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Handy UTV Pole Saw Carrier

Heavy-duty pole saws are great for trimming back branches and brush around field edges. However, they can be difficult to get where they're needed. Stanley Whittle found that to be true with his new Milwaukee cordless pole saw.

"I wanted to take it around the edge of hayfields to trim back cab-whackers," says Whittle. "I realized there wasn't a good way to carry it around on my Polaris side-by-side. I looked online but saw nothing, so I made a carrier myself."

Whittle fabricated a rack with two pieces of galvanized 1 1/2-in. square tubing. He picked up the tubing at FarmTek's nearby Iowa factory and warehouse. The company makes all types of hoop houses and more. Whittle says their bargain bin is a great place to pick up useful scraps.

"The rack was about 3 ft. long and 18 in. wide," says Whittle. "I designed it to straddle the plastic rack on the UTV."

He used the tubing for the upper and lower members of the outside frame, steel strap for the ends and a length of angle iron across the

middle. He likes galvanized as it doesn't rust, even though he had to burn the galvanized coating off areas to be welded.

"I used 1-in. long rubber plugs to fasten the angle iron to the plastic rack," says Whittle. "The plugs have a nut on one end, and when you tighten it down, the plug expands. I use them anytime I attach something to the UTV."

He also ran a strap from the carrier rack's upper side to the UTV rack's other side for more support. To mount the pole saw, Whittle picked up shovel holder clamps at his local farm store and attached them to the lower side of the rack. He spaced them about 3 ft. apart and then connected the clamp releases with 1-in. metal conduit.

"I can open and close the clamps with one hand when removing or replacing the pole saw," says Whittle. "The pole saw is a heavy telescoping one, and the rack makes it easy to carry."

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Multi-Purpose Bins For Seed, Feed And More

Topper Hoppers from Richfield Industries have found many uses since they were introduced 20 years ago. The gravity feed bins range in capacity from a 1/2 ton to 3 1/2 tons. Fork pockets in the all-steel frame and an optional skid steer plate make them easy to move as needed. The first model, a 20-bushel bin, was fashioned after parts bins used in the auto industry.

"Richfield Industries has been building racks out of plastic and metal for the auto industry for the past 85 years," says Tom Campbell. "We recognized a need for gravity-fed bins for seed to segregate different varieties and seed treatments. Soon, farmers wanted them for feed, too."

Campbell has a farm background and recalls handling his share of feed and seed bags. He also relies on direct feedback he receives from customers.

"Today, our main goal is to save farmers bag or environmental fees on their purchased feed," he says. "We work with Purina, Cargill and others on returnable bag systems."

The bins are mounted on the frame for easy filling of 5-gal. pails. The different models now made are rated in bushels, with the Series 20 holding 20 bushels. Current models are 20, 35, 45, 55 and 125, with a Series 75 recently added. A trailer version is also being introduced. Prices range from \$1,500 to \$4,500. Topper Hoppers are available directly from the company's online store or some 6,000 stores in 60 countries.

The one-piece tanks are roto cast from high-density polyethylene with virgin food-



Bins are mounted on the frame for easy filling of 5-gal. pails. The different models that are now made are rated in bushels.

grade material. Campbell notes that food grade is a crucial feature. He admits that it can be tempting for farmers to make feed bins out of used IBC totes. The problem is verifying that they weren't used for toxic chemicals or other materials. With Topper Hoppers, that's not a concern.

While seed and feed were the reasons the portable bins were introduced, they aren't limited to those uses, adds Campbell.

"We have people using them in restaurants to store pellets for smokehouses and golf balls at driving ranges," he says. "The list goes on and on."

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Bray used his D7 dozer to move this 25-ft. by 40-ft. barn over a mile and a half.

He Moved A Granary Barn With His Dozer

Moving a 1950s wood granary a mile and a half across fields was easy for Matt Bray. The farm equipment dealer jacked it up, set it on steel skids and hooked it to his D7 dozer. It was an easy move that made his wife happy.

"Krissey wanted a barn for her horses, and a friend of mine had this granary that was no longer being used," says Bray. "It's 25 by 40 ft. and built like an old grain elevator with stacked 2 by 4s. It was heavy but solid and moved like a champ. The old boys really knew how to build them."

Bray and his brother-in-law used five bottle jacks to lift the granary off its cement pillars. It was heavy enough that they only raised one side at a time before setting it down on a steel skid. The skid consisted of heavy-wall 4 by 6-in. steel tubing. The tubing was laid on top of the concrete pillars before pipe lengths were welded in place as spreaders. Once on the skid, the building was pulled to Bray's farmstead with the D7.

"It was late winter," says Bray. "The ground was frozen solid, and we had no powerlines to go under. It took 2 days to lift and only 2 hrs. to move it."

Bray posted photos and a short video to X (formerly Twitter) with a brief description. The response was overwhelming.

"It went viral," says Bray. "It's had something like 139,000 views!"

Bray notes that the job isn't finished. Preparing it for his wife's horses will entail redoing the interior, which initially consisted of five compartments/bins. Lofts are planned



Steel skids were constructed of 4 by 6-in. steel tubing laid on top of concrete pillars and welded in place as spreaders.

for each end of the building, with stalls on one side, tack, feed and hay storage on the other and an open area in between.

"It has silvery tin on it now, which we plan to replace with new red tin," says Bray. "Once we've added windows, it'll be the focal point of our yard. Instead of a man cave, it'll be a she shed."

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'Flying Mower' Attached To Mini Excavator

"I wanted an easier way to mow around my pond and along a large ditch line on the neighbor's driveway, so I came up with the crazy idea of using a lawn mower on a swing arm rather than trimming by hand," says Michigan contractor Ian Carolla.

Since Carolla is one of those inventive types who's not afraid to build anything, he devised a mounting coupler to attach an electric lawnmower to his Sany mini excavator. "The 27-in. mini rough-cut mower mounted on a swivel arm worked great for trimming thin grass in the ditches, but it had a few minor faults," Carolla says. "First, the battery didn't have a lot of juice, so the mower bogged down quickly. And second, the 27-in. blade couldn't cut a stick any bigger than my little finger." He replaced the electric mower with a 5-hp. gas engine model and got far better results.

"It worked so well that I had my wife record a short video of the mower taking down 5-ft. tall grass and weeds," Carolla says. "I posted the video on my Facebook page and titled it 'Laziness is the mother of invention.' I guess I'm a social media rock star now because the video garnered one million views in less than a week and was up to 2.5 million views a few weeks later."

Carolla attached the mower to the tag-style quick coupler he made for his mini-excavator. "Anyone attaching and using a mower like



Carolla's "flying lawnmower" attached to his Sany mini-excavator works great for trimming grass in hard-to-reach places like ditch banks and around ponds.

this needs to make sure that the mowing is always done with safety precautions," Carolla says. "I make sure there isn't a person, animal or anything that could get hit with flying debris within a couple hundred feet. I always keep the mower level and have the discharge facing away from my cab. I never raise it high enough to throw grass or sticks back at me."

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