



Home-built side cutter mounts on Combs' Case loader tractor and was built using part of an old Bush Hog mower and the motor from a pressure washer.

Brush Cutter Mounts On Loader Frame

"I can mow more brush and vines in two hours with this machine than I could cutting by hand for two weeks," says Bill Combs, Roseland, Fla. Combs built a side cutter using part of an old Bush Hog mower and the motor from a pressure washer. He has it mounted on front of his Case loader tractor. With this simple homebuilt setup he can cut brush and vines in a 28-in. wide swath up to 12 ft. high.

"I got the idea to build this rig after watching the highway department cut brush on the side of the road," says Combs. "Their mowers had hydraulic lifts so they could mow at an angle. I figured I could build something similar for the front of my loader tractor."

Combs used a metal torch to cut a 1-blade section out of an old 3-blade pull behind mower deck. He attached that section of deck to angle iron braces and bolted it upright on a wood pallet. Then he mounted an 11 hp motor from a pressure washer on the opposite side of the pallet. The motor belt-drives the cutting blade. Combs built a metal shield across the top to keep brush and debris from flying back on the motor and toward him when he's mowing.

"The cutter is real simple and it works great," says Combs. "It makes short work of cutting vines and trees up to an inch in diameter."

Combs secures the pallet mower to his 580 Case tractor loader with chains and tightens it in place with turnbuckles. "I make sure the pallet is on there real tight because I'm cutting through a lot of brush from ground



Combs can cut brush and vines in a 28-in. wide swath up to 12 ft. high.

level up to several feet in the air," Combs says.

He uses the loader tilt cylinders to keep the mower blade vertical and the motor level as he's cutting. "The motor has to be level or close to level so it's always lubricated," Combs says.

"I start on the ground and can cut almost 12 ft. high with this setup," says Combs. "It's easy to see what I'm cutting from the tractor seat and it's way easier than cutting brush and vines by hand."

Combs said it only took him a couple days to build the brush cutter that he's used for two years without any problems. "It doesn't cut hardwood trees very well, so I stay away from them. However it sure makes short work of cutting vines and small pepper trees."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Combs, P.O. Box 296, Roseland, Fla. 32957 (ph 772 664-2342; georgia.combs@live.com).

Barrel-Style Outdoor Oven Heats Up Fast

Max and Eva Edleson are firing up wood-fired barrel ovens for cooking and entertaining. The hybrid ovens combine the best qualities of steel barrel stoves with traditional earthen or brick ovens. They heat up fast with relatively little wood and hold the heat for extended baking.

"With a barrel oven, you can start your fire and be ready to bake in 15 min., while a brick oven can take hours to heat," says Eva. "The oven has two racks and can bake 10 to 12 loaves of bread at a time or hold four cookie sheets or four large pizzas. Take the upper rack out, and you can roast a very large piece of meat or even an entire animal or cook a huge pot of stew."

The secret to the fast heat is the firebox beneath the metal oven with heat rising through an air chamber surrounding the barrel. The secret to the extended heat is the brick, stone or cob jacket that surrounds the fire chamber. Excess heat not absorbed by the oven is absorbed by the jacket mass. By the time the fuel is burning down, the jacket is

radiating stored heat back at the barrel oven, extending the baking process.

"It takes a small amount of wood, thanks to the heat jacket design and mass," says Eva. "We build them for homeowners to use in backyards for entertaining and baking for their own families. We just built one as a wedding gift from parents for a newlyweds' home."

In addition to building the ovens, they also sell the hardware to people interested in building their own. The barrel with insulated face, hinged door and oven racks is available for \$400. Add the firebox door, ash grate and ash drawer (which doubles as an air register), and the price is \$800 plus S&H.

All parts except the barrels are made in the couple's metal shop from raw steel. The door is an insulated sandwich of metal and ceramic wool insulation. Barrels are of the thickest gauge available, kiln-burned and sandblasted to eliminate any paint or other residue. Exposed parts are coated with high temperature paint to prevent rust and extend

How To Level An Old Pole Barn

Richard Sackett has a slick way to level a pole barn if a few poles start to sink due to soft ground or rotting pole ends.

