

Hydrostatic Wheelbarrow Makes Light Work Of Heavy Hauling

Unable to justify the high price of most powered wheelbarrows, Daniel Kirk decided to build his own. It worked so well that he's now planning to put them on the market.

"It will carry 500-lb. loads, yet it only weighs 180 lbs.," he says. "Two people can throw it on a pickup so you can use it anywhere."

Kirk started out with a tubular steel frame similar to a wheelbarrow with a single 6-in. castor wheel on the back end. The 48 by 30 by 15-in. deep box is balanced for easy dumping.

Originally Kirk planned to use a 3 hp Briggs and Stratton engine driving a standard rear end. When a friend gave him a 6 1/2 hp garden tractor engine and hydrostatic drive unit, he quickly changed his mind.

"It was all self-contained in a 65-lb. package," explains Kirk. "All I had to do was

mount it on the frame and hook up the linkage."

He notes that many newer lawn mowers have hydrostatic drive, making parts easy to get. One change he did make to the unit was to equip it with narrower tires with tractor type tread. The narrower tread gives him more power and a tighter turning circumference.

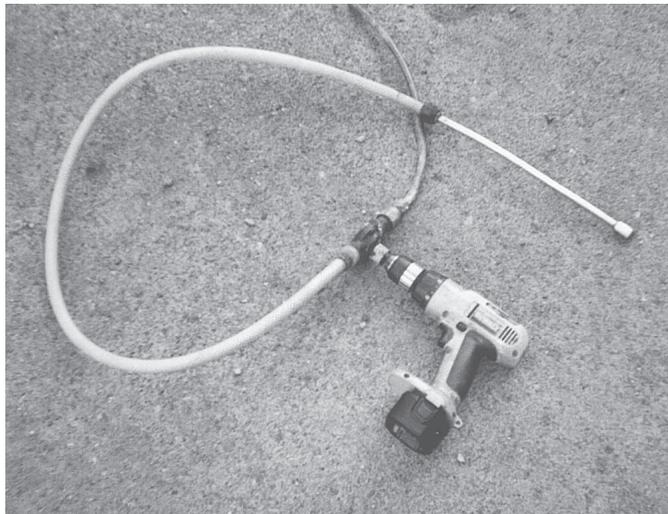
Operating the power wheelbarrow is easy. "Just move the cart handle forward or back, and that's the direction the cart moves," says Kirk. "With the variable speed on the hydrostatic, the farther ahead you move it, the faster it goes."

So far he has made four prototypes and hopes to begin marketing one with a 6.5 hp Briggs and Stratton engine soon. He expects to price the hydrostatic drive wheelbarrows at around \$1,000.



Home-built wheelbarrow is powered by a 6 1/2 hp garden tractor engine and hydrostatic drive unit. The 48 by 30 by 15-in. deep box is balanced for easy dumping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel Kirk, Jr., 6 S. Chanango St., Green, N.Y. 13778 (ph 607 656-8322; djkkirkjr@yahoo.com).



Cordless drill shaft-drives a small pump. Pump has a 5-ft. long plastic hose attached to one side and a copper suction line to the other.

Cordless Drill Powers Calf "Tube Feeder"

"It's a handy little tool that greatly speeds up the job of feeding baby calves," says Doug Fluit, Lynden, Wash., who uses an electric drill to "tube feed" calves.

Fluit uses buckets to feed milk to about 300 baby calves each year. Whenever a calf refuses to drink he has to feed it by sticking a tube down its throat. Using gravity, it took 5 to 7 min. per calf, and the job had to be done 3 or 4 times a day.

To speed up the process, he uses a cordless drill to shaft-drive a small pump. A 5-ft. long plastic hose with a metal tube at the end is attached to one side of the pump. A 1-ft.

length of curved copper pipe hooks up to the other side of the pump and serves as a suction line. To feed a calf, he simply puts the suction line in the bucket and inserts the tube down the calf's throat, then starts the drill.

"It takes only about 30 seconds to feed each calf, so now I can do 8 to 10 calves in only about 10 minutes. It used to take 45 minutes to an hour," says Fluit. "The pump can be bought at any hardware store."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Doug Fluit, 2003 Bangbron Road, Lynden, Wash. 98264 (ph 360 354-8486 or 360 815-7061).

Polaris Ranger Lift Kits Increase Ground Clearance

Farmer-inventor Bill Peterson of Edmore, Mich., recently started a sideline business called Ranger Pro Lift.

He builds and sells after-market lift kits for Polaris Ranger ATV's. The kits are a practical way to raise the vehicle's suspension, boosting ground clearance and providing room for bigger tires. Some people just like the beefy look that the kit gives their machine.

Once installed, instead of two spring settings (low and high) you have three - low, medium and high.

"Having three settings offers greater flexibility because it provides the option for greater load capacity. You can carry more weight on the highest setting," says Peterson.

He can custom-make the front lifts according to clients' individual needs. However,

he suggests that, to give their Ranger a "level" lift, they should go with the standard 2-in. lift.

The kit consists of blocks which are a coil spacer and strut spacer that raise the struts and springs on the front suspension, and a bracket at the rear that relocates the shock, giving added height.

"I have kits for the 2000 to 2006 models and I also have a front lift kit for all years of 6 by 6's," he says. "I installed a kit on my own new 2005 Polaris Ranger and ran it all summer - about 200 hours - and have had no problems at all with it."

Peterson has been selling his lift kits (front and back) on eBay for \$135 (plus shipping). For front lift only, he charges \$65, and for rear lift brackets, the price is \$70 (plus ship-



Bill Bell used scavenged parts from three self-propelled swathers to build this skid steer loader. It's equipped with a 6-ft. Deere loader bucket.

"Made It Myself" Skid Steer

Some people just love to build their own equipment, rather than buy brand name stuff. Bill Bell of Deloraine, Manitoba is one of those people. Using scavenged parts from three self-propelled swathers, this creative fellow constructed a handy skid steer loader.

For the "front legs" and the hydro drive, he took parts from a 400 Versatile hydrostatic swather.

"The back legs and the seat are from an 800 Deere swather," he says. "The 4 cyl. GM motor and the electrical panel came out of a #36 Massey Ferguson swather. The engine has its own hydraulic pump to power the loader."

He equipped the machine with a 1970 "Big M" loader with a quick hitch attachment, and

put a 6-ft. Deere bucket on it.

The tires came from a 1-ton truck and the rear bumper and 8-gal. gas tank were made out of a Massey discer frame.

"This unit easily lifts a bucketful of gravel 14 ft. high. It works great and has been very useful around the farm," Bell says. "It cost me \$1,170 (Can.) to build."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Bell, Box 317, Deloraine, Manitoba, Canada R0M 0M0 (ph 204 747-2605; fax 204 747-2960).



Aftermarket lift kit raises the vehicle suspension, boosting ground clearance and providing room for bigger tires.



Lift kit sells for \$135 plus S&H.