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Stair-Step Scaffold Added To Deere Gator

William Richardson, Oakfield, N.Y., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of scaffolding steps that he and neighbor Sherwood Stoll came up with for their Deere Gator.

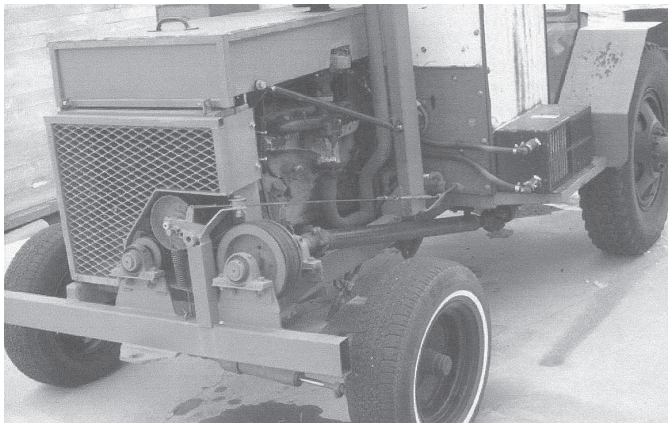
"The steps bolt onto the Gator bed and are used to clean eave troughs, pick apples, change light bulbs on outdoor lights, and do any other job that would otherwise require a ladder. The stair steps are more portable and easier to handle than a ladder," says Richardson.

The steps are made from wooden 2 by 8's and measure 10 1/2 ft. high by 4 ft. wide. The bottom end bolts onto a wooden frame that attaches with four bolts to the Gator bed. The top end is equipped with a hinged

wooden box, which can be folded down and used as a step or folded up and used as a toolbox or storage container. A foldable handrail bolts onto one side of the stair step. By pulling a single pin, the handrail can be folded back out of the way.

"It's very stable and isn't top heavy at all. In fact, it's much more stable than a ladder," says Richardson. "If we're picking apples, we can fold the box up and put the bags inside it. It also works good as a place to put our pruning tools when trimming trees."

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Home-built tractor creeps along at 1/2 mph at 2,000 rpm's or a foot per second at 1,500 rpm's. When slow isn't needed, it can travel down the road at highway speeds.

Hybrid Tractor Can Go Super Slow

Cutting grass and blowing snow require low ground speeds and high rpm's. To get both, Mike Olson assembled parts from a 1952 1 1/2-ton grain truck, old combines and other vehicles. The result is a tractor that can creep along at 1/2 mph at 2,000 rpm's or a foot per second at 1,500 rpm's. When slow isn't needed, it can travel down the road at highway speeds.

"I pulled the motor, transmission, rear axle and differential from the truck," says Olson. "The steering axle is from a Gleaner combine, and the steering system is from a 510 Massey Ferguson with a Chevy power steering pump to activate it. The cab came off a 141 International combine."

Olson built a frame out of 2 by 4-in. steel tubing. He laid out his tractor with the steer-

ing axle and engine at the rear. He put the pto, 3-pt. hitch, hydraulics and drive axle at the front.

"I flipped the differential around and put a second transmission between it and the truck transmission," explains Olson. "The two four-speed transmissions gear the engine speed down without losing rpm's."

For a 3-pt. hitch, Olson made a frame out of 4 by 1/2-in. steel and mounted it in front of the front differential with reinforcing arms extending back to the tractor frame beneath the driver's platform. Arms pivot at the lower corners of the frame and are stabilized by a section of wide pipe welded between them. The arm of a hydraulic cylinder mounted at a pivot point on the top center of the 3-pt. frame attaches to the pipe to raise and lower

"For someone who needs mobile power daily, it will pay for itself in less than a year just in generator fuel costs alone. It doesn't require any maintenance either," says Michael Breen.



