

# Made It Myself

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## Portable Fire Extinguisher Made From Pressurized Water Tank

After watching his round baler burn up because he didn't have any way to put out the flames, Adair Romsell, Paradise Hill, Sask., decided to turn an old 10-gal. pressurized water tank into a portable fire extinguisher. He keeps it on a steel bracket that he mounted on the side of his tractor.

"It's always there if I ever need it," says Romsell.

The pressurized tank has an air valve on top and a rubber diaphragm inside at the bottom. The diaphragm was designed to keep water pressure separate from air pressure. However, it had a hole in it so the tank didn't work properly. Romsell inserted a 3/4-in. dia. piece of steel pipe in one end of the tank, then screwed a threaded valve onto the pipe to hook to a 15-ft. length of garden hose.

To use the fire extinguisher, he opens the air valve and hooks the hose up to a water tap to fill the tank. He then shuts off the valve, hooks up an air compressor to it, and pumps in 80 lbs. of air (the tank is designed to handle up to 120 lbs.).

To use it all I do is grab the tank and open the valve on the hose, which is on the tank all the time," says Romsell. "I use a tire gauge to check the air pressure every day. I'm thinking of mounting an



air pressure gauge right on the tank that I could see from the tractor cab. I first set it up last year but I never had to use it. At the end of the season I used it to wash off my baler.

This home-built extinguisher saved me a lot of money since a commercial 10-gal. fire extinguisher equipped with an electric pump powered by the tractor battery sells for \$450."

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## Rebuilt Deere Cultivator Now Has Just One Shank Per Row

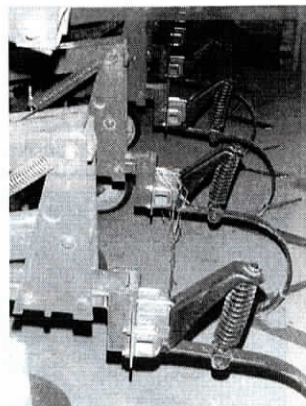
If you can weld and drill holes in steel, you can make this cultivator modification, says Rick Mabeus, Winfield, Iowa.

He converted a Deere 875 12-row cultivator from 3 standard shanks to a single shank fitted with a 22-in. sweep. He also shortened up the shank assembly for better depth control.

"It lets you nearly double field speed, cutting field time in half. The cultivator's a lot easier to use after conversion because it's lighter and virtually plug-proof from residue. It doesn't ridge so speed is no concern in the field if the field is smooth enough to move at high speed. It's also much easier to control depth because with just one shank, we were able to shorten up length of the mounting assembly," explains Mabeus.

He removed two shanks per row and fitted the remaining shank with a single 22-in. wide sweep. The two end rows are fitted with 18-in. sweeps. He used the original Deere shanks, welding the new sweeps to them. "The wide sweeps last 2 to 3 years. If you bend or break a shank, you already have the extras that you took off during modification." The sweeps Mabeus bought cost about \$16.26 for the 22-in. and \$11.58 for the 18-in. ones.

One added benefit of the conversion is the lighter weight of the cultivator. "It's approximately 1,200 lbs. lighter, because



of the shanks removed and the fact that we no longer need the rolling shields, so it's easier to lift and control in the fields and on the road during transport. And the one large sweep virtually eliminates the ridging effect so soil doesn't wash down the the rows as much. It will go through heavy residue and leave a lot of it uncovered on the surface because the sweeps don't move much dirt. That's the biggest benefit for me - it leaves the soil surface level with lots of trash on top. Should cut chemical costs by making it easier to cultivate."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Mabeus, Winfield, Iowa 61756.



## "Customized" Riding Mower

With a couple of home-built improvements, Wisconsin farmer Larry Gostomski turned his Walker riding mower into one of the most useful machines on his farm.

He added a side cutting deck to the mower to increase cutting width and also fitted it with a dumping rock hopper that he uses for picking rocks out of fields.

"I bought a 42-in. Walker riding mower along with an extra 36-in. deck which I attached to the side of the mower, giving it a total cutting width of 74 in. The outer end of the add-on deck pivots up and down about 40°. I use the double deck mower to cut all my grass as well as about 3/4 mile of roadside. It also works good for cutting under low hanging tree branches, especially evergreens.

"The side cutter attaches in less than a minute and comes off in 30 seconds with no pins, cotter keys, clips, bolts or wrenches needed. Just connect up two spring-loaded buttons and a spring loaded idler pulley for the drivebelt and it's ready to go.

"I have about 140 hrs. on the side cutter now and have worked out all the bugs. It's easy to maneuver and enjoyable to operate."

Gostomski's dumping rock hopper mounts on top of the front deck carrier



with the deck removed. It dumps electrically with an electric screw actuator that mounts on the side of the bucket.

"One person can drive the tractor, filling the bucket with rocks, and then dump onto a low trailer. This small tractor is perfect for the job because it's so easy to get on and off. Much faster than walking around the field and putting rocks onto a trailer by hand.

"The dump bucket fits right onto the front assembly with no pins or bolts. It just locks into place and you hook up the electrical wiring. Works great."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Gostomski, N14864 Bachelors Ave., Thorp, Wis. 54771 (ph 715 669-3888).

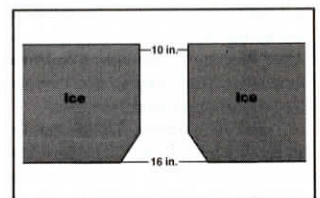
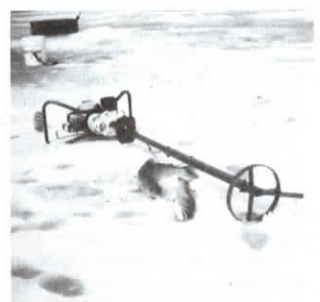
## Ice Fishing Hole "Reamer"

"I've never seen anything like this on the market," says Ernie Yarema, Sifton, Manitoba, about his ice fishing hole "reamer" that bevels out the bottom of an ice hole to make it easier to pull fish up.

The problem is that the bottom of most ice fishing holes is a jagged edge that catches both line and fish. By beveling it out, you eliminate broken lines and big fish slide easily up into the hole.

Yarema made the reamer to fit a power auger. He simply removes the power auger and attaches the reamer, which is made out of 1 1/2 in. sq. tubing. There's a circle of steel at the bottom that fits down through a 10-in. hole and a pivoting steel bar that sticks out to shave ice off the bottom of the hole. Once the reamer is down in the hole, he pulls on a steel cable that extends the steel bar out under the ice. It reams the hole out to 16-in. dia.

Yarema is looking for a manufacturer. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



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