

Tractor Tree Cutter

The T.D.I. Tree Cutter, from T.D.I., Soper, Oklahoma, was designed to handle tree removal jobs that are too large for a brush cutter, but too small for a dozer.

This 3-pt. hitch mounted pto driven cutter features a circular 4-ft. steel blade with 16 replaceable carbide tipped bits. Two 12-in. stroke hydraulic cylinders, one on either side of the blade push the blade into the tree. A pusher bar at the top of the frame over the blade forces the tree back away from the tractor and operator.

"You just back into the tree, set the tractor brakes, switch on the pto and then push the blade into the tree with the hydraulic cylinders," says John McNutt, a co-owner of TDI. "If the tree is larger than 12 in., you can retract the cylinders, back up, and cut again."

McNutt says the design of the cutter allows it to cut a 20-in. diameter tree or stump. He says it can cut a tree up to 4 ft. in diameter by making two or more cuts from different sides of the tree.

The company recommends the cutter be used on a tractor with a ROPS approved cab or rollbar, and at least a 70 hp engine. "It doesn't need that much horsepower to operate the saw, but since the unit weighs 1,600 lbs., we recommend a bigger tractor to make sure it has enough weight and hydraulic capacity to manage it," McNutt says.

An optional pincers-type grabber, which mounts on the pusher bar, allows you to use the cutter to carry trees off the field. The hydraulic grabber requires its own hydraulic



Pto-driven tree cutter is equipped with a circular 4-ft. steel blade that's pushed into tree by a pair of hydraulic cylinders. Pusher bar forces tree back away from tractor and operator.

outlet.

McNutt says they're working on a skid loader-mounted version, with a hydraulic motor to drive the sawblade.

He says most people are using it for cutting volunteer trees and brush in pasture and fencerows, or for clearing stumps where trees have been logged off the land.

The cutter sells for about \$4,200, and the optional grabber adds another \$600.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, T.D.I., Rt. 1, Soper, Okla. 74759 (ph 580 345-2286; fax 580 345-2288).

Rotary Tree and Brush Saw Fits Skid Steer Or 3-Point

About seven years, Leroy Hicks, owner of Hicks Fabrication, Berryton, Kansas, designed a hydraulically powered rotary tree saw that fits skid steer loaders or on three-point hitches.

Hicks' first saw, made for a friend who wanted to clear small trees and brush from grassland, worked so well that he began getting orders for it and it soon became one of the major products his fabrication shop turns out.

He says most other brush and tree cutters work by pushing a triangular serrated cutting blade through the trunk. The blade on Hicks' rotary saw is made from 1/2 in. steel plate, cut into a 28 in. diameter circle. Rather than having teeth cut into the blade, Hicks cut 12 equally spaced notches around the outer edge of the steel plate where he mounted replaceable carbide steel cutting teeth. Because of the way the saw is made, individual teeth can be replaced as needed.

He says the teeth have a long lifetime. "Custom operators who use their saws heavily are replacing them every three or four months, but most people replace them less than once a year," he says.

A hydraulic motor, requiring a minimum flow rate of 15 gal. per minute, turns the blade. The higher the capacity of the hydraulic system, the faster the saw works, up to a maximum of 40 gal. per minute at 2,500 psi.

Hicks built the cutter to fit the mounting brackets on most skid steer loaders. Or, with a hydroslide adapter, it can mount on a tractor's 3-pt. hitch.

"It cuts faster than most of the push-type cutters I've seen," he says. "It will cut through a 12 in. tree in one pass. I've cut



Hydraulically-powered rotary tree saw fits skid loaders or can be 3-pt. mounted.



Circular 28-in. dia. blade is equipped with replaceable carbide steel cutting teeth.

trees with trunk diameters up to 3 ft. And it will cut through soil and even rocks in order to cut trees off below the soil surface. With this cutter blade, once you've cut off the tree, you can angle the blade and grind the stump out with it."

Hicks' saw is priced under \$1,600, plus shipping from his shop in Kansas.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leroy Hicks, Hicks Fabrication, 4749 SE 61st, Berryton, Kan. 66409 (ph 785 862-8603).



"The taller tires provide a lot more ground clearance and let me go up to 10 mph on the road," says Gary Meyers, who mounted 24-in. high tires on his Melroe skid loader.

Oversize Skid Steer Wheels Boost Speed, Traction

If you've ever wished your skid loader could go faster or make it through deep mud or manure without getting stuck, you'll be interested in how Gary Meyers modified his Melroe 763 Bobcat. The Aberdeen, S. Dak., farmer replaced the original 10.00 by 16.5 tires with taller, narrower, lugged 9.5 by 24 tires that he mounted on wheel rims off a Versatile swather.

"The taller tires provide a lot more ground clearance and I can travel at speeds up to 10 mph on the road, compared to 6 1/2 mph with the original wheels," says Meyers.

There wasn't enough room to mount the bigger wheels in-line without them hitting each other. To solve the problem, Meyers moved the front wheels out about 3 1/2 in. He cut away four sections of rivets on the wheel rim that held the rim to the hub, then slid the rims out and welded them back together again.

"After three months of daily use, I'm really pleased," says Meyers. "I use this skid loader all year long in my cow-calf operation. I haul round bales and corn silage out to corn stubble fields about a quarter mile away. The faster road speed saves a lot of time. Once I get to the field I often have to go through deep manure because the cattle tend to

concentrate around the bale feeding area. The large, lugged tires let me go across the field fast without getting stuck. I think the same idea would work on any skid loader as long as the frame is long enough to accommodate the bigger tires.

"Another advantage is that these are 6-ply tires so they can run on lower air pressure which makes for a nicer ride. I put only about 25 lbs. of air in the front tires and 20 lbs. in the rear ones. The original 4-ply tires required 45 to 50 lbs. of air pressure. The difference in the ride is like comparing radial tires to bias tires.

"I paid \$130 apiece for the four new tires. I already had two of the wheel rims and bought the other two at a salvage yard for \$30 apiece.

"The only disadvantage with these big tires is that they can't support as much weight as the original ones. Also, they make the skid loader slightly less stable but I don't think it's a problem," says Meyers, noting that it just takes a few minutes to jack up the skid loader and put the original wheels back on.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Meyers, 12976-391 St.-Ave., Aberdeen, S. Dak. 57401 (ph 605 229-1135).

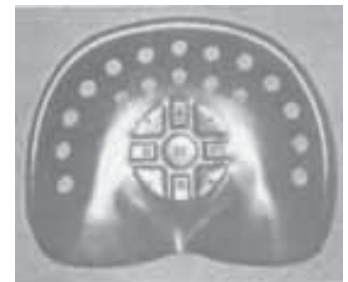
Universal Seat Fits Most Tractors, Implements

If you've got an old tractor or implement with a worn-out steel seat, you'll be interested in this universal replacement that's designed to replace most any factory seat with a 3-in. wide "C" spring mount. The seat comes with a 3-in. wide channel at the bottom that's double layered so it won't crack like many old ones.

The company offers two different models - one is a stamped-out metal seat, and the other a cast aluminum seat similar to the generic seat used by many implement manufacturers before 1900.

The steel seat sells for \$23.95 plus \$4 S&H. The cast aluminum seat sells for \$28.95 plus \$4 S&H. The company also sells bar stools fitted with antique tractor seats.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paschendale Wood Products, 1318 N. Ashley,



Universal replacement seat is designed to replace any factory seat with a 3-in. wide "C" spring mount.

Nixa, Mo. 65714 (ph 888 494-9112 or 417 724-9911; fax 417 724-9933; Website: www.jdseats.com).