



"It's quiet, light and a great machine - as good as any side-by-side," says Vaughan Getzinger about his home-built ATV.

"Made It Myself" ATV

Vaughan Getzinger's home-built ATV can do anything a manufactured ATV does - and more. It oscillates and articulates at walking speed through rough terrain and muskeg. On level ground, its extra long leaf springs deliver a smooth ride for up to 4 people at 30 mph.

"I've pulled 2,000-lb. logs out of the woods with it," says Getzinger, a mechanic, who built it for general use on his Onoway, Alberta, property.

The ATV is powered by a 1948 VW Beetle engine and has front and rear differentials from an old Toyota pickup. Steering works off hydraulics, powered by a power steering pump from a Chevy van. The dune buggy tires came from Xtreme Tire in Arizona.

"The body is made of 16-ga. sheet metal. The fenders are 10 ga.," Getzinger says. "The whole idea was to make it as light as possible for low ground pressure. It weighs 1,500 lbs."

The big tires and 12-in. clearance provide good traction in snow and rough terrain.

"I did a 3:1 gear reduction to gear it low," he adds.

The biggest challenges were modifying the VW transmission and creating a shifter linkage that works with the articulation and oscillation. But the winter-long effort to build it was well worth it, Getzinger says.

"I use it all the time, and it's totally reliable," he says. "It's quiet, light and a great machine - as good as any side-by-side."

It's actually better, he adds, because it was much less expensive and can outpull manufactured ATV's because of its heavy differential and low gearing.

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Riding on dune buggy tires, ATV oscillates and articulates at walking speed through rough terrain.



Plastic swings are about 2 ft. off the ground. Perch's texture and mailbox shape allows birds of all sizes to get a good grip.

Birds Catch On Fast To Chicken Swing

Chickens really like to swing, says Jennifer Connell, and she has videos on her website that prove it.

She got the idea when she needed to pen her flock up all day because of foxes in the neighborhood. "My goal was to give them something to do," Connell recalls, but when she realized how well the idea worked she started the expensive process of making a marketable product. After years of experimentation she came up with her patented design, which is manufactured from high quality, UV-resistant molded plastic.

The perch's texture and mailbox shape allows birds of all sizes to get a good grip and pump the swing to keep it going. A top cross-member keeps the swing from twisting. Rope buckles make it easy to level and adjust the swing's height.

If the swing is set just inches off the ground when first introduced to hens, they often learn how to swing on their own. Older chickens can be taught how to swing using treats. Connell suggests setting the swing about 18 in. to 2 1/2 ft. off the ground; her peacock prefers a higher swing, about 4 1/2 ft.

The Columbia, Mo., entrepreneur began selling The Chicken Swing at the end of 2013 and discovered international interest. She sells the swings for \$29.99 through her website, Amazon and a growing number of small retailers.

For DIYers interested in making their own swings, Connell offers a few suggestions.

"Look carefully at my design," she says.



Rope buckles make it easy to level and adjust swing's height.

"You really need to give the perch stability so it doesn't roll. Think about safety and the kickback - not just for the swingers, but the other animals in the coop as well."

When chickens dismount, the kick off can be hard, and simply putting a log or board seat on ropes isn't effective. Avoid screws and poor materials that can be unsafe for your flock.

Not all of Connell's chickens use the swing daily. But she knows they enjoy it because she lets them free-range during the day and some deliberately go back to the pen so they can swing.

"It gives them something to do besides pecking each other. I have four roosters (with 30 hens), and I don't have a lot of pecking," she says.

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Larry McPhail uses his pickup-mounted spray system to take moss off shingles and rust off metal roofs. "I like being able to clean a roof without climbing on it," he says.



How He Keeps His Roof Moss-Free

Larry McPhail put together a spray system that takes moss off his shingles, rust off metal roofs, and soaks his wood shake roof in preservative. In other words, he uses it to put anything liquid on his own roofs and those of friends and neighbors. McPhail says coming up with the low-cost rig was just self-preservation.

"I know a guy who fell off a roof and died and another friend who fell off and spent the past 20 years in a wheelchair," he says. "I wanted to be able to clean a roof without climbing on it. I found all the equipment I needed for less than \$50."

Components include used water pressure and electric water heater tanks connected by air hose, a 50-ft. length of 1/2-in. hose, 3 valves, and a brass nozzle. McPhail mounts the whole thing in the back of his pickup.

"I have 2 fittings on top of the water heater tank, one for liquids and the other for putting air in the tank. The water pressure tank has an air fitting."

After adding water and moss-killer to

the water tank, he pressurizes both tanks with his air compressor. All the components are designed to hold up to 250 psi, but his compressor only goes to 150 psi, keeping him well within safe levels.

"I use quick couplers so I don't lose air pressure, but with both tanks filled, I've always had air pressure left over," says McPhail. "If I am working at home, I can hook the system direct to my compressor."

If McPhail can't get his pickup close to the roof he is working on, he can stretch out the hose. Even without it, the pressurized sprayer has good reach.

"The water shoots about 40 ft. into the air," says McPhail. "With the brass nozzle on the hose, it's like a small fire hose. It will shoot over a 2-story house. It took me only half an hour to spray the roof on a 6,000-sq. ft. house. In a couple of months the moss was all dead."

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