No Generator Needed With Power Storage Systems

Plug in and go to work anywhere without a noisy generator with these new Power Storage Systems. The compact battery units make it easy to take your power with you and they're easy to recharge. The Journeyman II weighs in at 165 lbs. and stores 200 Ahr (Amp Hours) of electricity, while the Professional II at 280 lbs. stores 400 Ahr. Batteries are normally measured at a 20-hour rate, so a 400-Ahr battery can supply 20 amps per hour for 20 hours at 80 degrees.

"We provide power anytime, anywhere," says Michael Breen, Xtreme Power Solutions. "For someone who needs mobile power daily, they will pay for themselves in less than a year just in generator fuel costs alone. They don't require any maintenance either."

Both units are quickly recharged, either with household current (4 to 5 hours for the Journeyman) or with a special alternator installed in a van or pickup (less than an hour of driving or engine running time).

"One guy can work all day on the power from the Journeyman, doing welding or using a compressor, while the Professional will

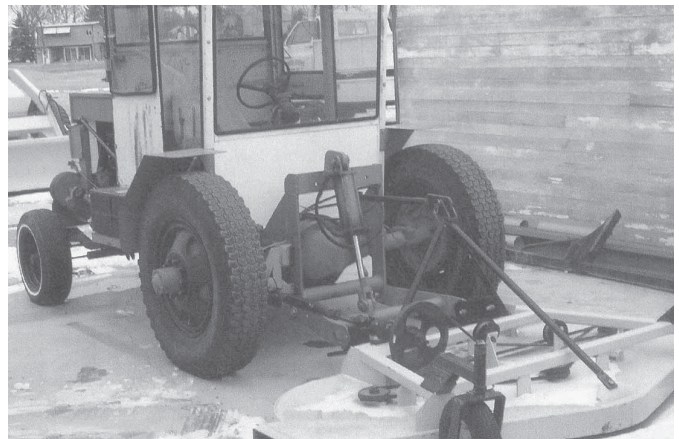
power a four man crew for 8 hours," says Breen. He notes the smaller unit should be ideal for most farmers and ranchers needing power for an hour or two at a time.

The Journeyman can be mounted in the box of a pickup for about \$3,000 including the cost of the alternator. A portable unit without the alternator sells for \$2,500. The Professional is \$5,000 including the alternator.

While the power is available at 115-volt AC thanks to the inverter, it can also be tapped as DC current. Xtreme Power Solutions offers a set of portable, high intensity lights for use with the systems.

"They can provide the equivalent of two 1,000-watt Halogen lights for a couple of hours," says Breen. "A single guy can light up a worksite with construction level lighting. They are DC powered, so they are more efficient."

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Olson built his own mower deck using a 4 by 8-ft., 1/4-in. sheet of flat iron. A belt drives three 30-in. blades.

the arms.

Olson installed a second power steering pump and a bigger tank for hydraulic oil reserve to power the 3-pt. hitch. He removed the relief valve and inserted a couple of shims to boost power.

"I got it up to 1,500 lbs. pressure, which is enough to raise or lower my 7-ft. snow blower or 8-ft. mower," says Olson.

To provide a pto, Olson built an adapter to mount a three-belt pulley on the engine crankshaft damper pulley. Belts run to a second pulley mounted on the right side of the engine. A belt tightener controlled from the cab activates the power. The outside pulley drives an auto driveshaft to transfer power along the side of the frame and under the cab to the front of the rig. Olson welded a splined pto

stub from an old Farmall H on the end of the driveshaft to drive the mower or snow blower.

Olson uses a commercial-built snow blower but he built his own mower deck using a 4 by 8-ft., 1/4-in. sheet of flat iron. A framework of 2 by 2-in. steel tubing forms a superstructure above the deck for mounting two pillow blocks for the pto drive shaft with a belt drive pulley on its end. The belt drives the three 30-in. Snapper blades mounted beneath the deck. A tripod of steel pipe with two legs attached to the edge of the deck nearest the 3-pt. arms, and one leg mounted to the rear of the deck, provides the third link for the 3-pt. with a fourth leg extending from the top of the tripod to the 3-pt. frame.

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