

Reader Letters



Thanks for your article in the last issue about my restored 1963 Oliver 471 manure spreader. In the article, I mentioned that I was still missing a gear shield on the back. I got a call from a FARM SHOW reader who has the same spreader and he offered to take the shield off his spreader and make some cardboard templates for me. A very nice offer. Then I got a call from a reader in Tennessee who told me about a company called Maibach Tractor LLC (ph 330-939-4192) that has lots of obsolete Oliver parts. I called and gave them the part number. To my surprise, they had one and gave me a price of just \$50. Amazing! I can't thank you enough for getting my story out to your incredible readers. **(Dave Ferrante)**



Here's a handy way to start a siphon, which can sometimes be tough to do when I'm pulling water out of our pond to run downhill to fill waterers. I mount a hose adapter in the bottom of a pail and then fill it with water. Hold the bucket up high till the water is running strong and then set the bucket in the water in such a way that no air enters the hose as the bucket is tipped on its side. **(Matthew Hempel, Eldridge, Mo.)**

I use a clothes washer inner drum as a burn barrel. They're made from galvanized steel and have holes all the way around and on the bottom that let air in for a fast, clean burn. They're simple to clean out and will last outside for 10 years or more. You can get them at appliance repair shops or junkyards. **(Dave Doherty, Lebanon, Ore. 97355)**

A few years ago, I started thinking that combine prices were reaching the point

where a big machine with a corn head, grain head, and lots of optional equipment might push the cost up to \$1 million. Two years ago, a rep at New Holland told me "maybe" that was possible.

Now I read in FARM SHOW that Deere has a combine that sells for over \$1 million without the headers. Can \$1.5 million be far behind?

Back in 1962 my Dad bought a used 1958 IHC combine for \$3,200. I ran that combine for more than 50 years. It's been sitting for a couple of years, but I plan to use it again next year. In those days a combine could pay for itself. I'm not sure that's still true. **(John G. Ruff, Logan, Kan.)**



I made a "slow feeder" for goats and other livestock out of a 4-ft. length of chain link fence, folded over on itself. It works like slow feed netting but is much more durable. Keeps animals from gorging themselves and getting sick.



I also made a rolling shop seat like the one you showed in a recent issue. I just made a bracket to attach a metal tractor seat to the top of an office chair base. Rolls easily in any direction and is very handy for all kinds of work. **(Roger Braddock, Dyer, Tenn.)**



I made a snow pushing blade out of an old cultivator bar and used rubber track. I can move as lot of snow with it mounted on a big loader tractor. **(Tyler Buttko, Corona, S.Dak.; ph 605-949-2738; tylerbuttko7@gmail.com)**



I have several long strings of Christmas lights and when I get ready to put them away, I store them on small wood reels I rescued from the trash. I simply roll the lights onto the reels and secure the end with a zip tie. When ready to use, I simply unroll the light string and never have to spend time untangling the lights. Works great. **(Ben Parks, Austin, Texas)**

With my knees wearing out as I get up into my 70's from climbing and clutching, I started finding it harder to climb up into higher tractor cabs. I got to remembering the first tractor I ever drove, a 1947 Minneapolis Moline U and how easy it was to get on and off it. So last year I found a 1955 MM U. It looked kind of rough to start with but after about 190 hrs. of work, it looks a lot different.



I didn't want to have a full cab on my yard tractor but I did want some protection from the cold in winter. So I made a windshield out of Lexan and put shields along the engine to bring some warmth back to me. Best thing about this tractor is the low step on the back that makes mounting easy. **(Dale Rogers, Box 59, Mayfair, Sask. S0M 1S0 Canada ph 306-246-4577)**



I saw the propane tank with the tiger decal on it in your last issue. Later I spotted this "watermelon tank" along the highway near me. It really catches your eye. There's no end to possibilities when it comes to decorating tanks. As for mine, I just try to get a coat of car wax on it each autumn. It seems to keep the paint looking good. **(Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio)**

I recently thought of something my Dad used to do that might help other aging farmers get into their tractors and combines. As he got older and weaker,

he had a hard time getting from the ground up to the first step on the tractor. He took a 6 by 6 wood block about a foot long and drove a fence staple into one end. Then he tied a piece of heavy string to the staple and the other end to something in the cab. He would set the block on the ground, climb into the tractor, then pull the block up into the cab behind him. It kept him in the tractor for several additional years. **(Bill Derrick, Cossville, Tenn.)**



I have worked in a Ford New Holland dealership since 1994 so I so was really pleased when my father framed this jigsaw puzzle for me to hang on the wall. After he put this Ford New Holland puzzle together, he handcrafted an old window frame around it, complete with blinds. It is inset-mounted into the wall of my shop. Every time I look at it I'm reminded of his thoughtfulness and creativity. **(Brent VanderPol, Sunnyside, Wash.)**



I make bird feeders from old lamp shades using the bottoms from plastic buckets to make trays which are held in place by the lamp hardware, which is left in place after being cut shorter. They're very attractive and good conversation pieces. **(Doug Schiller, Belvidere, Ill.)**

I would just like to confirm that the information in your article about using a 2000 Nissan Xterra steering pump as a replacement in a Case 1190 (Vol. 37, No. 3) absolutely works and I have just accomplished said task this fall. So simple. **(Gusto Lehman, Alberta.)**

A good way to plan for any power or water disruptions at home is to save and clean out gallon milk jugs and fill them 90 percent full with water and freeze them. If you lose electricity, you have ready-made blocks of ice to put in the refrigerator to keep food cold. The frozen jugs can be thawed and used as fresh water if your water system quits for any reason. **(Robert Fonfara, Omaha, Neb.)**

Easy Way To Send Your Ideas

How often do you see an idea when you're out and about and say, "Hey, that should be in FARM SHOW"? Next time that happens, just take out your phone and send us a photo or two. Just text them to us at **952-465-5019**. If you want to leave a voice mail explaining what you're sending, this phone is dedicated to FARM SHOW stories so it's on and available 24/7. No need to worry about disturbing anyone. Call or text day or night with your ideas, comments, or suggestions.



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