



By TERRY BUCHEN

EQUIPMENT WASH RACK

To facilitate washing of equipment at the end of each day, we constructed a wash rack using time/motion studies. The wash rack dimensions are 60-by-25 feet. It is made of concrete with a 2 percent surface drainage slope toward the middle.

A 40-foot by 12-inch drainage grate was installed down the middle, which drains into four, 6-inch pipes. We can now wash our equipment much faster as we installed three quick-coupler valves off our irrigation system, and two more domestic water hose bibs off our maintenance building. We now wash equipment with all three quick-coupler hoses and one of the domestic water lines is hooked up to our pressure washer/steam cleaner.

The fifth hose bib is a farm type frost free hydrant and can be used year round. We finally eliminated one employee washing off their equipment and 10 other employees watching while waiting for their turn.

EQUIPMENT MECHANICS CART

We had a four-wheeled, all-terrain vehicle with a electric/hydraulic dump body left over from initial construction of our golf course; so we mounted a gasoline-powered air compressor, a five-drawer set of mechanics tools, and a fuel-can holder to the rear body.

In front of the driver/passenger seat, we mounted a wire mesh basket the full width of the vehicle which carried the accugauge, a complete tire repair patch/plugging kit, tow chain, jumper cables with a rechargeable marine battery, motor oil, and a box for miscellaneous items. In the passenger seat we are able to place our 3,200-watt/25-amp electric generator with extension cord. Our mechanic is now able to perform most equipment repairs out in the field with air tools, most electric power tools, and a complete set of American/metric wrenches.

IRRIGATION AS-BUILT BLUEPRINTS

Many superintendents have been installing their as-built irrigation blueprints in their field controllers to show just what particular zone is being watered. Also, the as-built can be made into a book by the irrigation technician by cutting up the blueprint and making a hole-by hole as-built. The blueprints are usually covered with a clear self-adhe-

sive assitate, making them waterproof, put into a three-hole punch, and put into a water resistant three-ring binder.

All of the finished products I have seen are really great when working in the wind, and the technician can use a non-permanent magic marker to make any notes necessary on the assitate and then wipe it clean when finished.

TRUCKSTER MOUNTED SPRAYER

We have 100-gallon truckster-mounted sprayer attached to the rear by three quick-disconnect pins. Also, we have mounted an electric hose reel with 300 feet of

high-pressure hose, a 20-foot three-section self-leveling boom, and a stainless steel tank-type electric foam marker.

We spray our fairways, with the boom and foam marker, but the fuel tank on the gasoline engine of the sprayer only lasts one hour of run time, at best. To increase our production, we installed an electric fuel pump to the sprayer engine and hooked a fuel line into the truckster's six-gallon fuel tank. We now can go about seven-eight hours without having to refuel the truckster/sprayer.

The one-gallon fuel tank, mounted onto the sprayer engine,

can still be used in emergencies by turning the fuel shut off valve back on, to keep the chemicals agitating until the truckster fuel tank is replenished.

COLOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

We recently completed our new irrigation system as-built blueprint by placing white pizza pans/ large white kitchen trash bags next to all sprinkler heads, gate valves, isolation valves, wire slices, air relief valves, lightning ground rods, and quick-coupler valves. Our aerial photo mapping company shot a color photo in late fall when all of the leaves

were off the trees while the turf was still green. We had the option of a truly accurate photo in scales of 1 inch=200 feet; 1 inch=100 feet; or ultimately 1 inch=50 feet. While in the air, we had them perform a topographical overlay of our entire golf course and surrounding property.

These can be tied in with as-built overlays of golf course drainage and all underground utilities that were performed during initial construction on the property. If you have the budget and large enough wall space, the 50-scale as-built aerial photograph is the ultimate.

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