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He Built His Own Skid Loader Mower

"It works great for cutting along fences and roadsides. I built it for a fraction of the cost of a new commercial model," says James Boyd, Galveston, Ind., about the 5-ft. mower he made for his Bobcat skid loader.

He built it out of an old commercial Gravely walk-behind mower he bought from a dealer for \$200. The entire setup is attached to a Bobcat commercial mounting plate that quick taches to the standard Bobcat loader arms. The unit hinges up and down on two pins and quick couples to the skid steer's auxiliary hydraulics.

He removed the Gravely deck and welded a steel plate on the mounting arms, to which he fastened a high speed (3,500 rpm) hydraulic motor and pulley. The motor belt-drives the deck's three blades. A 2 1/2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder raises and lowers the deck, which is supported by an arm made from 1/4-in. thick, 2-in. steel tubing.

The skid loader has a single auxiliary hydraulic circuit operated by a switch mounted on a control lever. Boyd bought another Bobcat switch and mounted it on the second control lever. The add-on switch controls a 12-volt, closed center solenoid valve that's used to activate the cylinder.

A pair of adjustable gauge wheels on front eliminate the need to adjust deck height manually.

"I spent about \$700 to build it. A similar commercial model would've cost at least \$2,500," says Boyd. "It was a lot of fun to



Unit hinges up and down on two pins and quick couples to skid steer's auxiliary hydraulics.

build. I use it to mow about a quarter mile of roadside. It'll cut brush up to 1 in. in diameter. The deck can be raised to about a 90 degree angle so I can also use it to trim tree limbs along lanes and hedges. I had to cut two inches out of the front part of the deck to keep tall grass from getting pushed down too much and not getting cut."

Boyd lives on a 30-acre hobby farm and has a Ph.D. in physics, which came in handy in building the mower. "I set up an Xcel spreadsheet program to calculate the angles so I'd know where to locate the pivot point," he notes.

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Pehovic used 2 by 4's and electrical conduit to build racks. Each rack holds about a half face cord of wood.

Labor-Saving Firewood Racks

To save time and eliminate handling firewood any more than is necessary, Ken Pehovic, Ocqueoc, Mich., designed and built a number of racks from treated 2 by 4 lumber and salvaged electrical conduit.

"Each rack holds about a half face cord of wood. It takes one person about 15 to 20 minutes to fill a single rack," says Pehovic.

Pehovic heats his home with a large wood stove. He buys 8-ft. logs by the semi load from local suppliers and processes them in his spare time.

During the heating season, when wood is

being used, he uses loader forks to pick up a rack of wood and move it from the storage area about 100 ft. away, to a spot close to the house for final use. He can move four or five racks in just a few minutes.

"Without the racks, I'd spend an awful lot of time just moving wood around by hand," says Ken.

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Quick Fingers slip over broken reel tines and simply snap into place.

Replacement Tines For Pipe Reel Headers

A new replacement poly tine for pipe reel headers allows you to quickly and easily repair broken reel tines.

The Quick Finger from S.I. Distributing slips over a broken reel tine and simply snaps into place. No tools are required. The replacement tine is hollow and has two small plastic clips molded into it at the top. As you slide the replacement over the old tine, the clips spread apart and grab hold of a wing on the existing tine.

"It works much faster than replacing the entire tine, and in most cases the cost is comparable," says Dave Burgei, S.I. Distributing, St. Marys, Ohio. "Most reels made today come with plastic tines, so when you run the reel down too close to the cutterbar to pick up a down crop, you can accidentally cut off part of the tines. To replace the tine,

you have to remove a bolt from the tine and replace it with a new one, which is time consuming. The Quick Finger works much faster."

The Quick Finger will fit the following pipe reels: AGCO 300, 400, 500, 700, and 800 series heads; Case-IH 1010, 1020, and 2020 series heads; Caterpillar 1998 and later; Deere 900 and 600 series heads; Massey Ferguson 9700, 9750, 9800, and 9850 series heads; and New Holland 971, 973, 71C, 73C, 72C, and 74C heads.

The product is sold in packs of 10 tines for \$22.50 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, S.I. Distributing, Inc., 03221 Barber Werner Road, St. Marys, Ohio 45885 (ph 800 368-7773; fax 419 394-8074; website: www.sidist.com).



Loader-mounted scaffold is built from an old 14-ft. combine header. Bucket-mounted bracket is used to hold scaffold on Schweppe's Deere 7320 tractor.

Loader-Mounted Scaffold Made From Combine Head

A loader-mounted scaffold built from an old 14-ft. combine header saves a lot of time for Glen Schweppe.

"It's very stable and gives us a lot of room to work," says Schweppe, of Syracuse, Neb.

He stripped the header down to the frame, removing the reel, auger, and sicklebar. He put a piece of rubber belting on the floor to stand on and used 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing to make a metal railing and runners on the bottom.

A bucket-mounted bracket with quick-tach "ears" on top of it is used to hold the scaffold on Schweppe's Deere 7320.

"It makes a nice, roomy, low-cost scaffold," says Schweppe. "I've used it to paint our house and quonset building and to work on the gutters. It's fairly lightweight because all that's left is the basic shell. The opening where grain used to feed into the combine is still there, so I can throw trash through the opening into the bucket.

"For safety, we position the scaffold so it's almost touching the building, then lock the brakes on the tractor. There's no room to fall down between the scaffold and building," he notes.



The same bucket-mounted bracket that holds the scaffold can also be used to move combine headers. Bracket attaches to loader bucket with four bolts. "I don't have a lot of extra storage room in my shed. To save space, I made a wooden platform that lets me stack my grain head on top of my corn head. I just drive up to each head and pick it up like I would if I was using my combine," notes Schweppe.

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