

Corn Sheller

Cast iron mechanical Maize or Corn shellers have been in existence for more than a century but remain an expensive technology out of reach for many farmers in developing countries. This simple crafted wooden sheller shown was developed so that local craftsman could make and sell them at a cost within the reach of most families. In the Jalapa, Guatemala region one farmer had made over a hundred when we last checked with him.

The sheller can be made with very simple tools; hand saw, coping saw, hand drill and some nails or small bolts. The nails or bolts that come together in the center make room for the cob but the corn is wiped off with a simple twist of the corn. When almost through turn the unit over and pull as you twist the cob.



A simple wooden vise is also shown useful in making the sheller. It can be made with large carriage bolt and nut, compression spring, wrench to fit and hardware or nails to mount to a workbench or post. A hole is drilled through the shaft of the bolt and the mounted side of the vise so a large nail retains the blot in place. The boards forming the 'jaws' of the vise need to be parallel. Holes in the board at the bottom allow a rod to slide into one that forms a gap approximating the thickness of the board held by the vise.

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