

“Zero-turn mowers are notoriously bouncy,” says Lauseng. “The Ride Tamer acts as a suspension system and improves the ride by about 47 percent by minimizing bucking and bouncing on uneven terrain.”



Ride Tamer Makes For Smoother Mowing

By Lydia Noyes, Contributing Editor

The May Wes Ride Tamer® offers a smoother lawn mower ride with less fatigue for the rider. This mower suspension kit is easy to install, compatible with various models, and provides shock absorption to help extend the lifespan of your mower.

“The original Ride Tamer was invented by John Nance of Davaus, LLC., at the request of landscaping neighbors who kept breaking the frames on their zero-turn mowers,” says Nancy Lauseng, May Wes Manufacturing marketing manager. “They asked John to come up with a solution after they couldn’t find anything else on the market. Fast forward a few years, and the result from the Davaus team is a patented innovative cast steel suspension solution, with true dampening properties allowing travel in both the up and down directions in a robust cast steel design ready for daily use.”

Today, the Ride Tamer aims to remove tiny vibrations and smooth out the big ones. “Zero-turn mowers are notoriously bouncy,” says Lauseng. “The Ride Tamer acts as a suspension system and improves the ride by about 47 percent by minimizing

bucking and bouncing on uneven terrain. This reduces operator fatigue and stress on the mower frame. It also improves cut quality by keeping the deck at a consistent height. The Ride Tamer’s patented trailing arm system provides over 5 in. of vertical travel in both directions.”

The Ride Tamer is priced at \$649 and is custom manufactured per mower make and model after ordering. Once the team knows your make and model, they’ll include the appropriate hardware before shipping out to ensure you get the right size adapters for the right piece of equipment. It has a patented torsion suspension and trailing arm design and is built with serviceable wear parts. “There’s nothing similar on the market,” she says. “Other zero-turn suspension systems don’t have down travel, so they’re not as effective when you drive over a hole or a wheel rut, as shown in head-to-head testing.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May Wes, 120 Eastgate Dr. S.E., Hutchinson, Minn. 55350 (ph 800-788-6483; www.maywes.com).

All-in-one tailgate has a flip-out extension and holds a pair of ramps for loading heavier wheeled tools and vehicles.



Folding Tailgate Has Extensions And Ramps

Hauling material longer than a truck box can be troublesome. It often involves ratchet straps, ropes, tie-downs or heavy weights to cover and hold items in place.

Steve DeSimone regularly used these objects to carry lengthy boards and equipment for his construction business but became tired of always needing countermeasures for transporting material.

“I started designing and building a crude extension system for my standard tailgate,” DeSimone says. “As I used it, people were curious. So, I got serious, redesigned it and turned it into an original equipment product.”

The all-in-one tailgate has a flip-out extension and holds a pair of ramps for loading heavier wheeled tools and vehicles.

“I wanted it to be simple, compact, and available,” he says.

DeSimone often wondered why a truck’s tailgate camera wouldn’t operate with an open gate, so he played around with different truck wiring harnesses. He patented and added a second camera option for improved

vision when backing up.

The BringIt tailgate fits most major truck brands and models, including Ford, Chevrolet, GMC, Dodge and Toyota.

“Anyone can install it,” he says. “It’s a 10-minute operation to swap out. Nothing changes on the truck. It’s just plug-and-play.”

DeSimone also matches the exact color of a customer’s truck. He needs the VIN to pull and match the original paint code. Available soon, after-market options include a grill, gun boxes, and fuel and water-can locking mechanisms.

The BringIt tailgates are manufactured in South Carolina and sold directly from the shop or through dealers across North America.

The average cost of a fully equipped unit is about \$1,300, including shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BringIt Ramp & Roll Tailgates, 184 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton, S.C. 29910 (ph 843-507-5909; david@bringittailgates.com; www.bringittailgates.com).



Evensberger bought the membrane and added tarp grommets spaced every 4 ft. around the bales to keep the TPO down.

