

Made-It-Myself Bucket Sprayer

Dale Dorris of Enid, Mo., made a portable sprayer with a 5-gal. bucket. "It's an easy idea," he says. "I run a lawn care business and wanted something portable to take along on jobs. A 5-gal. bucket is easy to stick in a truck for when I need to spray Roundup on my customers' lawns."

The semi-portable sprayer is his invention. "I just happened to know I would need a spray pump on a 5-gal. bucket," he says. "It's a 35-psi pump. But the most important detail is that you've got to have a breather tube on the bucket. Otherwise, the pump will suck the bucket bottom. I also added an inline switch for easier control."

The sprayer took Dorris an hour to make. "The longest step was drilling a hole into the line," he shares. "All you need is a 5-gal. bucket with a lid. But make sure you use stainless-steel screws so that they won't rust at the contact with the chemicals inside."

Dorris estimates that the pump cost him \$40 to \$50, while the wand was another \$15. He also paid about \$1 per foot of tubing. "Then you need an extension cord for the pump so you can move it around a bit," he says. He keeps the sprayer in the back of his truck for easy access while managing his lawn business, but he's also found it manageable to transport on a four-wheeler.



Dorris used a 35-psi pump with a 5-gal. bucket to make a handy sprayer.

"This bucket sprayer is a straightforward project so long as you have a mind for solving problems," he says. "It's as simple as hooking a pump to the tank sprayer. I'm just using a 5-gal. bucket instead."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale Dorris, Enid, Mo. 38927 (ph 662-647-5752).



Zonies made the handles from 1 1/2-in. PVC pipe, a diameter which he found telescopes neatly over the original wooden handles.

Upgraded Wheelbarrow Improves Stability

Stephen Zonies of Waitsfield, Vt., converted a one-wheel wheelbarrow into a three-wheel barrow.

"My good neighbor, Will, upgraded his three-wheel barrow to a four-wheel barrow and graciously gifted the 3-wheeler to me. So, of course, I renamed it the 'Will's Barrow,'" he jokes. "And I was so impressed by its performance that I upgraded my conventional one-wheeler to the same design. These are so much more stable and easier to use."

The modification process was straightforward. "All of the materials—wood lifts, U-clamps and PVC piping—were on hand, so I didn't have to purchase anything," Zonies says. "Two 8-in. wheels would've been the most expensive parts to purchase, probably about \$23 each. And I'd guess the 1 1/2-inch PVC pipe, elbows, cement and U-bolts would add another \$20 or so."

Zonies made the handles from 1 1/2-in. PVC pipe, a diameter which he found telescopes neatly over the original wooden handles. "PVC elbows come with protruding nubbins, called sprues, which were uncomfortable while grabbing. I ground them off."

He's found the upgrades well worth the

effort. "It can carry more weight without my having to be Hercules. Instead of lifting the weight and trying to balance it on one wheel while turning, now I can push down and rotate on its two wheels."

Still, he's considering some changes for when he makes a second one. "I would have bolted or welded the rear axle onto the frame. As this was my prototype, I chose this easier-to-modify and reversible design. It's not a very pretty modification, but it works. Larger rear wheels would have shortened the front wheel's 'shim,' which was necessary to level the barrow's top rim."

Zonies' best advice for those tackling wheelbarrow upgrades is to customize the measurements to match the person who will use it most. "The handle's length and height were custom designed for my stature, as longer horizontally gives more leverage when pushing down. Height was calculated so my forearms are horizontal while traveling on level ground."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stephen Zonies, 754 Stagecoach Rd., Waitsfield, Vt. 05673 (ph 802-461-6166; drsteve@madriver.com).

3D-Printed Custom Cab Accessories

Farm Sip Supreme specializes in custom, 3D-printed accessories for operators in tractors and other farm equipment. "I always help at the family farm during harvest," explains founder Scott Diekmann. "One of the tractors had a terrible cup holder solution in it. I figured I could order something ag-specific, but I couldn't find anything. It turns out hydration wasn't much of a concern in the 1970s and '80s," he says.

Diekmann set out to solve this problem. "Thinking 'how hard could it possibly be,' I learned how to 3D model, then 3D print to make myself a cup holder for the next harvest," he says. "I put it up for sale, and it steamrolled from there to a variety of products as folks have requested different things."

Today, Diekmann sells over 70 3D-printed agriculture accessories. "We offer a wide range of installation options, from floor-mounted gallon jug holders to integrated replacements for factory components with built-in holders," he explains. "Most of our products are designed for easy installation using bolts, magnets or locking suction cups."

The company's most popular model remains the Flatster, a generic holder that can be bolted onto any flat surface in a cab or on the fender of an open station. The Deere Soundgard ashtray replacement has also been a top seller for those seeking an OEM replacement. "It bolts right into place for the factory ashtray on the right side of the 40-50 series Soundgards," says Diekmann.

Farm Sip Supreme's inventory is continually expanding. "Every product we make, aside from the original cuppy, has



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been a request," says Diekmann. "We also do a fair bit of logo inlays for operations with up to three colors." He appreciates this up-close insight into what his customers want most. "Looking forward, we'll go where the requests lead us. I want to do more tool holders. I've seen a lot of cordless impacts just tossed on the floor in the cab to keep them out of the dust. So, if you have a custom request, contact us at sales@farmsipsupreme.com to get started."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Farm Sip Supreme (ph 765-273-3069; info@farmsipsupreme.com; www.farmsipsupreme.com).



Prototype model has been successfully tested for durability and functionality on numerous Kansas feed yards.

Loader Bucket Cuts Large Heavy Bales

Price Bros. Equipment of Wichita, Kan., recognized a need for a bale-slicing loader bucket in their region but couldn't find a suitable piece of equipment. They eventually discovered Düvelsdorf, a German company, almost by accident and arranged to develop a North American version of the company's European model.

After almost 3 years, the resulting bucket is a double-cylinder, hydraulically powered bale-slicer designed for large 5 by 6-ft. heavy bales.

"It cuts through bales like butter," says Trey Price, co-owner. "Düvelsdorf's engineers made a few small tweaks we requested, and it works like a charm."

The bucket measures 83 in. wide and features a 4-ft. wide rotating hook system and net wrap-grabbing design adjacent to the top jaw. This feature secures and holds the waste wrap after the bale is cut. With a cutting force of 8 tons, hardened and replaceable serrated

blades easily handle any bale. The bucket can also be used to carry silage or other feed.

The prototype model has been successfully tested for durability and functionality on numerous Kansas feed yards.

"Everyone seemed to like how it worked," Price says. "It's a useful tool for picking up the bales, slicing them every time, and hanging on to the wrap so it doesn't have to be fished out of the wagon or feeder."

Price Bros. is Düvelsdorf's first and main North American distributor. In mid-to-late fall 2024, it will receive its first batch of slicing buckets for commercial sale.

The list price for the German-made buckets will be approximately \$14,500 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Price Bros. Equipment Co., 619 S. Washington, Wichita, Kan. 67201 (ph 316-265-9577; tprice@pricebroseq.com; www.pricebroseq.com).