



Paul Behm uses a pressure washer to power his new log splitter.

## Water-Powered Wood Splitter

"The only liquid that can ever spill out is water," says Paul Behm about his first-of-its-kind water-powered log splitter that's powered by a high-pressure washer.

Behm came up with the unique machine while looking for ways to get more work out of machines he already owned. It gives him another use for his 3,200 psi pressure washer which would otherwise sit unused much of the time. And it eliminates the expensive hydraulic components that make up most of the cost of a splitter. He has applied for a patent on his new invention and is looking for a partner to help develop it.

Behm's splitting ram has a 2-way valve so there are no external hoses along the cylinder. Just the one hose from the pressure

washer that quick-connects to one end of the ram.

"I've used it to split 2-ft. long chunks of seasoned hard oak that was roughly 2 ft. in dia. I was able to split them easily," he says.

Behm likes the simplicity of the splitter. Just the main beam with a single cylinder and splitting wedge on top. No hoses to snag or break and no hydraulic oil to mess with. "It can be used in conjunction with a water reservoir tank to make it a closed system - if you don't already have a pressure washer - or you can use it as an open system, as shown," he notes.

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## "Oversized" Grapple Fork Built From Scrap Steel

"It handles larger logs and is more versatile than anything on the market," says Michael Bryan, Warren, Ind., about the grapple fork he built using part of the frame and the spring-loaded shanks off an old Deere 12-ft. field cultivator.

"I designed it to handle brush and logs and also to use as a pallet fork. Best of all, I didn't spend a nickel to build it - just my time," says Bryan, who built the unit two years ago. "I got the cultivator free from a neighbor."

The grapple fork measures 66 in. wide and is equipped with 40-in. long tines. He used channel iron and angle iron to make quick-tach mounting brackets on the back side of the cultivator frame. The 20-in. long curved cultivator shanks pivot up or down on a homemade rockshaft equipped with stub arms. The shanks come off by removing three bolts.

A 2-in. dia., 6-in. long hydraulic cylinder - off the boom on a Terragator self-propelled fertilizer applicator - is used to raise and lower

the shanks.

Some of the straight tines were made by cutting down the driveshafts off old combines. Others were made from scratch using 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe.

"I can carry two to four big logs at a time depending on their size, whereas most commercial grapple forks can carry just one log. That's because the tines on my grapple fork are much longer," says Bryan. "Commercial manufacturers have to limit the size of their grapple forks for liability reasons. But you just have to use common sense and not take too big a load so you don't tear up equipment."

The long tines are spaced so they can also be used to move a wooden pallet. "I've used the platform this way to work on windows around my house," says Bryan.

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## Powerful Pruners Fit Farm Tractors

Trim All Equipment Corporation of Clanton, Alabama, produces several different models of tree pruning attachments.

The Trim All "I," "II" and "III" models are made for use on skid steer loaders or farm tractor loaders, and have 12-ft. booms that can reach out between 21 to 27 ft., depending on the support vehicle being used. All three units have a 24-in., carbide-tipped circular saw blade at the end of a non-conductive fiberglass boom.

The I, II, and III offer booms that stick out in front - the model II unit's boom rotates 45 degrees left or right, and the model III unit's boom can also swing 90 degrees to the left.

In all cases, the boom and saw are operated by the support vehicle's hydraulic pumps and use the same controls that are used to run the front-end loader.

The Trim All I, II, and III weighs about 1,200 lbs.

"All are easy to install and detach, as it takes just a few minutes to insert or remove two pins and connect or remove the hydraulic couplers," according to Duane Lewis of Trim All Equipment Corporation. "There's no comparison to traditional boom mowers that rip trees apart. The Trim All cuts faster, cleaner and higher."

Trim All uses a limb deflector and a protective window to prevent falling limbs from entering the cab. A safety latch locks the boom in the "up" position when not in use.

The Trim All "I" is priced at \$7,500, the "II" is \$9,500, and the "III" is \$15,500. A heavier backhoe model is available that reaches out to 55 ft. and sells for up to \$45,000.

## Backup Video Makes Hitching Up Easy

Here's a cheap and easy way to make your own backup video which doubles as a great way to hitch up trailers behind cars and trucks.

Duane Thies, Winside, Neb., bought an inexpensive wireless camera from Harbor Freight & Salvage ([www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com); ph 805-388-3000). He mounted the small camera, which is on a mounting strap that's designed to fit existing screws on a license plate, on a "stiff hinge" at the back of his truck. Then he mounted the small monitor receiver on the dash inside the pickup. He can angle the camera downward to show the ball on his receiver hitch for easy hookups, or point it straight back for rear visibility when backing up.

"It makes it easy to get the ball lined up



Wireless camera mounts on back of Thies' truck, with monitor receiver in cab. He can angle camera downward to show the ball on his receiver hitch for easy hookups.

the first time every time," he says.

The wireless camera and monitor sell for less than \$100. It could be mounted easily on back of a combine, big tractor, or even on the back of big wagons or implements.

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## Dump Trailer Mounts On Boat Trailer

Frank Miller found a simple way to make a lightweight dump trailer for use around the farm. He mounted a wood cargo box on the frame of a boat trailer.

He uses the boat winch on the trailer to pull heavy objects like rocks, chunks of concrete, and machinery onto the trailer. The weight of whatever he's carrying drops the cargo box down to lock into position with a pin. To dump, he pulls the pin and tips it back.

"I get a lot of use out of this handy trailer," says Miller, who's retired and in his 80's.

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Boat winch comes in handy to pull heavy loads onto trailer.

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Bryan used the spring-loaded shanks off an old field cultivator to build "oversize" grapple fork. "The extra long tines let me carry two to four big logs at a time," he says.



Tree-pruning 12-ft. boom is made from non-conductive fiberglass and can reach out up to 27 ft. A 24-in., carbide-tipped circular saw blade mounts on end of boom.

A video showing the units in operation can be viewed on the company's website.

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All Equipment Company, 806 Center Ave., Clanton, Alabama 35045 (ph 205 280-3076; fax 205 280-3065; [www.trimall.com](http://www.trimall.com)).