



Side-mount mower was built by cutting up a Wheel Horse riding mower. The engine and hood mount sideways on a steel frame fitted with mower's original front wheels.



Deck extends from back side of engine and hood. "It works great to mow hard-to-reach areas under trees and out over ditches," says Larry Johnson.

Side-Mount Deck Made From Riding Mower

Larry Johnson, Ontario, N.Y., recently sent photos of a "side-mount" mower he built by cutting up an old electric-start Wheel Horse C 141 riding mower. He pulls the mower behind his Deere Sabre 25 hp. garden tractor equipped with a 48-in. mower deck.

"It works great to mow hard-to-reach areas under trees and out over ditches. Total cutting width for both mowers is about 7 1/2 ft.," says Johnson.

The transmission was shot on the old Wheel Horse so he unbolted the engine and hood from the rest of the machine, keeping the deck and front wheels. The engine and hood mount sideways on a home-built steel frame fitted with the Wheel Horse's original front wheels. The deck mounts directly to the back side of the engine and hood and rides on another set of wheels. A pair of small antiscalp gauge wheels keep the deck level.

The deck remains stationary as it hangs out over a ditch bank, with its 2 wheels suspended off the ground. To counterbalance the deck's weight as it hangs over ditch banks, Johnson made a "weight box" that rides on a single wheel. It attaches to the trailing mower with a pair of trailer ball hitches and a length of chain that adjusts with a ratchet handle off an old drag. A plastic gas tank strapped on next to the engine supplies fuel.

The most difficult part of the job, says Johnson, was figuring out how to belt-drive the backward-facing deck. "The deck still belt-drives off the engine, but I had to change the pulley setup and twist the belt," he notes.

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Sidearm Mower Trims Ditch Banks

Wayne Cockrell keeps the roadside in front of his property well-mowed by mounting a push mower on the side of his Skag 52-in., zero-turn riding mower.

The 22-in. push mower extends 30 in. out to the side and swivels on a pair of 30-in. arms made from 1-in. square tubing. Cockrell bolted a pair of metal plates with U-shaped brackets on top of the push mower deck, and also on the riding mower's frame under the discharge chute. Bolts that run through both ends of the arms serve as hinge points, allowing the push mower to flex up or down.

"I came up with the idea because I got tired of using a weedeater to control the weeds on that slope. A job that used to take a half day now takes just 10 min.," says Cockrell. "I already had both mowers. To disconnect the push mower I just pull 2 bolts."

Cockrell used the top of a junked-out EZ-GO golf cart to make a shade canopy for the riding mower. "It got me out of the hot sun. It was easy to do and cost almost nothing,"

he says.

He unbolted the golf cart top along with its 4 upright supports. He folded the mower's rollbar down and bolted a pair of metal plates onto it. He also bolted plates on both sides of the mower frame on front. He then welded homemade brackets onto the uprights and bolted them on.

To make the mower easier to see, he mounted a pair of large flasher beacons on back of the folded-down rollbar. They're wired to the mower's battery.

"When mowing the ditch I have to drive alongside the road, and the beacons make the mower more visible to vehicles," says Cockrell. "I bought the beacons cheap at a yard sale and flip a switch to turn them on or off. I also mounted a big mirror on one of the front uprights to see what's behind me."

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Side-mounted push mower extends 30 in. out to the side of zero-turn mower and swivels on a pair of 30-in. arms made from square tubing. Bolts that run through both ends of the arms serve as hinge points, allowing push mower to flex up or down.



Snowblower Engine Powers Bucket-Mounted Mower

Bud Wice uses a loader-mounted mower deck to trim drainage ditches on his Mactier, Ontario property.

The 42-in. wide deck is belt-driven by the 12 hp. engine off an old walk-behind snowblower and extends 4 ft. outside the bucket. It mounts on a homemade steel frame, that pins onto a pair of metal tubes bolted to the bucket floor.

"I use it alongside a 1 1/2-mile long driveway that has a ditch on each side. It's simple to use, and I can see everything well without having to look back," says Wice.

"The deck cuts level and isn't designed to tilt up or down. All I want to do is keep brush and small trees in the ditch from growing too tall and becoming a problem."

He bought the mower deck at a scrap yard for \$75. A neighbor gave him the snowblower engine. He used 1 1/2-in. sq.

tubing to build a steel frame, which slides into a pair of 2-in. sq. tubes bolted to the bottom of the bucket. The snowblower's 2 wheels support the frame on front, while another wheel supports the outside end of the deck.

The snowblower came equipped with a vertical belt pulley, which is used to operate a long horizontal belt that drives the mower deck. The conversion is made possible by a homemade, double shaft setup.

"I bolted two separate shafts to the sides of the snowblower frame and mounted a pulley on each one, using bearings to hold the shafts in position," says Bud. "The separate shafts allow one pulley to turn clockwise and the other counterclockwise, in order to continue the motion of the belt."

Bud mounted the snowblower's clutch arm and spring on one end of the main frame. The engine and its original mounting frame

are bolted onto a separate angle iron frame which, by pulling on a cable, can be slid back and forth in order to adjust belt tension.

He used the mower last summer for the first time. "It works better than a sicklebar mower because it chops up the vegetation finely instead of just cutting it off and laying it over on its side," says Bud. "I spent less than \$300 to build it. My neighbor gave me the snowblower engine. I probably spent \$200 on steel and welding.

"It's easy to remove. I just pull two pins that attach the frame to the bucket and back the tractor away."

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Mower deck is driven by the 12 hp. engine off a walk-behind snowblower. It mounts on a steel frame that pins onto 2 metal tubes bolted to bucket floor.