

New Shoes For Horses

First-Of-Its-Kind Plastic Horseshoe

"I worked for 17 years before I finally came up with a plastic shoe that wears like steel, is lighter than aluminum, and yet cushions the hoof to prevent all kinds of leg injuries for the horses that wear them," says Hans Senn, a Minnesota horseman who's having tremendous success selling his new plastic horseshoe all over the country.

Senn says some horse owners and farriers are hesitant about trying his plastic shoes because other plastic shoes in the past have worked poorly. But once they try them, he says they're hooked.

The problem with making a plastic

horseshoe is that if you use the latest new "harder-than-steel" plastics, you don't really gain advantage because they won't provide any more cushion than metal shoes. And if you use softer plastics, they tend to spread out under the weight of a horse.

Senn says he finally solved the problem with softer plastics by putting a bar across the open end of the shoe to help it hold its shape. He says the resulting shoe is lightweight but will wear as long as metal shoes. They nail in place like regular shoes but are much easier to fit because you can shape them to a perfect fit by cutting them down once they're on the horse.

"They reduce foot and leg injuries from concussion and vibration and horse owners tell me their horses get fatigued much less with these shoes on. It's like running shoes for people, which make walking or working on your feet a lot easier. The new plastic shoes can be used on any terrain, and they have outstanding traction. Most people who try them never go back to metal," says Senn, noting that the shoes sell for \$9.50 a pair and come in 8 different sizes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Helvetia, 11490 Julianne Ave. No., Stillwater, Minn. 55082 (ph 612 426-2848).



Hoof Pads For Horses

Horseshoes protect the outer edges of horse hooves but they leave the center of the foot exposed. Idaho rancher Heather Thomas says she and her husband have come up with a way to keep flat-footed horses from going lame.

"We make durable, inexpensive hoof pads out of neoprene, the material shoemakers use to make soles and heels on shoes. It's very durable and can withstand hard riding in rocky terrain. Often a hoof pad will last through two shoeings," says Thomas.

She says you can buy a large sheet of the material from most shoe repair shops. You use the horseshoe as a pattern for the pad and cut it out with a sharp knife. You can make the pad round to cover the entire bottom of the foot or, on a really flat foot you may want to cut out for the frog so that the pad fits snugly on the flat sole without having to bend up over the frog. "If the pad is cut out for the frog, the frog is exposed to the air and is thus less likely to develop thrush, which might otherwise get started under a hoof pad if conditions are wet and muddy because the pad holds in moisture. If thrush does get started under a pad, just



squirt a little iodine underneath the pad," says Thomas.

"On our ranch we use horses a lot for working cattle, and checking on cattle when they are out in the mountains on summer range. A couple of our horses have flat feet and bruise easily in the rocks. These pads keep them from going lame," says Thomas.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heather Thomas, Box 215, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

Horseshoe Fitted With Replaceable Rubber Pad

New-style horseshoe has a replaceable rubber pad that's held in place by four screws. When the pad wears down after about 150 miles of road use, you just slip in a new one and screw it in place.

Invented by Steve Boyd of Kresgeville, Penn., the shoe consists of a resettable steel base shoe with a channel to hold the rubber insert. The steel shoe lasts through several sets of pads and can be removed and reset for hoof trimming, if needed.

Boyd says the 7/8-in. thick rubber pads are made from a special compound designed to provide shock relief to legs and hooves and yet stand up to the toughest abrasive conditions. They'll also stand up to both freezing and hot roads as well as to urine and liquified manure. Boyd came up with the new rubber compound while studying rubber engineering at a technical institute.

The base shoe is available in 9 sizes ranging in price from \$12 to \$26. Replaceable pads range from \$1.75 to \$3.00.

For more information, contact: FARM



SHOW Followup, 3/Mi. Mfg. Inc., Box 199, Kresgeville, Penn. 18333 (ph 215 681-6900).

FOR USE WITH FARM TRACTORS

Hydraulic-Powered Air Compressor

Well-known hydraulic-system consultants Kanamak Hydraulics of Garden City, Kan., says its new portable hydraulic-powered air compressor is much easier to handle and more trouble-free than standard gas engine portable compressors.

The new compressor is perfect for powering hand tools and will operate up to a 3/4-in. impact wrench, according to company

representative Randy Friesen. The unit is compact - weighs only 98 lbs. Requires a hydraulic flow of 4 to 8 gpm and has hydraulic safety valves to prevent overspeeding or reverse operation. The twin cylinder compressor is belt-driven by a gear-type hydraulic motor. Puts out 8.4 cfm at 90 psi. A hose rack holds 12-ft. of 1/2-in. hydraulic hose plus 35 ft. of 3/8-in. air hose.

Optional brackets mount the unit on a tractor 3-pt. Larger compressors also available.

Sells for \$725.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kanamak Hydraulics, P.O. Box 575, Garden City, Kan. 67846 (ph 800 473-5843 or 316 275-6055).



Weights only 98 lbs. Develops 90 psi.

"THEY LOVE TO USE IT"

"Groomer" Brushes, Cleans, And Oils Cattle

"It not only oils cattle, but brushes them clean at the same time. Cattle love to use it," says John Grinsven about his company's new E-Z "Brush & Oiler".

The first-of-its-kind cattle groomer consists of a pair of 2-ft. long nylon brushes and a 5-gal. bucket mounted above them. The unit is clamped onto an existing fence, post, or wall. One brush extends horizontally and is supported by a coil spring. The other brush mounts vertically. Oil flows by grav-

ity from the bucket into oil "stems" spaced 4 in. apart at the base of the horizontal brush. As cattle rub against the brush, oil automatically flows out of the "stems" and onto the bristles. The vertical brush is not oiled.

"The brush and oiler is gravity-fed so oil runs out only when the animal brushes against it. There's no waste," says Grinsven. "A tap on the bucket allows you to control oil flow at a rate of 10 to 100 drops per min. Cattle like to use the brush so much

that they can get too much oil in the first two weeks, so we recommend you avoid using oil during this period."

Sells for under \$300.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, E-Z Brush & Oiler, John Grinsven, RR 5, Strathroy, Ontario, Canada N7G 3H6 (ph 519 245-0838).

Reservoir mounted on top gravity-feeds oil to top and side-mount brushes.

