MOISTURE METER STAND

This Field Scout TDR-100 (about $735) hand-held moisture meter "stand" was built in-house and saved the club about $300 versus buying one welded together as one unit. The "stand" was built so the staff did not have to bend-over to take the moisture readings. The handle (and neck) was made using ½-inch square tubing and it was extended 2 inches on one side to account for the electrical plug coming out of the display unit. The display unit is mounted to the 2 inch x ½ inch metal flat stock with 2-inch wide industrial Velcro and the cord is attached with 4-inch black zip-ties on the neck. The probe unit slips into 1¼ inch x ½ inch thick flat metal stock block that is held in place with one ¼ inch x ¼ inch bolt with locking nut. The metal pieces were all welded in place and then painted with Rust-Oleum black hammered paint. It took about two hours to design and build the first "stand" and another two hours to paint/drying time. The materials cost about $20 for each one. Matt Wilson, superintendent, designed and built the first one and Steve Bell, mechanic, from the Hillcrest CC in Bartlesville, Okla., will build the rest.

"Aluminum tubing and flat stock could also be used with bigger tubing so it would not increase the weight and it would not have to be painted is another option," Wilson added. "The display and probe units can be easily removed from the 'stand' as-needed."