

Wire Unroller Speeds Up Fencing

Instead of paying \$150 for a tool to unroll wire one strand at a time, Will Bass built a vertical tower to unroll up to 6 wires at a time.

"I built it with mostly scrap metal that I had laying around, using oil field pipe for the main upright," Bass says.

The 2 3/8-in. pipe used for the 4-ft. mast is welded to a 2-in. receiver tube that fits on the 3-pt. hitch of his tractor. Shorter 6-in. pieces of 2 7/8-in. pipe slip over the main pipe to create adjustable arms that can be tightened in place with a bolt. Each arm has a foot-long piece of 1 by 1 1/2-in. square tubing welded to 16-in. long, 1-in. round tubing going through the center of a plywood base to hold a wire roll. Bass noted that later on he welded 1-in. fender washers near the bottom of the pipe to lift the wire rolls so they spin more freely.

To roll out the wires he uses his small tractor and drives near the fence posts and loosely attaches wires with clips to every other T-post. He stops the tractor at the end,

then works with one wire at a time, cutting and stretching it, before moving on to the next wire. Then he goes back and installs clips on T-posts he missed and tightens the others.

"This saved multiple trips walking back and forth while carrying heavy spools of wire. I was doing up to an eighth-mile stretch at a time," Bass says.

Friends have borrowed the unroller for their fencing projects, and he plans to use it again when he acquires more property.

Bass, who works as a CPA, is a regular contributor to the homemade tools forum and has several YouTube videos. Other farm related inventions include a fence post driver that attaches to his truck and drives metal and wood corner posts into the ground without digging a hole, and a clam bucket for picking up logs on the back of his tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Will Bass, Pawnee, Okla. (www.youtube.com/user/imabass77/videos).



Short pieces of pipe, attached to small unrolling platforms, fit over main upright. Bass can unroll up to 6 wires at a time.

Simple Tailgate Step

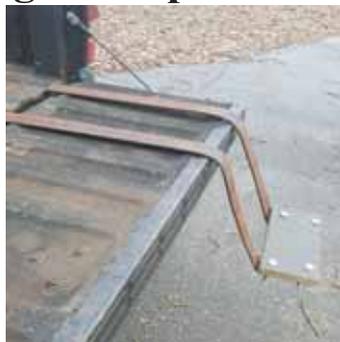
Don Boggs saw an ad on TV for a new pickup that has a step built into the tailgate.

"I'm 81 years old and can't hop up in the back of a pickup the way I used to. But I can't justify buying a new pickup just to get a built-in step so I decided to make something myself," says Boggs.

He simply took two pieces of 2-in. wide 1/4-in. strap metal and bolted a piece of scrap lumber to it with 4 bolts. He bent the straps to fit over the tailgate so all he has to do is pull the step to the back of the truck and slip it on.

"Works great," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Boggs, 619 Amberwood Road, Pickens, S.C. 29671 (ph 864 787-4596).



Bent straps on add-on step slip over tailgate.

"Fledbag" Controls Flow Out Of Tote Bags

You can quickly open and close big reusable tote bags without spilling anything, thanks to a new tote bag opener made in Austria and recently introduced by Pfaltzgraff Farms, Haxtun, Colo.

The Fledbag Easy is made from fiberglass and comes with a 7-in. dia. opening at the top and a pair of handles at the bottom. One handle pivots on a bolt and is used to open and close the gate opening.

The operator grabs both handles to lift the Fledbag inside a plastic spout at the bottom of the bag, then attaches a spring-loaded clamp and pulls back on the gate handle to let material flow out.

"It allows you to empty as little or as much of the bag as you need. It solves the problem of trying to stop the flow mid-bag, but also makes it easier to empty an entire bag in a controlled manner," says Roy Pfaltzgraff. "The clamp makes it easy to remove the Fledbag from the empty bag and reuse it as needed. It can be clamped onto the bag even when the bag is full."

He uses reusable totes with the Fledbag Easy on his own farm to plant cover crops, and says it works great. "It lets us set the bag on the ground between refills without having to close the bag and grab the spout. Also, we don't have to worry about spilling seed on the ground. We can regulate the full flow of seed to match the capacity of our drill-fill auger, and if the auger plugs up we can quickly close the gate."

Pfaltzgraff also offers another model called the Fledbag Original, designed for farmers



Fledbag Easy comes with a 7-in. dia. opening at the top and attaches with a spring-loaded clamp. Operator pulls back on a gate handle to let material flow out.

who don't plan to reuse the bag or want to empty solid bottom tote bags. It has a pointed cone on top that pierces the bottom of the bag, with openings around the point.

The Fledbag Easy sells for \$220 including S&H; the Fledbag Original for \$225 including S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup: Roy Pfaltzgraff, 12189 Co. Rd. 7, Haxtun, Colo. 80731 (ph 970 466-1887; roy@pfzfarms.com); www.pfzfarms.com).

Smartphone Controls Load Leveler System

Adjusting the air spring pressure on your tow vehicle can now be done with a smartphone, thanks to AMP Wireless Controls from Pacbrake. This system provides real time pressure feedback within each spring through an app that has 3 built-in memory presets so you can quickly achieve the desired air spring pressure.

Pacbrake designed the system with military grade solenoids that withstand extreme environments. An IP67 rated controller is waterproof and debris-resistant. A pre-assembled plug and play harness allows easy installation and components are quickly accessible to service or for installing replacement parts.

The AMP Wireless Controls fit on the frame rail of any vehicle, works with any air spring on the market, and any existing onboard air system. The kit includes a controller, solenoid block, sensors and harnesses, a phone app for Android devices, air lines, pressure connectors and mounting hardware.



Smart phone app has 3 built-in memory presets to quickly adjust air spring pressure.

Installation takes about an hour. The kit is sold by several online retailers for about \$550.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pacbrake, 1670 Grant Ave., Blaine, Wash. 98230 (ph 800 663-0096; www.pacbrake.com).

Custom Rebuilds For Starters/ Alternators/Generators

Need repair or custom rebuild of starters, alternators or generators? Merlyn Martin has been doing it for nearly 30 years. While most of his business is within 150 miles of Goshen, Ind., people also ship equipment to him.

"We do troubleshooting and repair," he says. "We do a lot of custom rebuilding of starters and generators. Usually we can send them back in the same housing."

Martin and his sons Raylyn and Nelson have done custom rebuilds for everything from local antique tractors to a very rare Minerva automobile. Martin says it is reputed to be the only one of its kind in existence.

"We do a lot of work for a local restoration company," he says. "They worked on the Minerva, and they often bring in starters and generators from Packards, which have an unusual starter and generator. We also do a lot of electrical repair and get into some magneto repair."

Martin warns that turnaround varies with older, more rare units sometimes taking more time. They try to fast-track repairs or rebuilds on units needed to keep equipment operating.

"We can often provide next day turnaround," he says. "We try to keep a lot of parts in stock. We always use U.S. made regulators when rebuilding a generator."

Having the part number for the starter,



Photo shows Farmall M starter parts for conversion from 6 volts to 12 volts.

alternator or generator is helpful, explains Martin. However, sometimes the part number can be incorrect and even how the part is being used and on what equipment can be misleading.

"Even if the part number is wrong, we can usually figure out what it is and get it fixed," says Martin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Martin's Repair, 25720 County Road 38, Goshen, Ind. 46526 (ph 574 862-3910).