



**“Mechanics say it can often take 30 min. or more to get a hub off normally. With my Hub Master Hub Puller it takes me only 30 seconds,” says inventor Jerry Titera.**



## Hub Puller Fixes Skid Steers Fast

Replacing seals and bearings on skid steer hubs without damaging the hub is a real challenge. That’s why Jerry Titera developed the Hub Master Hub Puller.

“Mechanics tell me it can often take 30 min. or more to get a hub off normally,” says Titera. “It takes me 30 sec. to remove a hub. Watch my video and time me. It takes me 2 min. to pop the wheel off and have the hub in my hand.”

Titera’s brainstorm came out of frustration. He had a leaky seal on his Bobcat skid steer and tried to get the hub off and failed. The removable hub is a great innovation over other skid steers that still have the hub as a part of the axle. However, it fits

so tight that it can be nearly impossible to get free.

“After two nights in the shop I had the rough design for my hub puller, tried it, and it worked,” recalls Titera. “All I needed to do was to move the hub 1/16 in., and it’s off.”

What Titera came up with was a puller plate drilled to match the bolt pattern on the hub. It has a big pin at the center. Once the wheel is removed, he slips the plate with the pin in it onto the bolts and tightens the lug nuts. The pressure of the pin against the axle pops the hub loose.

Titera has received a patent on his invention. The puller is powder coated, and the center pin is coated against rust. He has it

priced at \$438.11 including S&H and tax.

“I always check back with customers on their satisfaction levels and ask if it was worth the price,” says Titera. “They tell me it’s worth it for time saved alone.”

Currently Titera makes his Hub Puller for 8-in. wheel patterns. Plans are in progress for a 10-in. pattern for the new M series Bobcat.

All orders are to be placed through Pay Pal at the website [www.hubmasterinc.com](http://www.hubmasterinc.com).

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**Reader Inquiry No. 114**

**Paul King built this 2-man, self-propelled harvesting cart out of a Craftsman riding mower. Cart still has the mower’s original engine, transmission, rear axle and wheels.**



**Engine and drivetrain mount 4 ft. off the ground, above operators. Both rear wheels are belt-driven.**

## Vegetable Crop Picker Built From Riding Mower

Paul King says harvesting fruits and vegetables is a lot more enjoyable with the 2-man, self-propelled harvesting cart he built out of a Sears Craftsman riding mower.

The harvester measures 60 in. wide and 48 in. high and contains a pair of cargo racks designed to carry boxes that hold harvested vegetables. The machine still has the mower’s original 18 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, transmission and rear axle and wheels. The engine and drivetrain mounts 4 ft. off the ground on tall steel legs and is used to belt-drive the rear wheels.

“I’m a machine shop fabricator and built this unit for a customer who has a vegetable growing operation. He says it works great. The rig has 4 ft. of clearance so he can pick everything from strawberries to tomatoes. It took me 3 months to build because there

was a lot of trial and error, but I think I could build another in 2 or 3 weeks,” says King.

King used 2-in. tubing to build the machine’s front legs and 2 by 6 tubing to build the rear legs. To drive the rear wheels he disconnected the mower’s rear axle and wheels, lengthened each axle by 1 1/2 ft., and mounted a pulley on each one. Another pulley mounts at the top of each leg. Then he welded new material onto the mower’s drivetrain housing and welded the top part of each leg onto it.

Steering is done with a remote control that’s wired to a 12-volt winch mounted on a metal rack on front of the mower’s hood. The winch cable is connected to the mower’s tie rods. The remote control has 2 buttons, and pushing them causes the machine to turn either left or right.

The machine still has the original gearshift lever. A lever on back of the machine, connected by a metal rod to the mower’s clutch, is used to propel the machine forward.

The rig’s 2 swivel chairs are off a fishing boat, and each one is mounted on an arm that can be swung sideways and also up or down. The front cargo rack can also be adjusted up or down and swiveled from side to side.

With the steering mechanism there wasn’t room for the mower’s muffler so King relocated the muffler to the side on front.

King says he’s willing to build the vegetable picker for about \$2,900.

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