

Skid Loader-Mounted Brush Saw

James Boyd didn't want to spend the money for a skid loader-mounted brush cutting saw. So the Galveston, Ind., farmer built his own.

"I spent about \$650 to build it. Similar commercial units sell for about \$4,500," he says.

He bought a big 26 1/2-in. dia. blade equipped with carbide teeth on ebay, and ordered a hydraulic motor from Northern Tool. The blade mounts on a 1 7/16-in. dia. steel shaft. The shaft was slightly bent but Boyd was able to straighten it in his press. The hydraulic motor mounts on top of the 18-in. long shaft and direct-drives the shaft, connected by a chain coupler. Heavy bearings anchor the shaft to a steel plate. The shaft/blade assembly mounts vertically at the end of a 5-ft. length of 4-in. pipe.

He uses the auxiliary hydraulic switch on the Bobcat control handle to operate the saw.

"It works fast and is easy to use," says Boyd. "My son and I used it this summer to saw down about four acres of scrub trees in less than four days. We cut down the undesirable species and left the desirable ones. We have about six to eight acres left to do. We

plan to overseed the area with pasture mix in order to create some new grass land for our small cow calf operation. The saw will cut through a 9-in. dia. tree in one pass, flush with the ground so we can mow right over the stump. Since we don't plan to till the soil, we're leaving the stumps which will eventually decay. The roll cage on the Bobcat offers great protection from falling trees."

Boyd says the design eliminates the need to clear brush from around the base of the tree. "I just lay the saw blade flush with the ground and cut right through it all, turning the saw on only as it's needed. After I'm done using the saw I remove it and put the bucket back on the Bobcat so I can pile up the trash." Boyd notes that he can remove three bolts from the mounting plate and manually rotate the saw blade to a vertical position, allowing him to trim tree branches more than 12 ft. high.

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Bobcat-mounted brush-cutting saw measures 26 1/2 in. in diameter and is equipped with carbide teeth.



Hydraulic motor direct-drives shaft, connected by a chain coupler to a steel plate (left). By removing three bolts from mounting plate, Boyd can manually rotate saw blade to a vertical position.



With a tree on one side and a sidewalk on the other, there was no room for swinging gates on Matt Laipple's picket fence. So he came up with a sliding gate that opens nearly 16 ft. wide, yet fits the yard.

Simple Way To Make A Rolling Gate

With a tree on one side and a sidewalk on the other, there was no room for swinging gates on Matt Laipple's picket fence. So he came up with a sliding gate that opens nearly 16 ft. wide, yet fits the yard.

"Rubber castor wheels would have required a track and taken up space," says Laipple, who tried different methods. "I wanted something I could mow under and yet would be part of the gate."

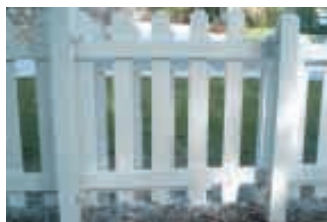
He considered using a barn door track, but recognized that it would be costly and unsightly. Finally he came up with a way to use garage door rollers that could be tucked out of sight.

Using a table saw, he cut a channel on the top side of the top 1 by 4 rail and on the bottom side of the bottom rail. Then he put rollers on them that fit into the C-channel grooves.

"Because the rollers are on adjustable plates, they can be moved up or down to lift or lower the gate height," explains Laipple. "If the gate starts to sag over time, I can easily adjust it."

Laipple has since built an 8-ft. gate and suggests that a similar apparatus could be built for tube-style metal gates. It would use sections of pipe to act as rollers.

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Garage door rollers mount on four posts, with two rollers on top of gate and two below.



Rollers are on adjustable plates so they can be moved up or down to adjust gate height.

Add-On Power Steering Kits

"I can custom-build power steering for nearly any kind of farm equipment that needs power steering," says Roland Jackson, Jetmore, Kan., who started out several years ago making add-on power steering units for older Ford utility tractors and has since branched out into all models of tractors and other self-propelled equipment.

"Our power steering units are 'true' power steering units, not power assist. They're built very strong with the same modern steering control units that are used in new equipment all over the world," says Jackson.

Although specific components vary, depending on the machine, Jackson's kit consists of a steering cylinder on each side of the tractor. The cylinders attach to the tractor by heavy drag links, which require no drilling or welding. His steering unit requires only two full turns of the wheel to move from extreme left to extreme right. The steering control unit is powered by the tractor's loader pump, using a priority flow valve to direct the correct amount of fluid to both the steering unit and to the loader.

Jackson says installing requires little modification of tractor so that if you ever want to return a tractor to its original condition, all you have to do is remove the unit and reinstall the original parts.

He recently completed a power steering kit



Add-on power steering units, originally designed for older Ford utility tractors, are now available for all models of tractors and other self-propelled equipment.

for a Deere 850 tractor that's shown in the attached photos.

Power steering kits sell for \$1,195.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jackson Power Steering, Rt. 2, Box 220, Jetmore, Kan. 67854 (ph 620 357-6546; email: sales@jacksonpowersteering.com; website: www.jacksonpowersteering.com).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our Website at www.farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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