

Tractor Drag For Driveways, Compost

Earl Line, Melita, Manitoba has found several uses for the drag leveling unit he built for use behind his small tractors.

"I use this unit for leveling a gravel driveway and to break up any dried clumps in compost after we spread it over our yard," says Line.

The leveler was made mainly from recycled materials Line already had on hand. He used rub bars from a combine, square 1-in. tubing, and an old fertilizer spreader feeder chain at the rear. Eye bolts extend from the square tubing to help support the feeder chain. Line attached the feeder chain using chain links.

"It took me about 2 days to put together. I spent about \$150 to have the connecting bars that hold the rub bars fabricated and bent to the right angles. I can mount it to the rear of my Deere 425 yard tractor or my Deere 1025R sub-compact tractor. I have used it for about a month and it works great."



Earl Line used materials he had on hand to create this drag leveler. It's made from chain off a fertilizer spreader.

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Steel railroad tie chained to loader bucket holds the load together, allowing Tschetter to haul big loads of loose material.

"Poor Man's" Grapple Fork

"I built what I call a 'poor man's' grapple fork using an old steel railroad tie that I chained to the bucket on my Kubota 23 hp. loader tractor. The railroad tie holds the load together, allowing me to haul loads 3 times bigger than the bucket could by itself. Works great to haul and load loose material such as compost, brush and mulch," says Quinton Tschetter, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

He welded chain hooks to both sides of the bucket. He also welded a pair of hooks onto a 6-ft. long steel railroad tie. A pair of 7-ft. long chains with clevises attach to the hooks.

To grab a pile of brush, Tschetter drives

forward until the railroad tie is up and over the pile and then lowers it to the ground. He then backs up, with the railroad tie dragging along the ground until the chains are tight. He lowers the bucket to the bottom of the pile, then drives forward again, pushing the bucket under the pile.

"The farther I push the bucket under the pile, the bigger the load gets," says Tschetter.

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Loader Fitted With 3-Pt. Pallet Fork

"I like to build things without spending a lot of money, so I bought a 3-pt. pallet fork at a farm store for \$50 and adapted it to fit the 4-ft. bucket on my Kubota 23 hp. loader tractor," says Quinton Tschetter, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The pallet forks are spaced 30 in. apart, so Tschetter welded a horizontal 30-in. length of angle iron onto the back side of the bucket. To attach the forks, he tilts the bucket down and then drives forward until the bottom rests against the pallet fork's frame. Then he tilts the bucket up to engage an existing lip on back of the bucket against the angle iron.

"It's very handy for light to medium pallet loads, and my small tractor makes it easy to maneuver," says Tschetter. "The only limitation is that the forks extend about 16 in. in front of the bucket, which reduces the lifting capacity."

Tschetter also welded a shorter angle iron to the top of the pallet fork's frame, allowing him to use the pallet fork with the bigger bucket on his Massey Ferguson 165 loader tractor. "The Massey bucket doesn't have a lip on it, so I welded a matching lip to it," he says.

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Tschetter adapted a 3-pt. pallet fork to fit the 4-ft. bucket on his 23 hp. Kubota loader tractor.

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3-Pt. Mounted Cube Cake Feeder

Making use of a 55-gal. plastic barrel and the grain conveyor off an old Deere 35 combine, Matthew Hempel put together a low-cost, 3-pt. mounted range cube feeder for his cattle. It holds 300 lbs. of cubes.

"It lets me feed cattle from the seat of my tractor by pulling on a lever. The hydraulic-powered conveyor delivers the cubes off to the side," he says.

"I built it because I didn't want to spend the money for a commercial pickup-mounted cube feeder. We had been feeding cubes by hand out of 50-lb. bags, but it was dangerous work. Our cows love range cubes so much that if you're not careful you could get trampled."

He shortened the conveyor to 6 ft. and bolted it onto a wooden platform that rests on a pair of 3-pt. mounted forks. The conveyor is shaft-driven by a small hydraulic motor that runs off the tractor's hydraulics. The barrel lays sideways on top of the conveyor, and is bolted to an angle iron bracket welded to the conveyor.

Hempel cut a 6-in. wide slot lengthwise into the underside of the barrel, and a corresponding slot on top of the conveyor. He also cut an opening on top of the barrel and made a hinged lid so he can dump in bags of feed by hand.



Hempel used a 55-gal. plastic barrel and the grain conveyor off an old combine to build this 3-pt. mounted cube feeder.

He also can set the feeder in his pickup bed and operate it off the vehicle's hydraulics.

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Tommy Gate Added To Back Of Trailer

Ron Cervený made loading his new home-built trailer easier by equipping it with an old Tommy Gate lift. He got the idea after seeing how handy a Tommy Gate was on a friend's pickup.

"I got an old Tommy Gate at a salvage yard for only \$150," says Cervený. "The old ones don't work on new trucks, so they don't hold their value."

After thinking about how to use the Tommy Gate for about 5 years, Cervený built a 4 by 8-ft. trailer for it. He fabricated it using 1/4-in. wall, 2 by 4-in. steel tubing for the frame and steel deck plate for the floor. The 3,000-lb., heavy-duty axle has been more than enough to handle any load thrown at it.

"I adapted the rear of the trailer to fit the upright brackets that normally sit on a pickup," says Cervený. "The Tommy Gate actually extends the trailer tailgate by about 12 in. to a full 9-ft."

The Tommy Gate is designed with its lift system completely enclosed. Once it was mounted, all Cervený needed was a battery to power it. He mounted a 12-volt, deep cycle



Cervený built a 4 by 8-ft. trailer and added an old Tommy Gate lift and 12-volt deep-cycle battery to make trailer easy to load.

battery on the front of the trailer.

"They are amazing," says Cervený. "They last all day on a single charge."

"My sons have used it a lot, moving refrigerators and freezers," says Cervený.

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Handy Small Herd Calf Cart

Wayne Youngblom was tired of carrying bottles across the yard to feed calves. After seeing some of the large commercial carts available that hold many bottles, he decided he didn't need one that large or expensive.

He made a cart from scrap metal and old wheelbarrow tires that holds 12 bottles, 5 gal. of pellets and 5 gal. of water all in one trip.

"I built it last fall. I spent about 10 to 12 hrs. on it after spending some time thinking what would work best to save time and trips back and forth," says Youngblom.

"It works well. I did change to the larger wheelbarrow tires that work better in mud and snow."

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Youngblom's handy cart holds 12 bottles, 5 gal. of pellets and 5 gal. of water, saving time feeding calves.