He bolted panels together in two half circles, adding a boat-shaped island in between.



Split black water pipe was placed over top edge of panels to cover their sharp edges. Buried water pipes in each bed rise to the top to provide irrigation.

Raised Garden Beds Made From Grain Bin Panels

After seeing multiple ideas for creating raised garden beds, David Sand, Avon, Minn., came up with the idea of using grain bin panels to make beautifully curved beds that are easy to access.

The beds are 30 in. tall, which is the width of the panels he used. He bolted them together in two half circles with a boat-shaped island in between them. He had to cut down some of the panels to fit the ends. And he put split black water pipe over the top edge of the panels to cover the sharp edges, holding the pipe in place with zip ties.

"The beds are filled with dirt from my former garden. I buried water pipes in each bed that come up to the top to irrigate," says Sand. "This is the first year for these beds so it's going to be interesting to see how they pan out."

He already likes how easy it is to work on the garden and he figures the grain bin panels should last many years before needing replacement.

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David Sand mounted a V-shaped "hiller" on back of his Troy-Bilt rototiller.

"Hiller" Fitted To Back Of Rototiller

"I designed it to eliminate the need for in-row hoeing," says David Sand, Avon, Minn., who mounted a V-shaped "hiller" on back of his Troy-Bilt tiller.

The attachment mounts with 2 bolts in place of the existing depth control arm. As the tiller works it's way down the row, the hiller directs dirt up onto the corn rows, covering weeds in the row.

"I just made it this spring and have been trying it on corn," says Sand, who adds that it seems to put enough dirt up against the rows to smother most of the weeds, at least delaying them if not killing them.

The hiller matches the width of the tiller, and he planted the corn in row widths to



Hiller mounts with 2 bolts in place of rototiller's existing depth control arm.

match the tiller.

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Dirt is directed up onto corn rows, covering weeds in the row.



Photo courtesy, Tom Smith - Direct-A-Friend.com

The Smiths run their Jeep-based business out of a 1978 Mapleleaf slide-in camper mounted on a 1978 Jeep J20.

He Specializes In Military Jeeps

Military Jeep enthusiasts have a website dedicated just to their Jeeps, whether Kaiser, Willys or AMC. WarJeeps.com is run by Mark Smith and his family.

"We heard from guys who collected or appreciated military Jeeps that they didn't want to post on other sites, so we started WarJeeps.com," says Smith.

Smith is a Jeep lover himself but his career is working with super computers. More than 17 years ago, he combined the 2 loves when he set up JeepTruck.com and later SellAJeep.com. It was followed by WarJeeps. The sites soon took on lives of their own.

"When I started out, I wanted to combine my computer work with Jeeps. I love them both," says Smith. "I tried selling some stuff online and was very frustrated with the process. I also wanted a way for Jeep fans to connect with others like themselves."

Smith set up his websites to support the Jeep community with lots of information about upcoming events, feature stories and more. He also maintains YouTube, Facebook and Twitter accounts for all 3 sites.

The key component of each site is easy to access, free classified ads for Jeeps and Jeep parts.

"I wanted to make the process of selling online easier and more personal," says Smith. "When you submit an ad, it is to me and my family, not a computerized, automated process. I get requests from people who don't have a clue how to sell online. I help them, and the next thing they know they've sold a Jeep."

The placement process is simple and very helpful. Go to the For Sale page, and scroll down to Place Ad. Click on it, and a screen pops up with an easy form to fill out. There



Mark Smith and family have set up several websites to make selling Jeeps online easier and more personal, and to help Jeep fans connect with others like themselves.

is also a place to link to videos.

One of the best things about the form is clear instructions on how to take pictures that best present the Jeep.

Once the form is filled out and pictures are attached, Smith's wife Joan does the programming to create the ad with the information provided. His son Brad does the artwork needed. Sons Tom and Mark, Jr. also have roles in the effort.

The Smiths run their business out of a 1978 Mapleleaf slide-in camper mounted to a 1978 Jeep J20. It also serves as home away from home when they travel to attend Jeep rallies and gatherings.

Smith relishes the contacts made, stories written for publications around the world, and helping Jeep lovers put together gatherings. The business is more than he could have imagined.

"When we started, I hoped the income would pay for posting the site," he says. "We kept building it to where it covered our mortgage. It continues to grow."

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