

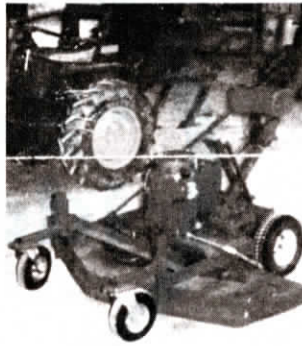
52-In. Walk-Behind Mower

"I built this wide walk-behind mower because we have a lot of trees which make it difficult to use a riding mower yet push mowers never come any wider than 22 in.," says Glen Woodside, Thorndale, Ontario, about the 52-in. wide walk-behind mower he built from scratch.

He spent about \$1,000 to build the self-propelled mower which compares to commercial models that cost several thousand dollars. Most of the cost was for a new Briggs & Stratton 12-hp. engine.

Woodside fitted it with three 18-in. blades that overlap 1 in. "I got the two outside blade spindles off another mower deck and made the center one myself. If I did it again, I'd only use two large blades because that would simplify the belt drive system and it wouldn't need to turn as fast."

The mower's fitted with a 4-speed transmission driving the rear wheels, actuated by a hand lever. The front caster wheels let the mower turn in its own tracks. "The 12-hp. engine has plenty of power. In the



fall I block the side outlet and use it to grind leaves up like sawdust. I've used the mower for four seasons with very few problems. The only changes I made after using it was to lengthen the handlebars and to enlarge the discharge chute."

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Grapple Fork Made From Old Cultivator Shanks

"I've used it for several years. It handles 1,700-lb. round bales with no problems," says Tim Bruckner, Malta, Mont., about the grapple fork he made from a junked-out Deere 1600 field cultivator. It's mounted on his 1975 Deere 7520 4-WD tractor.

"It works better than the conventional grapple fork mounted on my other loader tractor," says Bruckner. "I had a lot of problems with teeth bending and breaking. The field cultivator shanks are built so strong they never bend or break. My only expense was for a 30-in. hydraulic

cylinder that raises or lowers the shanks."

He used square tubing, round axle tubes, and bearings from the field cultivator to build the frame of the grapple. Four uprights, attached to the back of the bucket, support a length of pipe - fitted with four pieces of square tubing - that pivots on four bearings.

A pair of 2 1/2-ft. long bale spears, which Bruckner made out of truck axles, bolt to the bottom of the bucket.

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Air-Power Keeps Grain Moving On Home-Built Hopper-Bottom Truck

Ben Kambeitz, Richmond, Sask., built a hopper-bottomed truck by mounting two grain tanks from Massey Ferguson 510 combines on the frame of a tandem axle Ford truck.

"The unloading augers on the two hoppers run off hydraulic power. The problem we had was that grain settled in the vertical augers during transport and jammed them up. To solve the problem, I put a tire valve stem in each vertical auger. Since the truck has air brakes, I just use air to loosen up seed or fertilizer

before I start the auger," says Kambeitz.

He says other farmers in his area have mounted old combine grain tanks on trucks to haul grain. He got the idea for using air power to loosen up grain from a guy who did the same thing on a cement truck.

"This truck works great for hauling seed and fertilizer in the spring. Lets me fill a 45-ft. IH seeder in just 5 min.," says Kambeitz.

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Nifty Barrel Lifter

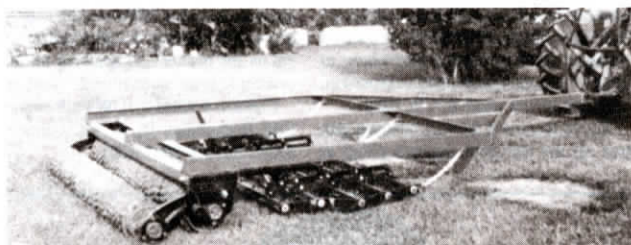
"I designed and made my first barrel lifter 5 years ago to handle oil barrels, chemical barrels, trash barrels, and so on. I couldn't find anything like it on the market," says Joe Holden, New Prague, Minn., about his clamp-on lifter for 55-gal. drums.

It's made out of a 3/16-in. thick, 1-in. wide steel strap fitted with an over-center clamp. It fastens just below the rim of a barrel. Short pieces of chain are welded to either side of the lift strap and a 1-in. sq. piece of steel tubing, that acts as a "spreader", welds to chain links just above the lift strap.

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"Mulcher-Packer" Made With Harrows

"In our area, most farmers plant a winter pasture comprised of rye grass, oats, wheat, legumes, or a combination of these. Tillage is kept to a minimum so a lot of residue is left on the surface," says Kevin Stilley, Loranger, Louisiana.

"The field is prepared with an offset disk and a pass with a pulverizing disk along with a spike-toothed harrow. Seed

and fertilizer is then broadcast by a custom applicator and we work it in with a mulcher-packer. We recently built our own mulcher-packer because our old unit was worn out and also, we didn't like the design of conventional units which are fitted with spring tines that cause residue to ball up and clog the machine. My home-built unit uses harrow sections fit-

ted with stiff, straight teeth that don't plug up and leave the field smooth with most of the residue on top of the ground to hold soil in place. After one year of use, we think it works great.

"We used packer rollers from an old Brillion LTF-96 Surestand Seeder. It cost about \$200 to rebuild the rollers, including bolts, bearings, grease fittings, and packer wheels. We made the main frame of the unit out of 4-in. channel iron,

3 by 3-in. angle iron, and 3/8-in. thick steel plate for corner braces. A local welding company put it together for us for \$500. We bought the harrow sections from a local equipment company for \$550. They're connected to the front crossbar by short lengths of chain. The entire unit is 9 ft. wide and 16 ft. long."

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