"I can bring posts back to level without taking apart the wall," says Sackett.

He starts by digging a hole next to each post to be lifted, digging down as deep as the bottom of the post. The hole has to be large enough for a 4-in. dia. pvc pipe to slip in next to the post. Sackett cuts the end to be lowered into the hole at an angle. The beveled point is inserted away from the post. The pvc end above ground is attached to the post with a small lag screw.

"There's always a little space between the pipe and the dirt wall," says Sackett. "I hand form a tin or aluminum sleeve to go over the pvc. Then I pour dry cement between the sleeve and the dirt. Later I will add water to the cement to keep the pole end from drifting into the pvc hole."

Sackett pours pea gravel into the pipe to a height about 3 in. above the planned lift height. If the post needs to be lifted 2 in., he fills 5 in. of the pipe.

Once the pipe is prepared, Sackett attaches a piece of 3-in. angle iron to the post to be lifted. The jack is set under the angle iron to lift the post.

"I like to lift them about 1/2-in. higher than needed so it can settle," says Sackett.

As the post lifts, pea gravel feeds out of



Working inside the barn, Sackett dug a hole next to each post and inserted a pvc pipe, filling it with pea gravel.

the pvc pipe and into the space vacated by the post end. Sackett removes the lag screw, the pipe and the sleeve. He adds water to the cement that falls in on the pea gravel to create a slurry that hardens around the base of the post.

"It's fast, easy and safe," says Sackett. "I lifted posts along 28 ft. of a 65-ft. long building without damaging the outside. When I finished, the edge of the roof was straight again."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Sackett, P.O. Box 702398, Plymouth, Mich. 48170 (ph 248 755-1851).

Detector Finds Nails In Logs

You can save saw blades and prevent accidents by finding metal in logs before you cut. A handheld metal detector from Lacey-Harmer Co. brings a new level of accuracy, durability and sensitivity to the job. In fact, it's so new, a model name has yet to be assigned.

"Our new prototype handheld takes advantage of digital technologies," says Peter Thomas, Lacey-Harmer Co. "It's weather-resistant, including a waterproof mesh over the speaker and a digital display screen with adjustable brightness. It can be recharged with a cigarette lighter outlet."

The prototype offers a telescoping handle that extends the length to 4 ft., a head that tilts to any angle and an ergonomic end handle. It has controls that let the operator adjust sensitivity up or down. "It will detect a 5-penny nail at a depth of 14 1/2 in.," says Thomas.

Buried nails and other metal that has "grown" into a tree is one reason that urban



Handheld metal detector comes with a digital display screen and a head that tilts to any angle. It'll spot metal buried deep in logs.

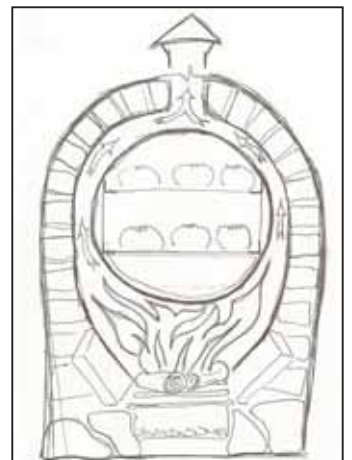
trees have such little value for lumber. One nail can destroy a bandsaw blade.

The prototype is priced at \$1,750. The company also makes stationary "whole log" metal detectors for commercial use.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lacey-Harmer Co., 4270 N.W. Yeon Ave., Portland, Ore. 97210 (ph 503 222-9992 or toll free 800 367-9992; info@laceyharmer.com; www.laceyharmer.com).



Barrel oven combines the best qualities of steel barrel stoves with traditional earthen or brick ovens. It has 2 racks and can bake up to 12 loaves of bread at a time.



durable life.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Firespeaking, 91040 Nelson Mountain Rd.,

Deadwood, Ore. 97430 (ph 541 964-3536; info@firespeaking.com; www.firespeaking.com).