"JUST AS QUIET AS FACTORY MUFFLERS"

He Makes Mufflers From Old Freon Tanks

Old freon tanks can be used to make low-cost mufflers for trucks, tractors, combines, and other farm equipment, says David Peters, Morden, Manitoba.

Peters gets small freon tanks for nothing from dumps and from garages that use them to fill air conditioners. "The first one took a while to make, but after that it was easy," says Peters. "Commercial mufflers generally sell for $30 to $60 or more. I made my first freon tank muffler 6 or 8 years ago for my 1960 IH 151 combine and it's still on there. I've also made them for my Versatile 103 swather and IH 715 combine, as well as a 1969 1-ton truck and a 1968 2-ton truck. They're just as quiet as factory mufflers, and quieter than some, and they don't throb or drone like some commercial ones."

To make a muffler, Peters cuts the shutoff valve off a tank, then uses a hole saw to cut out a hole on each end of the tank that's about 1/4 in. smaller than the vehicle's exhaust pipe. He uses a pliers to flare the holes out about 1/8 in. The 1/8-in. wide flange makes it easy to weld the pipe in place. Then he takes a piece of pipe long enough to run through the tank and drills it full of 5/16 or 1/4-in. dia. holes. He leaves about 1 in. of pipe free of holes in the center. That's where he cuts the pipe in half and then welds a 1/8-in. thick steel washer between the two halves. The washer has a 3/4-in. dia. hole at center. It acts as a baffle, diffusing sound out the holes in the pipe into the tank.

He cuts four slits into one end of the pipe to fit onto the vehicle's exhaust pipe. He drills a small hole in the tank at its lowest point so that condensation can drain out.

Another way to use freon tanks as mufflers is to drill holes in the existing muffler pipe, and then slip the tank over the pipe so it covers the holes. Peters used this method on his Versatile 103 swather, running the exhaust out the side of the tank.

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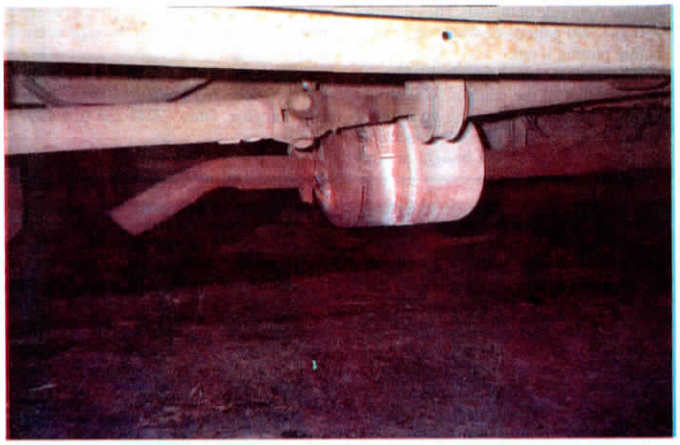
Peters uses hole saw to cut out hole on each end of tank (1). Then he drills 5/16-in. holes in pipe to be inserted through tank, and cuts the pipe in half (2 & 3). He welds a thick steel washer between the two pieces of pipe to act as a baffle to diffuse sound out the holes in the pipe (4).

Photo shows pipe inserted into tank, ready to fit over existing exhaust pipe.

On Versatile swather (right), Peters drilled holes in existing muffler pipe, then slipped tank over pipe. He left top of tank closed and ran exhaust out side of tank.



Peters says freon tank mufflers are just as quiet as factory mufflers.

Queal's self-propelled "tree machine" has 30-in. dia. steel cutting blade mounted on 7-ft. long hydraulically-operated boom.

NOTHING LIKE IT ON MARKET

"Tree Machine" Clears Farmland Fast, Easily

"They're the fastest, most efficient and economical way of tree-clearing we know of," says Don Queal, Coats, Kan., about the giant one-of-a-kind "Tree Machine" that he calls the "Cadillac" of self-propelled brush cutters.

It's a very tough machine," he says. "The first one has 6,500 hours on it and has cut 3 to 4 million trees. All three machines built so far have been extensively field tested in my own tree-clearing business, which covers 20 counties in south central and eastern Kansas."

Queal's crews reclaim pastureland overrun by cedar trees, sawing them off at ground level with minimal soil disturbance. The "Tree Machine" can cut down 400 to 500 6- to 12-in dia. trees per hour under ideal conditions. It'll handle the hardest of hardwoods without difficulty, Queal notes.

An acquaintance of Queal's, Floyd Blasi, designed and built the first two machines seven years ago. Queal has since built one and would like to find a manufacturer interested in producing them.

The tree cutter looks like a big swather. It has two drive wheels with 26-in. wide steel-belted logging tires in front and two crazy wheels with 14-in. wide implement tires, filled with a hard rubber compound, in back. Weighing 9,000 lbs., the machine is 7 ft. tall, 8 ft. wide and almost 20 ft. long.

Power is supplied by a rear-mounted Deere 6-cyl. 120 hp. diesel engine.

A 30-in. dia. steel cutting blade, with Tungsten carbide cutters, mounts on a 7-ft. long hydraulically operated boom. The blade, which runs parallel to the ground, can be adjusted to cut down trees at heights up to 4 ft. And because of boom design and the machine's high maneuverability, the "Tree Machine" can get at trees others can't.

Hydrostatically driven, the machine's top speed is 7 mph.

For safety, the cab is completely enclose and reinforced with a ROPS system to protect the operator from falling trees. The cab has an easy-to-read instrument panel, air conditioning, and easy-to-operate control levers.

Because the machine has a very low center of gravity, it provides maximum stability on steep or uneven ground, Queal adds.

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"Merry-Go-Round" Wood Shingle Maker

Making wood shingles is a fast, easy job with this "merry-go-round" shingle maker built by Harry Toews, Steinbach, Manitoba, that uses a big band saw to cut slices off 12 blocks of wood at a time as they rotate around the saw on an oval-shaped track. The shingle maker is pto-powered by a small tractor and equipped with a 4-in. wide band saw with teeth spaced 1 in. apart. The 12 steel carriages are pulled around the track by a chain and guided by rubber rollers that ride inside a channel on the track. Each carriage carries a piece of wood with the bark removed. The carriages are equipped with controls that are used to keep the wood properly positioned for each cut. First one side of the wood is cut flat as it comes around. Then Toews loosens each carriage and turns the wood 90 degrees to square the top and bottom. The wood is then ready to be cut into shingles about 3/8 in. thick. As the shingles are cut they fall onto a conveyor to be bundled up.