

## Golf Cart Converted To Garden Tool Carrier

"Necessity may be the mother of invention, but for me it was mostly laziness," says Robert Lord, Keysville, Ga., who modified his golf cart to carry up to 7 different garden tools.

Lord operates a 5-acre farm with a vineyard and a lot of flowers and fruit trees. "I got tired of walking back to my shop all the time to get tools, especially since I have 2 artificial knees which bother me frequently. So when I saw a used golf cart for sale I bought it to haul stuff on the back," he says. "However, it didn't work too well because the tools kept falling off. My garden tool carrier keeps everything secure."

He removed the nylon strap from the top of the compartment on back of the cart that's designed to hold golf clubs in place, then cut a 5 1/2-in. wide, 27-in. long, 1/2-in. thick board to fit inside the compartment and bolted it in place of the straps. He also cut a 6-in. wide, 22-in. long board to fit inside the bottom compartment about 5 in. off the floor. The board is held in place by 3 L-shaped metal brackets that screw into the side of the cart. A hole cutter was used to cut 7 matching holes in both boards that support the tool handles.

"The cart came with a wire basket located between the seat and golf bag compartment, and I use it to store knee pads, rags, pieces of rope, etc."



**Robert Lord modified his golf cart to carry up to 7 different garden tools.**

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## Riding Mower Converted To Mini Dump Truck

"A friend of mine gave me an old 14 hp Sears Craftsman riding mower with a worn-out deck. I decided to put it to use in a new way," says Tom Kalista, Longview, Wash., who converted the machine into a handy mini dump truck.

"I use it every day. It works great," says Kalista. "We have a one-acre farm with chickens so I use it to haul feed, manure, rocks, dirt and so forth. To dump the box I just pull a lever located on the machine's floor."

He cut the mower frame behind the seat and welded in new material to lengthen the frame by 2 ft. He also welded a cross piece on back to support the dump bed. The bed measures 2 1/2 ft. wide by 4 ft. long by 3 ft. high and has 3/4-in. thick plywood sides bolted to 1-in. wide metal uprights, which set inside 1 1/4-in. stake pockets. By removing the sides Kalista can convert the dump bed to a flatbed.

The dump bed is built with an angle iron frame that's welded to a subframe that fits over the mower's frame. It pivots on a 1/2-in. dia. pipe.

The mower's belt-driven rear end and transmission were moved 2 ft. farther back, so Kalista had to lengthen the drive belt. He did that by welding a metal bracket underneath the mower's frame and then bolting a pair of carrier bearings and pulleys onto it. They support a 5-ft. long belt and another shorter belt to connect the engine to the transmission.

The front side of the dump bed is fitted with an angle iron bracket and one of the side tailgate locks off an old Dodge pickup. "Pulling the lever back causes the box to pop right up," says Kalista. "The dump bed trip lever replaces the gearshift lever, which I moved up to the steering column."

Kalista made 2 different sets of stake pocket sides for the dump bed, one 6 in. high and the other 1 1/2 ft. high. "I use the shorter rack to haul feed bags or rocks, and the taller rack to haul bulky stuff like chicken manure," he says.

He also made 2 different sets of hitches,



**Tom Kalista converted an old Craftsman riding mower into this handy mini dump truck.**



**He lengthened the frame by 2 ft. and also welded a cross piece on back to support the dump bed.**

one a ball hitch and the other a receiver hitch.

Kalista says people often ask him how much he would want to build them a mini dump truck like his. "I tell them about \$1,000, not counting the mower. The mower was given to me so I spent only about \$150, not counting my labor. I built a similar machine for my son, but instead of welding in channel iron to lengthen the frame I used angle iron because that's what I already had."

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## Modifications Make ATV Winches Work Better

Pillow block bearings, bigger batteries and bigger bumpers have Sidney Stubbs' ATV-mounted winches working smoother and better. He has eliminated worn and frayed strands on his winch cable with a pillow block bearing. Bigger bumpers make big winches more effective, and a bigger battery protects his ATV and adds versatility.

"Square guides can damage a steel cable," explains Stubbs. "Most guides also don't help with spooling the cable."

He recognized that a pillow block bearing could solve both problems. "The race is hardened steel, and there is nothing to fracture the steel cable strands," he notes. "It is when the cable cuts into softer steel that you get the wear and the wickers. The race on the bearing turns with the line."

To provide lateral movement for improved spooling, Stubbs used a steel plate with slots for the mounting bolts. The plate was mounted ahead of the winch with the bolts tightened just enough to allow smooth movement.

"The entire pillow block moves left or right as the line unspools or spools," says Stubbs.

When he needs more pulling power, Stubbs slides his 8,000-lb. winch into place on his quad.

"I have one set of receiver hitches for my blade and a second set for the big winch," says Stubbs. "It has a remote control which makes it handy for pulling logs out of the woods."

The size of a quad or ATV is usually the limiting factor to how much dead weight a winch can pull. To use bigger winches, Stubbs needed to anchor his quad. Rather than chain the rear end to a tree and put thousands of pounds of force on the frame, he mounted the big winch to a heavy-duty bumper.

"I can push the bumper up against a tree and use it to pull against," says Stubbs. "It works great for large logs."



**Sidney Stubbs eliminated worn and frayed strands on his ATV-mounted winch cable by installing a pillow block bearing.**



**He also installed a bigger bumper to support a bigger winch, which is powered by a 12-volt automotive battery mounted on back.**

Big winches require more power than the standard ATV or quad battery can offer. To provide it and make the quad more dependable and versatile, Stubbs went to a standard 12-volt automotive battery.

"I mounted it in a toolbox and replaced the cables with heavy-duty cables that would carry the amps required by the winch motor," he says. "It also means no more rooting around for the OEM battery in its confined area."

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## ATV-Mounted Dump Box

Rich Ferfecki didn't like pulling a small wagon behind his ATV when doing chores around his place. So he unbolted the box from the trailer and mounted it on back of the ATV, converting it to a handy dumping cargo box.

The dump box measures 3 1/2 ft. long and 2 1/2 ft. wide and has 1-ft. high sides. It mounts on a pair of rails bolted to the ATV's rear cargo rack.

"I use it on my Suzuki 212 4-wheeler to haul everything from firewood to sand, gravel, chicken manure and so forth. It's much more convenient to use than pulling a wagon," says Ferfecki. "I don't have to worry that I might drive around a tree and forget the wagon is behind me. And I have a much better view when backing up. Being able to dump the load is also a big advantage."

He bolted a pair of shelving rails onto the cargo rack and then bolted 2 angle iron brackets on the rails and 2 more on the dump body. A 3/4-in. dia. steel rod goes through both brackets to connect the dump body to the ATV and to serve as a pivot point.

"It's really handy to use. I researched the internet but couldn't find anything on the market like it," says Ferfecki. "Once the dump body is full, I open the tailgate and pull 2 pins from the brackets that hold the rod. Then I walk back and open the tailgate, and then push down on back of the body to dump the load. It's big enough to hold 2 wheelbarrows worth of firewood or 1 1/2 wheelbarrows worth of gravel."



**Rich Ferfecki unbolted the box from a small wagon and mounted it on back of his ATV, converting it to a handy dumping cargo box.**



**Box mounts on a pair of rails bolted to ATV's rear cargo rack.**

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