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Mower is powered by 11 hp electric start and 5 hp rope start engines.

52-In. Riding Mower "Turns On A Dime"

"It turns on a dime and works as good as any commercial mower on the market. I spent less than \$1,000 to build it," says Milton Ruppert of Hillsboro, Ill., about his home-built 52-in. riding mower.

The mower is equipped with two Briggs & Stratton gas engines - an electric start 11 hp model that belt-drives the three blades, and a 5 hp rope start model that powers the rear wheels. He uses two levers - one for each wheel - to steer. Each lever tightens a

belt that causes the wheel to go forward or back. To drive each wheel, a pulley belt-drives a shaft which chain-drives another shaft connected to the wheel.

Both the front and rear wheels were salvaged from an old riding mower. The front axle, made from 2-in. sq. steel tubing, supports small caster wheels and is free to pivot up or down via a bolt and bushing in the middle of the axle. He used sheet 3/16-in. thick steel plate to build the deck and bought

the blades new. The deck is raised or lowered by pulling or pushing on a lever mounted just ahead of the operator's knees.

"My grand kids have used it to do my mowing for four years now and haven't tore it up yet," says Ruppert. "The entire mower is only 52 in. wide and 52 in. long. The compact size makes the mower much more maneuverable which is important because I have about 40 trees in my yard. I put big wide tires on it because I was having trouble getting around

in mud.

"I paid \$400 for the 11 hp engine and \$160 for the 5 hp model. My only other costs were \$90 for the blade units and the rest of the expense was for belts, pulleys, and sprockets. The seat is off an old junked-out International H tractor."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Milton Ruppert, 14329 Illinois Rt. 185, Hillsboro, Ill. 62049 (ph 217 534-2502).



Scripter used a 1977 International 1700, 65-passenger school bus for the project.

School Bus Grain Truck

"It works as well as any conventional heavy duty grain truck but cost a lot less," says Armin Scripter, Abilene, Kan., who turned an old 65-passenger school bus into a 350-bu. grain truck.

Scripter started with a 1977 International 1700 school bus equipped with a 392 cu. in. engine and automatic transmission. He removed everything except for the front portion of the bus and the frame. He unbolted the rear 10-in. section of the bus body, moved it forward, and rebolted it just behind the first row of seats to form a cab. He mounted a 17-ft. truck bed and hoist on the open frame behind the cab. He then mounted a pusher axle - made from the front axle from another bus - in front of the rear wheels. The bus's power steering pump is used to operate the dump hoist.

"It gets a lot of attention and didn't cost much to build," says Scripter. "The bus's yellow color makes a nice contrast with the red truck bed. I bought four buses and originally planned to use them for storage. I made the conversion when I needed another truck. My total cost was only about \$5,500. We use it to haul grain from the field to our bins and from the bins to town. By mounting



He mounted a 17-ft. truck bed and hoist on open frame behind the cab. homemade steel sideboards off another truck I can haul up to 400 bu. with it. The extra pusher axle helps distribute the weight and reduces compaction in the field.

"The bus was already equipped with air brakes, power steering, and an automatic transmission. I mounted a Brownie 3-speed transmission behind the automatic transmission which gives it a lot of pulling power. It has twelve forward gears and three reverse."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Armin Scripter, 3421 Merik Rd., Abilene, Kan. 67410 (ph 785 461-5642).



"ViziGear" mounts in trucks to remind operators of shift pattern.

Gearshift Reminder For Trucks

If you've ever jumped into a truck that you haven't used for a while and discovered that you couldn't remember the shift pattern, you'll like this new gearshift reminder.

The "ViziGear" is a 3 by 2 by 1-in. deep box made from high impact black plastic. It wires into the truck's 12-volt system and mounts on your dash using adhesive tape. The shift pattern on front of the box is lit up by an internal lamp.

Any shifter pattern can be supplied. You

simply send in diagrams of your pattern.

"It's especially useful for inexperienced help. It eliminates damage to the gears from guessing where the gears are and it's always visible thanks to the way it lights up," says inventor Gary Hansen.

Sells for \$19.95 plus \$4 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ViziGear-WV, 1604 N. Hwy. 14, Aurora, Neb. 68818 (ph 402 694-5222).

Steel Horse Shoes Coated With Poly

Steel horse shoes encapsulated in shock-absorbing polyurethane offer improved traction on hard surfaces and eliminate scratches, says Remuda Tire Co., Broomfield, Colo.

Tires sized for draft horses are 1 3/8-in. thick and 1 1/2 in. wide; for small horses, 1 in. thick and 1 1/4 in. wide.

"Our poly shoes are used by Budweiser and Disney World driving horses, as well as by police departments around the country," says a spokesman. "Anyone who uses horses on pavement will benefit from them."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Remuda Tire Co., 999 East 160th Ave., Broomfield, Colo. 80020 (ph 303 280-0049).



Poly-coated horseshoes offer better traction on hard surfaces and eliminate scratches.