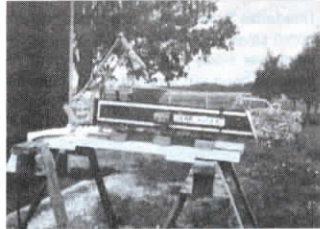


Reader Letters

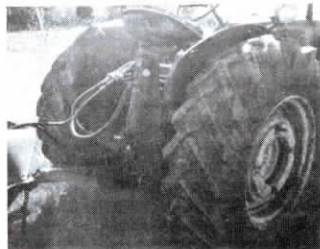


I wonder if any FARM SHOW readers would have knowledge of a tool that was put out in the 1950's called the "Plywrench". It was the forerunner of the vice grip pliers and was a cross between a crescent wrench and a pliers. It was small enough to carry in a pliers pocket and was the best tool I ever had. But like all good tools it finally got lost. The store I bought it from couldn't get any more. (Ray A. Poxleitner, RR, Box 79A, Kelliher, Minn. 56650)



My miniature straw baler makes bales that are 8 in. long, 4 in. wide and 5 in. high. The body of the baler is made out of 1/8-in. steel and is 33 in. long, 4 in. wide and 5 in. high. The gear box has a ratio of 50 to 1 so it moves very slow. The bale plunger has a 7-in. stroke. When the plunger makes its stroke, the feeder that presses straw into the bale chamber is in the up position. When the plunger withdraws, the feeder presses down. It has a bale counter on back - when bales fall out they hit an arm that activates the counter. People decorate the bales with ribbon and display them with mini pumpkins, gourds, and indian corn. They make beautiful decorations all year round. I sell the bales for \$3 apiece plus \$2 shipping. I also have plans for the baler. (John Harp, Rt. 1, Easton, Ill. 62633 ph 309 562-7457)

I'm sending along a photo of an attachment I made for my 44 Massey tractor, which does not have a 3-pt. hitch, for moving large pto-driven augers. I fitted the tractor with two hydraulic control valves, one to work the lift arm and the other to work the orbit winch on the auger. The lift arm bolts to the drawbar and tractor frame with 3 bolts for easy removal when not in use. Tractor lights mounted on fenders are made to swivel so



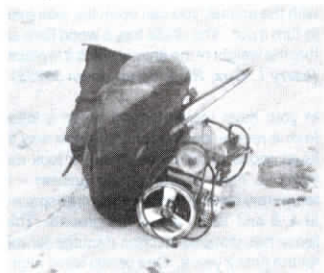
we can focus one light up on the bin and the other on the hopper. Also, our hopper is mounted permanently to auger so we can move from bin to bin without touching it. (Francis Weber, Box 626, Wadena, Sask. Canada S0A 4J0)



I've had a lot of interest in this porch I built on the back of my pickup camper. It's almost like adding an extra "room" onto the camper. I barbecue on it with a propane line that I run back from the tank up front. It folds up

against the back of the camper when lifted and is secured in place with two lengths of chain. (Robert C. Huff, Rt. 6, Box 246A, Edmonton, Alberta Canada ph 403 472-6202)

I'm sending along a photo of a neighbor's commercial air compressor that blew up. The problem was that water collected inside, rusting out the tank. It gave no warning before it happened and the explosion could have killed anyone within 20 ft. of it with just 100 psi in the tank. Fortunately my neighbor had gone to the house for a cup of coffee



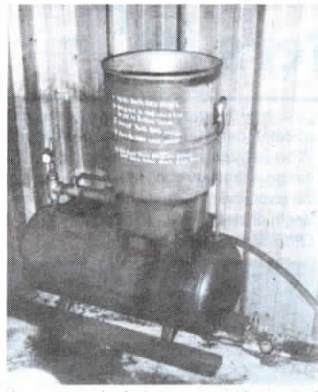
while it pumped up to pressure. The explosion bulged out a 10-ft. metal shop door at least 2 ft. The compressor was only three years old. A plastic or teflon liner inside the tank would have helped prevent the rust and solved the problem. All states should require liners. A radiator-type drain plug would at least make it possible to drain the water that builds up. FARM SHOW readers purchasing a compressor should make sure the tanks are lined and that there is a drain plug. (Bill Short, Rt. 2, Box 230, Hamilton, Mo. 64644)

I put an automatic shut-off on the sprayer I use along with my planter. I tapped into the single-acting hydraulic system of the planter to activate a lift cylinder (salvaged from a combine reel) that's tied into a manual spray control lever. When I raise the planter it shuts the sprayer off. When I lower the planter, it turns it back on. I ran a pressure line up to a gauge in the tractor so I can be sure the valve doesn't fail. I also have a manual valve up by the operator that lets me turn the sprayer off when crossing waterways, etc. I use a similar setup on my grain drill. (Lynn Whittlesey, 1256 Maple Ave., Atwater, Ohio 44201)



