

“Lay Down” Berry Picking Cart Built From Bicycle Parts

“I thought your readers might be interested in seeing photos of a berry-picking cart that’s ‘foot-powered’ by the operator. I built it almost entirely out of old bicycle parts,” says Francis Voegeli, Jefferson City, Mo.

The operator lays down on the cart to pick but moves himself down the row with a pair of foot paddles that drive bicycle sprockets and chains.

“I use it to pick strawberries, transplant seedlings, and for weeding. I’m 77 years old, so at my age bending over the row for hours is a problem,” says Voegeli.

The 4-wheeled cart was built with parts from five different bicycles. The frame is made of 1-in. sq. tubing. The wheels came off a pair of bicycles.

A shaft across the back is fitted with small sprockets at either end that chain-drive a set of sprockets above the rear wheels. A pair of 6-in. sprockets mount next to two paddles at the center of the shaft. The spring-loaded pedals have metal “teeth” on them that act like ratchets against the sprockets.

To go forward, Voegeli says he paddles his feet like on an old-fashioned sewing machine. “I just put my toes in the stirrups and flex my ankles and toes back and forth to get a bite on the ratchets that engage the sprockets.”

Voegeli used 20-in. bike wheels which he

says suited his arm reach. “A taller person might want to use 24 or 26-in. wheels,” he says.

The cart’s front wheels are tied together by a pair of clevis-ended metal rods that attach to a metal strap at the middle part of the frame’s front end. “I do very little steering with this machine,” says Voegeli. “The front wheels move only 3 in. from side to side. To change direction I just grab one of the wheels. When I get to the end of the row, I pick up the front end of the cart and turn it around to go back the other way.

“I support my head on a headrest on which my wife sewed a breathable terry cloth towel in order to soak up sweat. The main part of the board is 18 in. wide, but the part under my chest narrows to only 14 in. in order to avoid restricting my arm movements,” says Voegeli. Plywood platforms positioned down low on both sides hold baskets or flats.

“Some people who see it for the first time tell me they think it’s the silliest thing they’ve ever seen, but it works and they have to admit that. Last year I used it to pick 54 gal. of berries off my 200-ft. row of strawberries.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Francis N. Voegeli, 3231 Moreau View Dr., Jefferson City, Mo. 65101 (ph 573 634-4486).



“I built it almost entirely out of old bicycle parts,” says Francis Voegeli about his berry-picking cart that’s “paddled” by the operator.



The operator lays down on the cart to pick (right) and moves himself down the row with a pair of foot paddles (above) that drive bicycle sprockets and chains through a nifty ratchet system.

Duane Nesselhauf built this self-propelled wood splitter he can drive right out to the woods.



Riding Splitter Takes Him To The Wood Pile

Five years of dragging his heavy wood splitter around the farm was enough for Duane Nesselhauf. He decided to build a self-propelled unit that he could drive right out to the woods.

“We burn wood, so I do a lot of splitting,” says Nesselhauf. “I built the splitter using a 4-in. I-beam and a hydraulic cylinder with a 24-in. stroke. Nothing stops it. It goes right through knots and everything.”

Making it self-propelled was easy, he says. He welded a piece of channel iron to the side of the splitter I-beam. After cutting down the axle on an auto rear end, he welded a bracket to the differential and bolted the bottom end of the channel iron to it.

Nesselhauf attached an old plow wheel under the wedge end of the splitter. The steering wheel, which is bracketed to the splitter cylinder and a steering gearbox mounted over the front wheel, came from an old Chevy pickup.

“I put a hydraulic motor on the differential so I have variable speed in forward and reverse,” says Nesselhauf.

A 6-hp Briggs and Stratton with a hydraulic pump bolts to a bracket on the I-beam and powers both the differential and the splitter.

The seat for the traveling splitter is an old steel tractor seat bolted to a piece of channel iron. The channel iron swivels on the splitter

I-beam, making it easy to get on or off.

“If I pull the valve on the differential back all the way, the splitter travels at about walking speed,” he says. That, he adds, is fast enough around the wood pile.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duane Nesselhauf, 7208 Worcester Rd., Palo, Iowa 52324 (ph 319 396-4578).



Simple firewood-hauling box attaches to the 3-pt. hitch on Ron Ziegler’s Deere 5205 tractor. It rolls around easily on caster wheels at the house.

Firewood Hauling Storage Box

Ron Ziegler wanted a simple way to haul and store firewood. That’s why the Los Alamos, Calif., man created a simple firewood-hauling box that attaches to his Deere 5205 tractor’s 3-pt. hitch and rolls around easily on caster wheels at the house. “This lets me use the tractor to get the firewood and bring it to the patio,” he says. “I use it as a storage

box until I need more firewood.”

He built the 3 by 4 by 4-ft. high box using scrap steel pipe for the frame and covering it with plywood.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Ziegler, Flying Z Ranch, 10090 Alisos Canyon Rd., Los Alamos, Calif. 93440 (ph 805 344-6400; fax 805 344-1799).

How To Subscribe To FARM SHOW (New & Renewal)



Take out a new subscription (or renew your existing subscription) and get a FREE copy of our new “made it myself” tractor book.

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please sign me up for FARM SHOW and send me a FREE copy of your new “I Made My Own Tractor” book.

Check here to renew.

United States

- \$19.95 for 1 yr.
 \$37.95 for 2 yrs.
 \$51.95 for 3 yrs.

Canada

- \$27.95 (Can.) for 1 yr.
 \$52.95 (Can.) for 2 yrs.
 \$69.95 (Can.) for 3 yrs.

My check (\$ _____) is enclosed. (Add 7% GST in Can.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State /Prov. _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW.

Clip and mail this coupon to:
FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044
 Or phone toll-free 800 834-9665

VISA, Mastercard & Discover accepted.