



David Zuhlsdorf made this stand-up, off-road 4-wheeler by crossing a scooter with an ATV.



The 4-wheeler's front and rear ends have independent frames connected at a pivot point. "The front end can twist one way and the back another," says Zuhlsdorf.

Stand-Up 4-Wheeler Offers "Lots Of Fun"

David Zuhlsdorf crossed a scooter with an ATV and made a stand-up, off-road vehicle like no other. The platform on wheels gives him more visibility than a conventional ATV and is just plain fun.

"I started building scooters with big wheels for the kids. Then I decided to make one for myself," says Zuhlsdorf. "It has 2-wheel drive powered by a 10 hp engine and it really goes. I even have a hitch on it so I can use it for pulling a trailer."

The frame was made with 1-in. square tubing, and the front axle is 2-in. pipe. With four, 20-in. high wheels, the stand-up

rig is just under 40 in. wide and 6 ft., 3 in. long. Except for brake pedals on the floor, all controls are all mounted on the T-bar handlebars. It stands about 54 in. high.

Zuhlsdorf opted for a thumb throttle like on ATV's after finding a hand throttle too dangerous.

"I used a 10 hp Briggs & Stratton with a torque converter clutch," says Zuhlsdorf. "I have shock absorbers on the front and back and 2 sets of springs on the platform to keep it stable."

Front and rear ends have independent frames connected at a pivot point. The

platform where the operator stands is semi-independent of both sets of frames. An axle-like shaft runs beneath the floor and connects to both front and rear ends at bearings. A stabilizer plate keeps it from wandering.

"The front end can twist one way and the back another," explains Zuhlsdorf. "When I go up a hill or straddle a ridge and then start down the other side, I can feel the ends twisting one way and then back the other."

The platform is suspended from both rear and front frames by springs. This keeps the operator stable as the front and rear ends are flexing.

"Initially I thought I could lean into curves with a solid frame, but I quickly found that didn't work," says Zuhlsdorf. "With the springs on the platform, I can stay upright and in control."

With the rear-mounted engine, the entire rig weighs about 400 lbs.

Zuhlsdorf has patented the unique off-road vehicle and is looking for a manufacturer to build and distribute it.

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Zero-Turn Mower Makes Great Barn Scraper

Dave Wampler cleans out his dairy barn fast with his zero-turn scraper. The modified mower has the speed and maneuverability that makes barn cleanup easy.

"Cleaning these areas has always been a 2-man job, and now one person can do it," says Wampler. "Making a zero-turn scraper is something I had wanted to do for years."

When he and his brother Keith replaced a zero-turn Simplicity with a new mower, Wampler had the chance. The older mower had started using a lot of oil, so he went to work on it, replacing the head gasket and also stripping away the mowing deck.

"I used a lot of the linkage for the mowing deck, cut a couple of notches in the front frame and swung it out front," says Wampler. "I mounted a half truck tire trimmed for scraping to the linkage and cut a slot in the platform deck for a foot pedal. When I push it down, the linkage raises the tire scraper up."

Wampler says the zero-turn goes where they can't take their tracked skid steer with

its scraper blade. The housing area for the cows has rubber mats.

"If we go in there with the skid steer on tracks, it will rip them up," says Wampler. "The zero-turn is no problem."

He says the scraper has been a real labor saver, which was extra valuable when his brother had shoulder surgery.

"We use it every day, sometimes twice a day. It really helps out, and it only uses about 6 gal. of gas a month," says Wampler.

After using it for the past year, Wampler is planning to swap out the tire for a metal scraper. "It's hard to get the tires cut straight," he explains. "I'm going to make one using the snout liner from a harvester instead."

You can check out a video of the zero-turn scraper at www.farmshow.com.

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Dave Wampler turned an old zero-turn riding mower into a handy barn scraper. "It has enough speed and maneuverability to make barn cleanup easy," he says.

Step-Mounted Boom Makes Spraying Tough Spots Easy

Merle Martin's side-step mounted boom is ideal for spraying hard to reach areas. The 6-ft. boom has 2 tips mounted on the boom and a flat fan nozzle at its tip.

"I have 2 valves on the spray solution line so I can shut off either the spray tips on the boom or the end nozzle or run all three," says Martin. "I use it to spray road ditches, fence lines, woods and field edges."

The boom hinges to a 3-ft. long, 3-in. wide steel leg mounted to the step on the right hand side of Martin's Deere 2755. A small hand winch is mounted at the top of the leg. It lets him raise or lower the boom. A cord on the winch is tied to the boom about halfway up

the boom length.

Two washers with rubber belting on the winch shaft brake the cord. Once Martin sets the boom in position, it stays in place.

"I could have used a hydraulic cylinder, but I can easily control the winch from the tractor seat, adjusting valves and boom height," says Martin. "I have a flat fan tip with variable flow on the end. It puts out more solution on the top and is lighter on the bottom to throw product farther out when spraying along the woods."

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Merle Martin uses the side-step mounted boom on his tractor to spray road ditches, fence lines and field edges.