



When inserted into a pickup receiver hitch, the steel rack holds at least half the weight of a 4-wheeler.

Receiver-Mounted Rack Supports Second 4-Wheeler

When Tony Rosentreader, Ashland, Nebraska, bought a new pickup truck three years ago, the last thing he wanted was for the bed to get scratched up from the two ATV's he planned to haul with it.

"I have two 4-wheelers and often need to take them along at the same time," he tells. "I don't like pulling a trailer all the time."

With that in mind, Rosentreader and his brother Nathan began working on a way to haul both ATV's in one pickup bed.

"We noticed a lot of SUV's and vans with cargo boxes mounted on their receiver hitches," he says. "We decided a similar framework would hold at least half the weight of a 4-wheeler when inserted into a pickup receiver hitch. It took us about a week, working in our spare time, to get the rack like we wanted it."

They made the rack frame from 1-in. square steel tubing. There are two rectangles on the outside edges that are 18 in. wide by 2 ft. long. In each of these, they welded two lengths of 1/2-in. concrete rebar. The rear

wheels of the second ATV actually sit on the rebar, while the front wheels span the tailgate and sit on the floor of the pickup bed. "We didn't want to put any weight on the tailgate," Rosentreader says.

Rosentreader says the hitch tube must be measured carefully, so the rack fits close behind and at the same height as the tailgate.

Once they had it all welded together, they finished it off by welding links of old manure spreader chain to the back edge. "They give us a place to attach our tie-downs," Rosentreader says.

The rack weighs about 60 lbs., so it can be mounted by one person.

Rosentreader has used the rack for three years without a problem, covering hundreds of miles both on and off the road. "I like the design and would not modify it if I made another one," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Rosentreader, 207 S. 23rd St., Ashland, Neb. 68003.



Rear wheels of the second ATV sit on concrete rebar while the front wheels rest on the floor of the pickup bed.

Bucket Holder For Tractors, ATV's

If you've ever wished you had a cargo carrier on your garden tractor or ATV, you'll like this new Tractor Buddy that's designed to hold a 5-gal. bucket on the rear hitch.

Inventor Morris DeShong says the Tractor Buddy attaches easily to hitches on most garden tractors and can be used to carry trash, rocks, weeds, tools, or even a cold drink. It's easy to slip the bucket in and out and, with an optional extended hitch, you can attach a trailer without removing the Tractor Buddy.

DeShong demonstrates how strong the Tractor Buddy is by standing inside the bucket. It supports him with no problem, even though capacity is rated at 40 lbs.

Sells for \$29.95 plus \$12 S&H. An optional Tractor Buddy Tool Carrier lets you carry long-handled tools like rakes and shovels on the back of the tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mor-



"Tractor Buddy" holds a 5-gal. bucket on back of an ATV.

ris DeShong, PTC, Inc., 8575 South State Rd. 9, Pendleton, Ind. 46064 (ph toll-free 877 388-0188 or 765-778-0188; Website: www.tractorbuddy.com).



Robert Dunton got tired of mud flying up at him while checking irrigation equipment. He solved the problem by making fenders out of used rubber conveyor belting.

ATV Fenders Keep Mud At Bay

If you've ever run an ATV across a muddy field, you know the tires can really sling the mud.

Robert Dunton, Topeka, Ill., says his ATV is the perfect vehicle for checking irrigation equipment but he grew tired of avoiding the mud thrown around by the wheels. He decided to solve the problem by making fenders out of used rubber conveyor belting.

He made brackets to support the rubber belting so they extend out much wider and further back than the original equipment. The

fenders hang down behind the front wheels and in front of the rear wheels.

Dunton says they've completely solved his mud problem and he can cross any ground without getting dirty.

He also added a rear view mirror to the ATV by mounting a round mirror to an upright mounted on the front left fender.

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Hitch Tows ATV Behind Field Equipment

Dennis Anderson, Zearing, Iowa, made a hitch to tow his 4-wheel ATV behind his planter, field cultivator, combine, and other equipment.

The 5 1/2-ft. long hitch is made from 1-in. pipe. One end of the pipe attaches to a metal bracket that bolts to the front part of the ATV frame. A 5/8-in. dia. hitch pin goes through the pipe as well as the bracket and is secured by a cotter pin. The other end of the pipe is pinned to a clevis that's attached to the implement.

"It's a simple idea but it really comes in handy," says Anderson. "I farm alone with about 700 acres scattered out, so I use it all the time to get home. I've even pulled it behind my pickup at speeds up to 55 mph. When I get to the field I drop off the equipment and ride the ATV back home to get whatever else I need. The hitch comes off in just a few seconds. If I want, I can unpin the pipe and use a clevis to store it on the ATV rack."



The 5 1/2-ft. long hitch is made from 1-in. pipe and can be quickly removed.

"I had to make the hitch long so that if I'm pulling the ATV behind my combine and go through a dip in the road, the chopper on back of the combine won't come down on top of the ATV."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Anderson, 12229 U.S. Hwy. 65, Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 641 487-7576).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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