I recently restored this 1939 Mercury 5-passenger coupe car for a cousin of mine who's a doctor in California. This car is a rarity since the body style was only made during the first year of production. The '40 and '41 Mercs had a different design. I totally rebuilt the car. (George Parker, 12419 Whitman Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230)

I run a small general repair shop and recently came up with this idea for transferring waste oil from inside the shop out to our 500 gal. bulk tank outside. The bottom tank is an old air tank while the top tank is the bottom half a water pressure tank we cut in half. We punched holes in a hog pan we stole from our hog lot and then slipped it into the top of



the upper tank. A pipe connects the top tank to the bottom tank. We dump used oil into the top tank and open up a valve which lets the oil drain into the bottom tank. At the same time we open up a valve on a vent pipe to let air out of the bottom tank. After all the oil has run down into the bottom tank, we close both valves, hook up an air hose to the bottom tank and blow the oil out to the holding tank. If the bottom line gets plugged coming out of the tank there's a second air valve on the line coming out of the tank that lets you blow it out and start over. We haven't had much plugging problems, though, since we've got a screen in the bottom of the hog pan the oil is poured into.

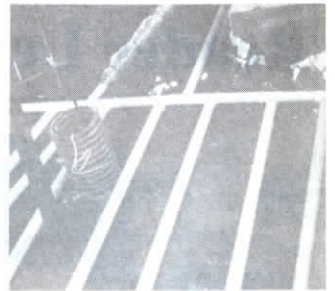
We like the system because it makes it easy to handle used oil without spilling and we don't have to go outside when it's cold. We sold the first unit we made to a local Deutz-Allis dealer and they like it fine. We're now building a second one that's a little bigger. (Tom Nedved, Rt. 2, Box 104, Garner, Iowa 50438 ph 515 587-2714)



One year when we had a real siege of calf scours and were doctoring lots of calves, we started using a sheep hook to grab the hard-to-catch ones. Skittish calves will usually let you get within 2 or 3 yards before they panic and run off. The sheep hook gives you that much extension of your arm. We made an even longer handle for our hook so we can usually catch even the most suspicious calves. It's been handy on a number of occasions. Like the time a very mean cow calved in an outdoor pen one January at 30° below zero and we had to get the calf in to dry her off. The mother wouldn't let us get near so we reached through the fence with the hook, grabbed the newborn by the hind leg, and dragged him to the fence where we could get a hold of him without getting killed by the angry mother. (Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467)



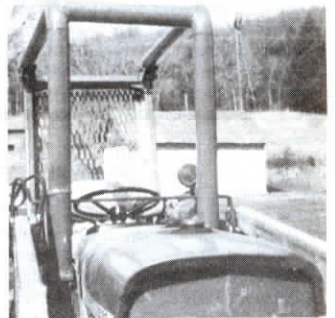
Your readers might like to get a look at this loader I made by mounting a Farmhand loader on an old 6-WD army truck. It works great. (Leveorn Dittus, Rt. 1, Box 103, Fredonia, N. Dak. 58440 ph 701 698-2357)



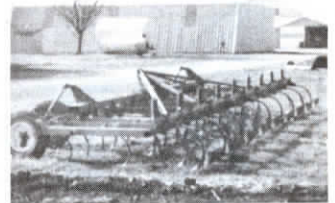
We laid hot air pipes underneath the concrete floor of a new heifer-dry cow barn we built in 1989. We used plastic sewer pipe to carry warm air from the milker pump exhaust to the floor of the dry cow barn. It keeps the floor under the alleyway and maternity pens thawed in cold weather. The cows are not locked in the barn - they're free to come in to eat and drink and then go back outside if they wish.

In the maternity section of the barn we laid flexible black plastic water pipe, coiled in a circle, under the concrete and connected it to a hot water heater. It's only for use when we need extra heat.

This was an inexpensive way to heat the barn for new calves and also to keep manure from freezing on the alley. (Donald & Mary Ann Hecht, 1004 19th Ave., Rt. 1, Cumberland, Wis. 54829 ph 715 822-8701)



I made this roll cage out of 3-in. steel pipe for my Deere 1530 tractor. I also put seatbelts on the tractor and I always use them. To remove the roll cage, all I have to do is remove a pin on each mounting bracket at the rear and remove 4 bolts on each side up front. The rear upright of the cage is fitted with a rock guard consisting of expanded metal mesh. (W.A. Gibbs, Rt. 1, Box 54, Elmwood, Tenn. 38560)



This photo shows an 8-row, 38-in. field cultivator we put together using Allis Chalmers and Deere parts. The rear bar is fitted with Deere chisel plow shanks with a wide plow sweeps behind that make ridges. We use the rig in soft plowed land instead of a tandem disk harrow. The way it's set up, the tracks you make with the wheels will be between rows and the row itself will not be packed down. (Case Van Wyk, Rt. 1, Box 152, Pinetown, N.C. 27865)

(Continued on next page)