

Mower's front wheel is driven into clamp, which is held in place by 2 brackets that bolt to trailer floor.



## Wheel Clamp Holds Mower On Trailer

"My trailer-mounted wheel clamp fits around the front wheel of any lawn or garden tractor, securing it for transport. It can be built to fit various sizes of tractors and front wheels," says Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill.

Nichols, who operates a lawn care and mower repair business, says he came up with the idea because of how often he has to load and unload tractors. "It saves me a lot of time because I don't have to fumble with tie-down straps and find places to attach them on all the different mowers that I use."

The device is held in place by 2 brackets that bolt to the trailer floor. Nichols drives the tractor onto the trailer and into the device, then slips in a rear bracket made of square tubing against the tire and uses a set screw handle to tighten the bracket in place. To drive the tractor off the trailer, he just loosens the handle and pulls the bracket out.

"Pulling one pin releases the device so I



Operator raises a rear bracket up against tire and uses a set screw handle to tighten it in place.

can easily remove it when I want to haul other kinds of cargo on the trailer," says Nichols.

He says he's willing to provide plans for anyone who wants to make their own wheel clamp.

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## Powerful Gas-Powered Winch

"Our new gas-powered portable winch offers many advantages over a conventional drum winch. It can be used anywhere you can find a safe, solid object to fasten onto without the need for a vehicle, and it can handle an unlimited length of line," says Kyle McGauchie, Endurance Marine Products, Ltd., Surrey, B.C.

The EPGW-5 gas-powered portable capstan winch is powered by a 4-stroke, 53cc gas engine. It comes with 75 ft. of heavy-duty, double-braided low-stretch nylon winch rope that's abrasion resistant, and has a stainless steel thimble on one end and a stainless steel thimble and carabine on the other end. The winch pulls the rope around a rotating cylinder, or capstan head. The speed of the winch is regulated by the speed of the engine. The heavier the load, the slower the rate of retrieval. Under a moderate load, the retrieval rate is about 30 ft. per min. The winch doesn't lose power because the line is continually bailed, or taken off the capstan, as the line is retrieved.

To operate, the operator loops a sling strap around an anchor point, such as a tree, and attaches both ends of the strap to a pair of chain hooks on the winch. Then he wraps the rope around the capstan a few times and starts the engine.

"As the object is pulled in, you stand to the side and bail the rope away as it spools off the capstan while the rest of the line continues to pass through," says McGauchie. "You can use any length of rope, unlike a drum winch where you're limited to the length of cable that can be spooled onto the drum. The winch has a planetary gear system inside it



Gas-powered capstan winch can be used without a vehicle and handle an unlimited length of line.

that makes it very easy to operate. In one of our website videos we show a 65-year-old woman using the winch to pull a 500-lb. tree stump up a hill.

"Our gas-powered capstan winch is especially handy when you need to pull something where your vehicle can't go. For example, hunters can use it to pull game out of the woods and to hang and bleed their kill. The engine provides single line pulling power of 2,000 lbs., but additional power can be achieved by using block and tackle pulleys."

The winch comes with a safety strap and 75 ft. of polyester rope. It sells for \$1,549 and has a 1-year warranty. The company also sells 150 and 300-ft. long ropes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Endurance Marine Products, Ltd., 210-19138 26th Ave., Surrey, B.C. Canada V3S 3V7 (ph 877 535-0669; kyle@endurance-marine.com; www.shop-endurance-marine.com).



Ruen used plastic tubing and 2 yardsticks to make a water level for maintaining grade, while using a rototiller to dig a 190-ft. long drainage ditch around his house.

## Tiller, Water Level Used To Dig Drainage Ditch

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Instead of renting a ditch digger to install drainage tile around my house, my wife and I got out our old garden tiller and a couple of shovels. I ran the 40-year old Troy-Bilt tiller up and down the 190-ft. long ditch and then cleared out the loose dirt with shovels.

To get the grade right we used a water level, a low-tech tool that's easy to put together and easy to use.

I attached the ends of a 15-ft. length of plastic tubing to 2 yardsticks and filled the tubing most of the way with water. When the yardsticks are held at the same height, the water level in the tubing is at the same height on both yardsticks. Set one yardstick on an 8-in. concrete block and the other on the ground next to the block, and there will be an 8-in. difference in the water levels on the yardsticks. The higher level on the stick is on the lower level yardstick, which is down grade from the upper yardstick.

Checking depth in the ditch as we worked

was simply a matter of moving the 2 yardsticks down the length of the ditch. It was easy to check and easy to adjust the dirt as we worked. We just had to be careful not to lift one yardstick too high in the air, as the water would then run out of the tubing at the other end.

The grade in the finished ditch was as we hoped. To double check, I stuck a hose in the upper end and let the water run. Only one low spot was identified, and it was quickly adjusted.

Next step was to lay weed mat, followed by perforated drain tile and then fill the ditch with washed rock. The final step will be placing stones to the edge of the ditch to give it the look of a dry stream.

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