

## Do-It-Yourself Commercial Hose

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

You can make commercial grade hose cut to the length you need with OEM-style crimped fittings. Dramm offers its commercial grade, abrasion and weather resistant, ColorStorm hose in up to a 330-ft. bulk reel. Cut the hose to length, then use the Dramm Hose Crimper Press to crimp Dramm fittings in place. No external clamps, screws or wires are needed.

I recently tried out the Dramm system and it's far superior to other DIY devices like Clampitite or the Clamper that use wire to clamp fittings into place. It's also better than other commercial hose clamps I've tried.

I've replaced fittings on dozens of hose ends over my 40-plus years of gardening. Most aftermarket fittings seldom fit as tight as claimed and never last as long as the OEM crimped fittings. The Dramm combination eliminates the frustration and comes as close to OEM quality as you can get.

Dramm's Professional ColorStorm hose is the heart of the system. Designed with greenhouse and professional growers in mind, the company reports sales of more than 20 million ft. It is made with ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) rubber. EPDM is known for enhanced resistance to

heat, light and ozone and can be formulated for high and low temperatures.

ColorStorm has a maximum operating pressure of 130 psi and 500 psi burst strength. It can handle water up to 160°F and stays flexible to -24°F. The hexagonal shape reduces kinking, and the soft surface makes for a comfortable grip.

The commercial grade hose is available in 50, 75 and 100-ft. lengths in addition to a 330-ft. bulk reel.

Once hose is cut to length, ferrules slide over ends, and male and female fittings are pushed into place. The ends are then inserted into the Hose Crimper Press.

The beauty of the design is in its simplicity, backed up by common sense engineering. The frame is designed to be bolted to a flat surface. I clamped mine in a small, bench-top vise.

The crimper comes with an L-wrench for manual tightening. A bit for use with a power driver is included, but requires a driver with torque. Once the jaws meet, the ferrule has crimped the hose to the fitting. There is no question about over tightening or under tightening.



ColorStorm hose is available in up to a 330-ft. bulk reel (left). Hose Crimper Press, used to crimp fittings in place, comes with an L-wrench for manual tightening.



Switching from 5/8 to 3/4-in. hose and fittings is easy as well. Simply remove 2 set screws at the top of the frame, remove the frame top and slide out the jaws.

Dramm's nickel-plated brass male and female hose fittings, as well as splice fittings with matching ferrules, are sold in sets of 12.

Gemplers is a Dramm dealer. They offer the 330-ft. length of 5/8-in. ColorStorm hose for \$347.99. The crimper is priced at \$106.99 and a set of jaws for \$83.99. A 12 pack of 5/8-in. male fixtures is \$63.99 and a set of females is \$65.99. Matching ferrules are included.

The first-time cost would run about \$2 a foot for commercial quality hose with OEM-style crimped fittings. Depending on the need for more fittings, hose costs quickly drop nearly in half.

Dramm recommends using the crimper and fittings only on ColorStorm hose. But I tried using them on an older 5/8-in. hose purchased from a big box store. When put under 60 lbs. pressure, both male and female ends blew out.

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## Custom-Built Replacement Cylinders

"I build replacement hydraulic cylinders for skid steers and sell them direct to customers for about 30 to 40 percent less than what they'd be paying at a dealer," says Pennsylvania machinist Devon Petre. "I use quality components that are primarily made in the USA and do all the machining, welding and assembly in-house."

Petre started his business in 2017 after working at a hydraulic repair shop to gain experience. "We have an understanding between us that I build custom-made cylinders and don't compete with their shop for repairs," Petre says. "My specialty is aftermarket replacement cylinders for skid steers. Presently I have replacements for most Bobcat models and a few for Case. Not all the cylinders I have available are manufactured

in-house. I'm working on getting all the specifications together to do that. The ones I buy are high quality units made in Europe. Eventually, I hope to manufacture most of what I sell in-house. I also sell seal kits for leaking cylinders for many popular brands of skid steers, backhoes, excavators, etc. I can also build a specialty cylinder if I know all of the specifications."

Petre says pricing for his cylinders is generally 1/2 to 2/3 the cost of OEM replacements. He cited as an example a Bobcat latch cylinder that he produces and sells for \$385 that costs \$625 at the dealer. "Their products probably go through a couple different hands or companies that need to make some money, so that's why they cost what they do. My cylinders go



from me direct to the customer without any middleman."

In addition to his machining and manufacturing background, Petre says he understands equipment because he was raised on a farm and worked with machinery from a young age. "There's definitely a benefit to growing up around equipment. I liked



Petre specializes in building aftermarket replacement cylinders for skid loaders, selling them direct to customers. Photo above shows his seal kit for Bobcat cylinders.

working on it when I was young and I enjoy doing what I'm doing now, making good products at a price that saves people money."

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Basting spray is sprayed on sanding disc to stick it to the sanding pad. When disc wears out it can easily be pulled off.

## Quilting Spray Handy In Shop, Too

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Keeping the sandpaper discs on orbital and other handheld sanders is frustrating when the hook and loop sanding pads start to wear out. Instead of buying a replacement pad, I found a solution in my quilting supplies - basting spray. It's used to hold the backing, batting and tops of quilts in place while quilting them together.

The adhesive holds well, but it's also temporary. I spray it on the back of the

sanding disc and stick it to the pad. When the disc wears out, it pulls off easily and completely.

It only takes a little spray, so a can lasts a long time. Best of all, if there's a quilter in the family you won't have to buy any. You can just use hers, if she'll let you.

Just don't touch her sewing shears. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dee Goerge, dee\_goerge@yahoo.com.

## Foam Pipe Insulation Keeps "Tire Slime" From Leaking

Harry Tichavsky uses a tractor and brush shredder to maintain 30 acres in central Texas. With an abundance of mesquite and cactus, flat tires are a constant problem, especially on the tractor's front tires.

"I wanted to use commercial tire slime as a puncture sealant, but it isn't supposed to be used in tube tires because slime doesn't seal as well around the wheel rim of a tube tire as it does with a tubeless tire," says Tichavsky. "I solved the problem by removing the tube and wrapping foam pipe insulation around both sides of the rim. Then I filled the tire with air, injected tire slime, and trimmed off any excess material from the foam pipe insulation.

"Problem solved - no more air leaked out around the rim," says Tichavsky. "The same idea should work with any size automotive, tractor, ATV or lawn mower tire. It also might help with tires that have damaged or rusted rims."

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Tichavsky removed tire tube and wrapped foam pipe insulation around both sides of wheel rim. He then filled tire with air, injected tire slime, and trimmed off any excess insulation.