

Skid Loader Forklift Loads 21 Ft.

An industrial forklift mast mounted on a Deere 325 skid loader allows Alan Lewis of Statesville, N.C., to raise loads up to 21 ft. high.

Lewis, a residential home builder, removed the skid loader's bucket and forks and replaced them with an Allis Chalmers forklift mast, which he bought from a local masonry contractor. He also had a local welding shop build a 12-ft. long, 52-in. wide, and 42-in. high metal basket that slides onto the forks.

The add-on mast uses the skid loader's existing hydraulic system to lift loads on a pair of 4-ft. forks. Lewis welded a universal adapter plate on back of the mast that attaches to the skid loader arms.

"I use the forklift and basket to lift pallets loaded with plywood and other materials to the upper floors of new homes. It greatly reduces the labor involved in hauling materials," says Lewis. "The forklift can reach up under building rafters like a telehandler, but is much more maneuverable and fits into tight spots better.

"Even with the basket loaded and the mast fully extended, the skid loader remains surprisingly stable. However, I do



Industrial forklift mast attaches to skid loader arms and can be fitted with a 12-ft. long metal basket that slides onto the forks.

plan to add weights on back of the skid loader as a counterbalance."

He paid \$800 for the forklift mast and tires. "I've made 3 other skid loader forklift masts that raise up to 16 ft. high and sold one of them. I've also built other baskets, including a 4-ft. square one that I use to trim

tree limbs."

Lewis says he's willing to build forklift masts for others if there's enough interest.

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Sensor Controls "Chicken Door"

Two engineers who are friends teamed up to create an automatic chicken door and other poultry products. Tony who is an electrical engineer and Mark who is a manufacturing engineer got tired of feeding the local wildlife because they kept forgetting to close the coop door at night.

After looking at wood sliding doors and doors that required massive assembly, they decided they could come up with something better.

The guillotine doors were never reliable and always had problems with the pull string, getting off track or out of alignment. So the 2 engineers went to work and the Pullet-Shut door was developed based on a hinge door to your home, always reliable and very low maintenance.

The Pullet-Shut door is made of aluminum so it will not rust, warp or rot. The door is hinged on brass pivots and has stainless steel hardware. It has no switches that can fail. It is programmed to open and close with a magnetic sensor.

You can choose the option to have a photo sensor installed which will open at dawn and close at dark each day. The 12 volt battery and charging systems are all offered as options.

For programming the door hold the magnet over the red circle at the time

you want to open in the morning. When programming the door you can program how far you want the door to open. And then do the same thing that evening when you want the door to close and the door will repeat that everyday afterwards.

The set times are not affected if you use the magnet to open or close the door during the day or night such as during a rain storm or to move the birds.

As a safety feature, if a chicken is outside when the door closes the door will open a second time and give the last bird one last chance to get into the coop before it closes for the night.

Installation is simple. Cut a rectangular hole, drill the 4 mounting holes and bolt the door on with the stainless screws provided, hook it to the battery and you're done.

They also make a chicken feeder that cut their chicken feed bill by 40%. It holds 18 lbs. of feed, prevents waste and keeps out pests like mice. They also make a coop light for both safety and extending the hen's laying cycle. And if you're battling raccoons & possums, nothing beats their hand traps.

Tony and Mark are building the doors in Lockhart, Texas. The door starts at \$180 plus shipping. Don't forget to check out the options and the other size doors. They



Automatic door is programmed to close at night and open in the morning.

make 3 sizes - a large door (for turkeys), a medium door (for chickens) and a small chicken door (for small coops).

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