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## Loader-Mounted Mower Trims Ditch Banks, Under Trees

Allen Kimball keeps roadsides well mowed with his skid steer-mounted, rotary mower. A carrier rack with counterweights on the opposite end lets him get into tight places like under closely growing trees. Hydraulic cylinders let him lift or lower the mower to either side of level as needed.

“My small skid steer wasn’t heavy enough to handle a big rotary mower with batwings,” says Kimball. “With the carrier mounted

on the front, I was able to offset the rotary mower. The front mount lets me monitor the cutting angle better than a rear mount.”

The mower was originally mounted under the belly of a Cub Farmall tractor. Kimball replaced the pto drive with a hydraulic drive and hinged the mower deck to the frame.

The bridged carrier is about 12 ft. long, 29 in. across and 18 in. high. Kimball used 3/16-in. thick, 2 1/2-in. angle iron. A 3-in. thick 3

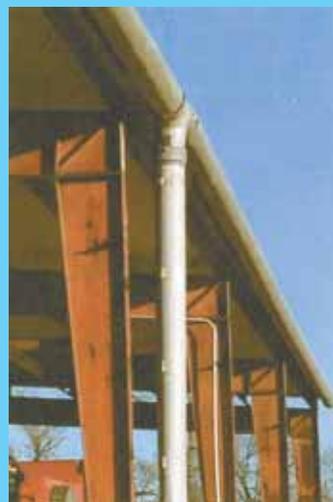
by 3-ft. steel plate is mounted to the end of the rack opposite the mower as a counterweight.

“The mower runs off the main auxiliary valve,” says Kimball.

The same valve is used to power a small cylinder on a homemade quick-tach device. Initially, Kimball pulled and inserted pins manually when attaching equipment to the skid steer. The cylinder lets him do that without climbing out of the skid steer.

“When the framework is hooked in place, I can reach the valve from my seat, disconnect the quick attach cylinder, and connect the hydraulic motor to power the mower,” says Kimball.

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Leo Bottoms used 8-in. aluminum furrow irrigation pipe to make this rain gutter system for his 75 by 150-ft. shed. The gutter downspout empties into an underground pipe that runs to a nearby pond.

## Rain Gutter Made From Irrigation Pipe

Ordinary 8-in. aluminum furrow irrigation pipe can be used to make low-cost rain gutters, says Leo Bottoms, Gould, Ark., who came up with a gutter system for his 75 by 150-ft. shed.

The home-built gutter empties into a downspout that leads to an underground pipe that runs to a pond about 80 ft. from his shed.

“I had a lot of leftover aluminum pipe after I switched to using flexible poly thin wall pipe,” says Bottoms. “The shed has a corrugated metal roof and all the rain water really messed up my yard. Residential gutters would have been too small to handle so much runoff.”

He used a jigsaw to cut a 1 1/2-in. wide gap along the entire length of the pipe. Then he slid the pipe up over the edge of the roof so it extends about 2 in. inside the pipe. He cut out pieces of a 1-gal. plastic jug to partially seal both ends of the gutter.

To support the pipe, he bent a length of 1-in. angle iron to match the pitch of the roof and then screwed it onto the underside of the roof and also to the shop wall.

The downspout is made from the same irrigation pipe and is connected by a T-fitting at the middle of the gutter. An elbow connects the bottom of the downspout to a length of irrigation pipe buried in the ground.

“It cost almost nothing to build and has held up over the years with no problems,” says Bottoms. “The roof corrugations are about 1 in. deep, so the 1 1/2-in. gap in the pipe leaves plenty of room for water to enter the gutter. The pipe came with slide gates spaced 30 in. apart, which I turned up so they’re out of the way.”

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Dan Thornburg used 5/16-in. thick stainless steel to build this grille on front of his new Ford F-150 EcoBoost pickup. It protects the vehicle’s turbo intake.

## Grille Protects EcoBoost Turbo Intake

Dan Thornburg didn’t like the big hole on front of his new Ford F-150 EcoBoost.

To him, it looked like a perfect place for birds, stones or other materials to enter and damage the EcoBoost turbo cooling plates. Ford didn’t offer a protective grille for it, so Thornburg started making one. He calls it the Eco-Tector.

“I knew it couldn’t deter air flow at all,” says Thornburg. “If grille bars were too close together, they could plug up with slush in the winter. Too far apart and they wouldn’t keep out things that could damage the cooling plates.”

The 4 3/4-in. by 20 3/8-in. grille is fabricated from 5/16-in., 304 stainless steel. A single piece loops the edge with 4 horizontal bars across the center. Everything is TIG welded.

“The stainless steel is polished to a near-

chrome finish,” says Thornburg. “It will stand up well to salt and other corrosives.”

The Eco-Tector installs easily using existing tabs on the F150 front grille. Thornburg uses U-nuts and stainless steel button heads to secure the grille.

He is working with a local Amish fabricator to make the grilles, and finalizing details with a master distributor. In the meantime, Thornburg is taking orders. He has priced the Eco-Tector at \$119.

“Ford doesn’t advocate a protection, but my F150 just didn’t look right without it,” says Thornburg. “I recently stopped by my Ford dealer, and they showed me an EcoBoost damaged when a bird hit it. My grille would have stopped it.”

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