

Build Yourself A Better Lawn Mower!



Mower deck's three 22-in. blades cut about 5 1/2 ft. wide and are belt-driven off engine.

Front-Mount 66-in. Mower Deck

"A couple years ago, FARM SHOW ran a story on my home-built, 4-WD/4-wheel steer garden tractor (Vol. 15, No. 5). I thought your readers might be interested in a front-mount 66-in. mower deck I built to put on the front of that tractor," says Bruce Lawson, Falconer, N.Y.

"I formed the mower deck out of 1/8-in. thick steel plate and installed three spindles. Using three 22-in. blades, it cuts about 5 1/2 ft. wide. I built the front caster wheel assemblies using 8-in. rubber tires and wheels bought out of Central Tractor's catalog (ph 800 247-0126 or 515 266-3101).

"The center spindle is belt-driven by a pair of belts via two idler pulleys off the engine. The two side spindles are then belt-driven off the center spindle. The rear of the mower is supported and attached to the hydraulically-operated lift frame under the

front of the tractor. While mowing, I run with the hydraulic valve in the 'float' position so the mower follows the contours of the lawn. I installed an old wringer washing machine roller under the back edge of the deck. This roller is set about 1 in. above the ground and only touches down when necessary, such as going over humps, to keep the mower from scalping.

"The engine, which runs both the tractor and the mower, is a 2-cyl. Wisconsin that seems to have plenty of power to do both jobs. I have about 2 acres of lawn which I can now mow in about 1 1/2 hrs.

"I don't have plans written down for the deck since I did it all in my head."

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Thor reversed the controls on his Allis Chalmers CA tractor and built mower deck that's pto-driven by an automotive rear end mounted vertically above deck.

"Zero Turn" Reversed Tractor Mower

You've never seen anything like this low-profile reversed tractor mower built out of an Allis Chalmers CA tractor.

"It's unbelievably easy to operate. I've never seen another mower with a 65-in. cutting deck that's so maneuverable and that makes such quick work of any kind of around-the-farm mowing," says builder Charles Thor, Hutchinson, Minn.

He reversed the controls on his Allis CA tractor, including the seat, steering, brake, clutch and shift levers, and built a mower deck from scratch that's pto-driven by an automotive rear end mounted vertically above the deck. There's a slip clutch bepto shaft and the car rear end on the mower deck protects the pto if the mower ever hits an obstacle. The two outside blades on the 3-bladed mower are belt-driven.

Thor replaced the original front and rear tires with 20-in. truck tires on back - with rims widened 2 in. - and put 10-in. trailer tires on front. The smaller tires changed the running speed of the tractor. Previously, 1st gear was too slow for mowing and 2nd gear

was too fast. The smaller-size wheels slowed down the tractor so 2nd gear now works ideal for all types of mowing, says Thor. Truck tires also do less damage to lawns than lugged tractor tires.

Large fenders enclose the rear wheels so they don't damage the many evergreens Thor has to mow around, and he also put a shroud over the top of the mower deck for safety and to keep out dirt.

"Because of the narrow wheel front, the tractor turns around in its tracks. Lets us cut right around trees like a sheep. No need for trimming after we're done mowing except for areas that we can't fit into with the tractor mower," says Thor.

To reverse the transmission, Thor flipped the ring gear over so the tractor now has 4 speeds in reverse and 1 forward. He also swapped the axle housings from right to left, which shortened up the length of the tractor's wheelbase several inches.

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Side-mount mower is powered by an 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine that belt-drives a single 26-in. blade. It mounts on Malone's Honda 350 4-WD ATV.

Side-Mount ATV Mower

"It pivots up or down so I can mow along roadside ditches and it also reaches under fences," says Walter Malone, Dunlap, Iowa, about the side-mount mower he made for his Honda 350 4-WD ATV.

Malone used parts off old riding mowers to build the mower. It's powered by an 8 hp electric-start Briggs & Stratton gas engine that belt-drives a single 26-in. blade. One side of the deck is bolted to an angle iron frame that bolts onto brackets welded to the front and rear of the ATV. The other side of

the deck is supported by a 6-in. wheel.

"It pivots up or down about 1 ft. so I can cut fairly steep roadside ditches. I also use it in my apple orchard to mow up close to a woven wire fence and to mow grass under an electric fence around my pasture. A steel rod runs diagonally from the outer edge of the deck up over the 1 1/2-gal. gas tank to keep electric wire from snagging on the mower. I generally shut off the fence charger before I start mowing. I had been using a Troy-Bilt walk-behind sickle mower but I



One side of deck is supported by a 6-in. wheel. Other side bolts onto brackets welded to front and rear of ATV.

got tired from all the walking. If I see a rock or other object ahead of me I can reach a lever from the ATV to loosen the belt and stop the blade. It eliminates the need to back up and go around the object. I can also reach the engine throttle from the ATV.

"I can change cutting height by changing position of a bolt next to the wheel. I usually mow about 4 in. high. I use another home-built mower that bolts on front of my ATV

to mow my yard. I can use the same engine on either mower by removing three bolts."

Malone used 2-in. angle iron to build the frame and sheet metal salvaged from an old 3-wheeled self-propelled mower to build the deck. The engine was taken from an old riding lawn mower.

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