Membrane Offers Affordable Protection For Round Bales

Jim Evensberger of Clinton, Iowa, has found an innovative way to protect his round hay bales—repurposed TPO membrane. TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin) is a single-ply white membrane used in roofing. Thanks to its color, TPO reflects heat instead of absorbing it, which keeps the material below it cooler.

Evensberger bales his round bales with twine wrap, so they collect water as they sit in the field. He didn’t have a large hay shed to store them, so he bought a hay tarp and watched in frustration as it blew off in the wind. “I was always messing with it; it didn’t work at all,” he says. His son was in construction, so when a hailstorm raged through town, destroying roofs, they gained access to excess steel sheets they secured together to cover the bales. “It was heavy and hard to maneuver, but it worked.”

Then inspiration struck. “I saw an ad for repurposed MATERIALS and thought about the other materials used for fixing roofs. They sold these 10-ft. rolls of TPO membrane. So, I thought, ‘this could work.’”

Repurposed MATERIALS specializes in pairing commercial waste with buyers who can use it. It sells TPO roof membrane rolls at its six locations (Ohio, Iowa, South Carolina, Texas, Arizona and Colorado) and ships

nationwide. Pricing may vary by location but ranges from \$250 to \$300 per 1,000 to 1,200 sq. ft. (10 ft. by 100 ft. and 12 ft. by 100 ft. rolls, respectively).

Evensberger bought the membrane and added tarp grommets spaced every 4 ft. around the bales to keep the TPO down. “The TPO doesn’t have seams, so water just runs right off it. Some of our bales have sat under it 6 to 8 mos. already, and they only have a little water at the base,” he says. “Plus, it’s easy to roll up and store in the hay shed. We’re still using the steel, but this is a lot easier to work with.”

Evensberger has no complaints about his custom hay covering system and recommends other farmers consider it. “Buying TPO is a whole lot cheaper than the \$30 to \$40k I’d need for a barn, and it helps avoid the risk of a hay fire. People don’t like storing round bales indoors; this is a straightforward alternative.”

And for purchasing the TPO membrane? He recommends repurposed MATERIALS. “Can’t beat the price on it. I’ll swing by whenever I’m in the area to pick up more.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Evensberger, Clinton, Iowa 52732 (ph 563-357-4137; www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com).

Trimmer Grip Reduces Fatigue

The Ballard Flip Grip offers a new concept in trimmer handle options with a virtually weightless attachment. “We wanted something versatile with the option of flipping the grip both horizontally or vertically,” explains company representative Kory Ballard. “It also offers outward to backward adjustment. Another feature is the grip bar, which can be installed on the left or right side for all user preferences. Some have even chosen the dual bar, which puts a grip on both sides.”

The USA-designed Flip Grip works on all brands of gas and electric string trimmers, Kombi units, and more. The high-grade aluminum and steel attachment weighs just 21 oz. and reduces vibration while preventing user fatigue and back pain. The added upright leverage will make your trimmer feel lighter. This makes it ideal for professionals, homeowners, and weekend project enthusiasts. “It always takes a few minutes to get comfortable with the Flip Grip’s new way of holding your trimmer, but when adjusted correctly, you’ll be up and running more efficiently in no time,” says Ballard. “Installation is simple, and all hardware is included.”

Pricing for the Flip Grip is \$44.99 for a single handle and \$54.99 for a single dual left and right. An additional swivel handle and grip costs \$14.99. Shipping is available



High-grade aluminum and steel attachment weighs just 21 oz. and reduces vibration while preventing user fatigue and back pain.

throughout the continental U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. “Make sure to buy from a reputable source online,” he says. “Ballard Inc. leans on over 25 years in the lawn and landscape accessory business to develop innovative products. Unfortunately, many scam websites are popping up offering huge discounts on knockoff Ballard products.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ballard, P.O. Box 70, Granger, Iowa 50109 (ph 877-965-0951; support@ballard-inc.com; www.ballard-inc.com).