

Made-It-Myself Tractor Towbar

"A few years ago I used scrap steel to make a towbar for my 1957 IH 350 row crop tractor. Makes it easy to move this little tractor around," says Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.

Swensen uses the 5-ft. long towbar to pull the tractor behind his pickup or other machinery when moving from one field to another. It's equipped with a drawbar and lock pin on front, allowing it to connect to a pickup or another tractor. The hitch hinges on a pair of bolts, allowing it to be folded up out of the way. A pair of chains hooked onto clevises keep the towbar upright.

"I originally built the towbar so I could tow the tractor behind my pickup to a farm 12 1/2 miles away, where I used it to operate a grain auger," says Swensen. "It also came in handy if the tractor needed repairs, because I could drop it off in town and then drive the pickup home without needing a ride from someone. A local welder, Dennis Hartman of Double D Machine Shop (ph 605 665-8066) helped me build it."

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Home-built 5-ft. long towbar lets Swensen pull his IH 350 row crop tractor behind his pickup.



Triangle-shaped ball hitch makes it easy to hook up trailers and move them around. "I lower the hitch to the ground, lift the trailer, and then automatically unhook at the new location," says LeBlanc.

Ball Hitch Designed For Easy Hook Up

"I needed a way to hook up trailers and move them around without having to get off my 1972 IH Cub tractor, so I mounted a ball hitch that hinges on the tractor's rear lower toolbar. It's a real time saver around my farm," says Jesse LeBlanc, Gibson, La.

The triangle-shaped hitch bolts onto a horizontal steel pipe already on the tractor, which was used to support a pair of pto-driven pulleys that belt-drove a mower. LeBlanc welded a pair of hinged metal brackets onto the pipe that lets the hitch swivel up or down. He also welded a 2-in.

ball on back of the hitch.

"I keep several trailers parked on our lawn during the summer and have to move them whenever I cut the grass, so the hitch really comes in handy," says LeBlanc. "By using the tractor's 'power up and down' option I can lower the hitch to the ground, lift the trailer, and then automatically unhook at the new location."

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Bucket-Mounted 5th Wheel Attachment

Moving a fifth wheel camper around his yard is no longer a problem for Jeff Moore, Lake Geneva, Wis., since his friend Tim Marshall of Booneville, Ky., made a simple bucket-mounted attachment for Moore's tractor loader bucket.

The attachment is a short steel pipe welded on top of the bucket to form a "cup" to lift the camper's king pin. A bolt on one side of the pipe holds the hitch, and a small hole at the bottom allows water to drain out.

"I needed a way to move the camper short distances without having to install the fifth

wheel hitch in my pickup," says Moore. "The camper was a pain to move whenever I wanted to mow around it because I always had to install the fifth wheel hitch in the pickup bed.

"The safety bolt is there to keep the fifth wheel hitch cylinder from accidentally bouncing out, but I don't use it because I always move the camper very slowly."

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Short steel pipe welded on top of bucket forms a "cup" to lift camper's king pin.



Mice enter through small holes cut into all 4 corners of box and get caught in traps placed in front of each hole. A plywood cover goes over the top.

"Catch Box" For Mice

"I've had great success with this simple, foolproof mouse trap. I place it around a building's foundation, but it could also be used inside," says Dave Meiners, Edgerton, Minn. "It's just 2 by 2's and plywood."

Meiners cut small holes into all 4 corners of the box. He places mouse traps inside the box in front of each hole and then attaches the removable plywood cover.

"Works great and cost almost nothing to make," says Meiners. "Mice like to investigate small dark holes, so they crawl in through the holes and get caught in the traps. There's no need for bait."

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