

ATV-Garden Tractor Goes 50 Mph

“When you meet a car on the road and are going 50 mph on a garden tractor, you get some really weird looks,” says Mike Crutcher, who built an “ATV garden tractor” by combining a 1972 Allis Chalmers 410 garden tractor with a 1993 Kawasaki Bayou 220 ATV.

The machine’s frame, engine, transmission, suspension system, rear wheels, rear end and brakes are all from the ATV. The seat, steering box and body are from the tractor.

“It’s pretty much a Kawasaki ATV inside a tractor body. I modified the 4-wheeler components to fit the tractor,” says Crutcher.

“Fitting the engine in was a big job. I measured the tractor’s wheelbase, then cut the ATV frame in half and lengthened it to fit the tractor’s body. I also had to cut the sides out of the tractor body in order to make room for the engine.

“The gauges on the dash are only for looks. I have right around 600 hrs. of labor in it. I built it because I wanted to do something different and just use it to run around town.”

The 220 cc ATV engine has a 5-speed transmission with reverse, which is operated by a Hurst car shifter located on one side of the operator platform. The shifter is connected by a long metal rod to the transmission’s shift linkage.

The rear ATV wheels are fitted with sport racing dirt tires. The front wheels and tires were designed for a small trailer. Crutcher modified them to fit the ATV’s wheel hubs. He made the brake pedal and throttle in his shop.

“It was a lot of work but I enjoyed doing it,” says Crutcher.

You can watch a video of the machine by going on youtube and typing in “rabbid allis”. “My thanks to Mike and Ace Adams for making the video,” says Crutcher.

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Rock Claw can handle big boulders with no problem. Three steel arms with curved points at their lower end are connected to a lift chain.

Rock Claw Lifts Rocks Into Place

Albert Allpress can build walls with big rocks the easy way with his Rock Claw. He says he needed the patented rock lifter when he was in the excavation business.

“People used to ask me to build rock retaining walls,” recalls Allpress. “I would do it, although I didn’t care for the job. Some places you can’t get in with big machinery and using chains or straps is neither safe nor easy.”

Allpress likens his Rock Claw to the arcade game where a claw picks up a stuffed animal. He wanted a simpler version that was all mechanical.

His solution was 3 arms cut from high-grade steel with curved points or claws at the lower end and connected to a chain at the upper end. Each arm is pinned to a 3-pronged steel plate at a point about 3/4 up the length of the arm. This creates a pivot point for each arm.

The 3 chains gather at a ring on a swivel that can be hooked to a loader arm, blade or other device. With the claws in place

around the object to be lifted, the chains are gathered and pulled upward. This forces the arms to pivot at the plate and push the claws against the object being lifted, securing them in place.

“I have started selling them, and the more I sell, the lower the price will be,” says Allpress. “Currently, I have 3 models ranging in price from \$320 to \$680.”

The Series I Rock Claw has 1 1/2-ft. arms. Series II has 2-ft. arms, and Series III has 3-ft. arms.

“I’ve lifted a boulder that is 3 ft. in diameter and more than 700 lbs. with the Series III,” says Allpress. “It made the backhoe tires squat, but the Rock Claw handled the boulder without a problem.”

Check out a video of the Rock Claw in action at www.farmshow.com.

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