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Shop Built Lawn Aerator

Lyndon Miller always wanted a lawn aerator, so he built his own. Of course, having his own CNC plasma cutter and metal brake at Miller's Artistic Steel didn't hurt.

"I've been making steel signs and doing custom parts for customers for about three years," says Miller. "I was looking at lawn aerators and realized I had everything I needed. Why not build my own?"

Miller sketched out a plan based on models he saw online. He used 10-gauge steel for most components, including the 8-point aerating blades, cutting them out on his CNC table.

The top tray, which holds two concrete blocks for weight, is 38 in. long and 10 in. wide. Miller used his metal brake to put 1-in. sides front and back to hold the blocks in place.

The tray also serves as the base for three plates welded at 90-degree angles to either end and at its center. Each is about 8 by 10

in. with corners trimmed.

"I had some 1 1/4-in. diameter steel rod on hand that I cut to length to mount the blades," says Miller. "I cut holes in the end plates and the center plate for the rod. I also cut two small pieces of 1/4-in. plate and drilled holes in them to use as oversized washers at each end of the rod. Clip pins at the ends of the rod keep it in place."

Miller welded a length of 1 1/2-in. sq. steel tubing to the underside of the tray for a tongue. He pulls the aerator behind his Wheel Horse garden tractor.

"When I finish aerating, I simply remove the concrete blocks and pull it off the lawn," says Miller. "It's light enough by itself that it doesn't dig down."

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Heavy-duty security kit tie-down anchor solutions are easily floor or wall-mounted on wood, concrete or brick structures with basic tools.

Simple Lock Secures Property

AnchorHog, a property security company, offers a wide range of products to keep bicycles, generators, trailers, boats, compressors, BBQs and other valuable equipment and tools safe. These products are simple to install and provide peace of mind, protecting garages, workshops, decks, patios, pools and more.

The heavy-duty security kit tie-down anchor solutions are easily floor or wall-mounted on wood, concrete or brick structures with basic tools. Kits include a security anchor base plate and cover, a 3/8-in. dia., 7-ft. long braided steel cable, a commercial padlock, a masonry bit for concrete and brick installations, and four exterior mounting screws.

Frank Lauyans, AnchorHog founder, says installation is easy and is usually completed in 15 min. or less. It's as simple as finding a suitable location to secure the base plate, marking the four screw holes on the supporting surface, drilling the initial screw hole, and

installing the first screw. Then mark and drill the other three holes through the base plate and install the remaining screws. Secure the cover over the notch in the base plate, tighten the provided carriage bolt, and use the padlock to lock the cables.

The kits are zinc-plated, stainless steel, and black, red, or yellow powder-coated for high-end and indoor applications. All accommodate up to three padlocks.

Retail prices range from \$29.95 for the zinc kits to \$42.95 for the stainless-steel option, plus S&H. If necessary, cables, locks, drill bits and anchor screws are available separately.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, AnchorHog, 8009 New La Grange Rd., Suite 4, Louisville, Ky. 40222 (ph 502-434-5391; customerservice@anchorhog.com; www.anchorhog.com).



Stump grinder can dig up to 8 1/2 in. below ground.

PTO-Powered Stump Grinder

Woodland Mills has a new, heavy-duty stump grinder for 35 to 80-hp. tractors. The WG28 is a 540 pto-powered stump grinder with a category 1 or 2 three-pt. hitch.

The WG28s patent-pending pneumatic shock absorber and dampener apply even pressure to the flywheel while grinding through the stump. The 1-in. thick, 28-in. dia. grinding flywheel is studded with 44 tungsten carbide cutting teeth. Their sequential layout ensures smooth cuts through the stump as the stump grinder penetrates as much as 8 1/2 in. below ground.

An indicator mounted in clear view of the operator allows him to see the angle at which the grinder is operating and the distance between the stop and go positions.

A chip deflector at the rear has a steel chain curtain to retain chips for easier cleanup when the stump has been ground up. The stump grinder also features an on-board chainsaw holder with nylon slides for adjusting to various bar widths.

Woodland Mills has dealerships in several

countries. However, U.S. and Canadian sales are direct from the company. The WG28 is priced at \$3,399. Like all the company's core products, it has a flat \$199 shipping rate. The company takes great care in carefully packing its products for safe shipping.

The company website is loaded with helpful videos on using products and the products themselves. It also features links to many users, brand ambassadors, and social media influencers who have experience with the company's products.

The company recommends that the stump grinder be mounted to tractors with pto systems independent of the transmission drive system. This allows the tractor speed to be set separately from the pto speed as it slowly pulls the grinder through the stump.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Woodland Mills, 1431 Scugog Line 6, Port Perry, Ontario, Canada L9L 0C3 (ph 855-476-6455; sales@woodlandmills.com; www.woodlandmills.com).



Zook built a custom tractor using an old IHC combine engine mated with a Ford truck transmission and Ford car rear end.

Shop-Built Tractor Was 'Too Fast'

"It took me about a year to build my small custom tractor that had a 4-speed Ford transmission and a cut-down Ford rear end," says retired steel worker Charles Zook. "The engine was a 4-cyl. flathead from an old IH combine, and when I got that paired with the transmission, the top speed was way over 30 mph. I drove it in parades, idling along in first gear. I'd run it on the road in second and third for fun. I eventually sold it because, with this gearing, it was potentially too dangerous for an 80-plus-year-old guy."

Zook made the frame out of 2-in. by 2-in. tubular steel, strong enough to carry the old IH combine engine mated to the truck transmission and car rear end. The front and rear wheels were scavenged from a 440 Case garden tractor. Zook says he put duals on the back "because the tractor just looked better with duals than with singles." The steering was an old Ford assembly mated to tie rods that turned the front wheels.

Zook used extruded aluminum to make the running boards and 1/8-in. sheet steel for fenders and the rear platform. He says those features added a measure of safety and made it look like a factory-built tractor. The seat was from a riding lawn mower. Its overall dimensions were about 5 1/2 ft. wide and 7 ft. long.

The tractor's McCormick hood, gas tank and air intake were all from the original combine engine. The drum brakes were from the Ford. He added a stainless-steel straight pipe that gave it a nice throaty sound. "The engine started well with the 12-volt battery and electrical system," Zook says.

Although Zook built the tractor for fun, he occasionally used it to pull a trailer and clean up around his yard. It also had a front hitch.

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