

Skid Loader-Mounted Wire Winder, Post Puller

"We operate a custom fencing and retail business, and a few years ago we came up with a new-style combination wire winder and post puller for skid loaders, which we started selling locally. We recently received our patent and began marketing it throughout North America. It lets one person roll up multiple wires at a time and also pull up steel, wood or fiberglass posts, making it a real time saver," says manager Rocky Brown, Wald Fencing and Supplies, Wishek, N. Dak.

The wire winder was invented by Gerard Wald and James Fandrich for their own use. They say it was "invented by fencers for fencers".

The hydraulic-operated Dakota wire winder and post puller can be used with any skid loader or tractor equipped with a universal attachment mounting plate. It comes with an orbit motor that rotates a shaft to wind up the wire, and a hydraulic cylinder that operates a post puller. The roll of wire is contained inside a pair of big metal wheels attached to both ends of the shaft. One of the wheels has a small round metal plate with a large nut welded onto it that attaches to one end of the shaft.

To roll up wire the operator feeds the wire to both wheels, then swings a large metal safety guard down across the front of the

shaft. Then he raises the unit off the ground and activates the orbit motor to rotate the shaft and feed wire through the safety guard and onto the shaft. Once the roll is full, he lowers the unit to the ground and cuts the wires off both wheels. Then he manually turns the plate to release the nut and removes the wheel.

To remove the wire, the skid loader operator swings the shaft out 90 degrees and engages the orbit motor while backing up at the same time, allowing the shaft to spin itself out of the roll.

The post puller consists of two large thick steel plates with metal bars welded onto them for a better grip. The operator engages the hydraulic cylinder to open or close the plates. "The post puller can pull everything from 8-in. dia. wooden corner posts to T-posts," says Wald. "The safety guard keeps any posts that might still be attached to the wire from accidentally reaching the shaft and causing damage."

The Dakota wire winder and post puller sells for \$5,700 FOB.

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Combination wire winder and post puller for skid loaders and loader tractors lets one person roll up multiple wires at a time, and also pull up fence posts.



An orbit motor rotates a shaft to wind up the wire, which is contained inside a pair of big metal wheels (left). Post puller consists of 2 large thick steel plates opened or closed by a hydraulic cylinder.

Trenching Shovels Dig Ditches Fast

Heavy-duty Hisco trenching shovels from EasyDigging.com are designed to last longer while making the tough work of digging narrow trenches a little easier.

"At Easy Digging we focus on heavy-duty tools often not available at hardware or big box stores," says Greg Baka. "They're designed for professionals, with pretty much unbreakable handles."

Both the Trench Digging shovel and the Trench Clean-Out shovel are only 3 3/4 in. wide and have fiberglass handles. The Trench Digging shovel has a pointed and dished blade for easier digging and a 30-degree handle angle. It's priced at \$46.95.

The Trench Clean-Out shovel features high sides for scooping the loose soil out of the bottom of narrow trenches. It has a 35-degree handle angle. It's priced at \$50.95.

Both shovels feature high lift handles to reduce bending when lifting soil up and out of the trench.

"For putting in trenches around the home, whether for landscaping or irrigation, an 18-in. depth is about right," says Baka. "The shovels and handles are designed to accommodate trenches up to that depth."

Backa recently added a third trenching tool. Priced at \$89, the Bottom Digger works faster and easier to clean loose dirt out of trenches. Originally designed by a gold prospecting hobbyist to reach into stream beds, its clean-out potential was quickly recognized.

"It's pulled through the trench like a narrow backhoe bucket on a stick," says Baka. "When we compared it with the Hisco Trench Clean-Out shovel, the Bottom Digger was more than twice as fast."

The combination blade on the shovel's edge has a smooth side for simple clean-outs and a toothed side for cutting away high spots.

"When excavation companies order one, they soon order more to have one in every truck," says Baka.

In addition to a variety of heavy-duty gardening and landscaping tools, Baka's website also offers guides on drainage and trenching, as well as general tool information,



The shovel on the left is for digging and the one on the right is for clean-out.



Bottom Digger is also used to dig and pull out loose dirt. "It pulls through the trench like a backhoe bucket on a stick," says Greg Baka.

such as how to sharpen a garden hoe.

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The California Highway Patrol's horses wore Sneakers in the Rose Bowl parade this year.

"Sneakers For Horses"

Think about your own shoes and how extra padding and wider widths make your feet more comfortable, and it's easy to understand why horses might prefer Sneakers performance and therapeutic horseshoes. They aren't the only shoe with a pad, but they are unique.

"We reversed the configuration," explains Melinda Balint, co-owner of Equithotics Inc. that sells the patented Sneakers, invented by co-owner Kirk Adkins. "Instead of the pad between the hoof and shoe, it's on the ground surface. With the nail heads seated into the aluminum bar shoe, the nail clinches and the shoe stays tight and secure. This allows for the pad material on the ground surface to absorb concussion and wear as the horse requires."

Farriers use regular shoeing tools and techniques. Sneakers are shaped by trimming or rasping the excess shoe material for a custom fit for each horse's hoof.

"The ultra-wide web bar shoe and pad combination provides plenty of heel support, protection and concussion absorption. The pad material wears like the horse likes to travel so there is even easier breakover available," Balint adds.

The material is also durable. Depending on the terrain and the way the horse travels, most horses usually can get several settings

on a pair of shoes. Endurance horses have logged as many as 600 miles with a pair of Sneakers, while arena horses average about 9 months with resets about every six weeks.

Depending on the size, Sneakers cost around \$65/pair. They are available in sizes 0-5 in the front rounder toe profile pattern and sizes 1-4 in the hind more pointed toe profile.

"We also have our newer draft horse shoe sizes. The California highway patrol horses will be wearing Sneakers in the Rose Bowl parade again this year," Balint says. "Sneakers work well for carriage and patrol horses because they provide good traction on roads and asphalt."

Equithotics also sells other products. The \$6 Sandals are a lightweight (less than 3 oz.) plastic boot that are duct taped on for emergencies when a horse loses a shoe or to protect a hoof being treated with medication.

Besides ergonomic designs to provide comfort to horses, they offer products for human comfort. Adkins designed orthotic rasp handles in a variety of bright colors and makes hoof knives with orthotic wooden handles and special blades.

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