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Power Unit Quick-Taches To Mower, Snowblower

Kevin Gliser, Shelbina, Mo., operates a commercial lawn care business. He got tired of having to buy and maintain a different machine for every job.

To solve the problem, he converted a Deere walk-behind mower into a power unit that's designed to quick-tach to a variety of implements. The original belt-driven power system was converted to pto drive, and he added quick-tach brackets that let him switch attachments with no tools.

"The idea is to get more use out of a single power unit, rather than having a power unit for each machine," says Gliser. "It takes only a minute or so to change attachments.

"So far I've mounted quick-tach brackets on a mower deck and on a snowblower. I plan to develop additional brackets for other implements such as a leaf blower, stump grinder, air compressor, generator, and log splitter."

The 1995 Deere GS 45 power unit was originally equipped with an electric pto clutch that belt-drove the mower deck. He removed the clutch, added a gearbox and installed a pair of pulleys, then welded a stub shaft to the gearbox.

The quick-tach bracket consists of a "hook and pin" mechanism. Gliser fabricated a hook for the top of the power unit frame, one hook for each side. He then drilled an extra hole in the bottom side of the power unit frame, which matches up with the implement-mounted bracket.

Then he bolted a homemade angle iron bracket to the deck and welded a similar bracket to the snowblower. A horizontal metal rod on front of the bracket fits into the notches

on the power unit's mounting bracket. To hook up to the deck he simply inserts a pin through each side of the bracket. Then he reaches underneath and hooks up the driveshaft.

He says various companies have tried different ideas for hooking up a power unit to multiple implements, but they're either too cumbersome and slow, or too expensive.

Gliser is looking for a manufacturer to take on the idea.

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Leaf-Raking Toolbar Fits Tractor 3-Pt.

By Dee Goerge

Thanks to a strange-looking contraption that attaches to his tractor's three-point hitch, Bartt Nettleman can rake 20 acres of campground in about two hours instead of the two weeks it used to take doing the job by hand.

As owner of Green Valley Campground in Sturgis, Mich., Nettleman dreaded raking leaves in the fall because the camp area is so wooded. He decided there had to be a better way. His first prototype had two spring-steel broom rakes on one handle to widen the area he could rake. As he pulled the heavy load of leaves to the road he thought, "I wish I had nine more people helping me pull." It occurred to him that his tractor would be better than people. He welded up a 9-ft. wide frame out of 1-in. tube steel with pegs to hold two rows of steel broom rake heads. He experimented with the angle and found 45 degrees worked out the best. It didn't dig up the soil and left enough spring in the rakes to do a good job.

"People laugh at it until they see the results," says Nettleman. The campground looks hand raked when he's done.

Nettleman uses a leaf blower in areas where his tractor won't go and pulls his multi-rake contraption over the rest of the area.

Besides leaves, Nettleman uses the rake to level the campground's roads. The rake heads are tough enough to last at least one season "if I don't hit any trees," Nettleman laughs.

While Nettleman is handy in the shop - he also customizes new and used golf carts - he hasn't built any rakes to sell, except to a neighboring golf course.

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"People laugh at it until they see the results," says Bartt Nettleman about his 3-pt. mounted raking contraption. He uses it to clear leaves off a 20-acre campground.



He welded up a 9-ft. wide frame out of 1-in. tube steel with pegs to hold two rows of steel broom rake heads.