



Home-built hitch allows Dyck to pull four mowers behind his riding mower. It cut his mowing time from six hours down to an hour and a half.

## Ganged Mowers Cut A Swath 9-Ft. Wide

"It used to take six hours to mow my lawn and the ditches along my 1/8-mile driveway," says Barry Dyck who built a hitch to pull four mowers behind his riding mower. It cut his mowing time down to an hour and a-half.

At first, the Manitoba farmer pulled just two 20-in. mowers behind his Deere 8 hp riding mower equipped with a 34-in. deck. That worked out so well he added two more mowers to the hitch so he could mow a 9-ft. swath.

The hitch bars are constructed of 1 in. sq. tubing. The front T-shaped hitch is equipped with a floating tongue, consisting of a U-joint type knuckle 3 in. back from the hitch point on the riding mower, which allows the trailing mowers to move side-to-side with the contour of the ground.

A 6-in. length of square tubing bolts to the front of each mower. A piece of 3/8-in.

dia. rod welds to the tubing and is fitted with a washer. The mowers hook to the hitch with cotter pins through the ends of the rod. The mower decks can rotate freely and independently over uneven terrain.

The same design is used to mount the rear hitch bar to the back of the front two mowers.

Dyck removed the top half of the handles on the push mowers for better clearance under trees.

"It cost little to build and is very effective," he says. "There's no digging or gouging the lawn. Each mower pivots sideways but they have to trail in a straight line. I can back the whole outfit up without any problem. The mowers can be unpinning in seconds to use as push mowers for trimming."

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Lenart modified his Stihl "Weed Eater" by mounting a steel ring on the shaft just above the head. Ring serves as a cutting guide.

## "Weed Eater" Guide Makes Trimmer Easy To Use

Using a "Weed Eater" line trimmer to trim along fences or buildings or next to sidewalks is easy for Dennis Lenart, Waco, Texas, who modified his Stihl "Weed Eater" by mounting a steel ring on the shaft just above the head.

"It virtually eliminates the need to constantly rethread the spool and makes the trimmer much easier to use," says Lenart. "The big problem with using 'Weed Eaters' is that whenever the string breaks it pops back inside the spool. You have to take the spool apart and rethread the string, then screw the head back on. The ring serves as a guide and takes the guesswork out of placing the head so that the string always stays long enough to self-feed. It substantially reduces the amount of line that's used."

"I can roll the ring along the side of a house or fence, or turn it up on its edge and roll it along the edge of a sidewalk."

The one-piece unit is made from 1/4-in. dia. cold rolled steel rod and has a 1-in. dia. plastic bearing in the middle and four steel spokes. The diameter of the ring is 1 1/2 in.



Ring rolls along the side of a building so the correct length of string is always used.

smaller than the diameter of the swing of the string. To install the ring Lenart removed the guard and head. Then he slid the bearing up the weed eater shaft and mounted the ring on it.

Lenart says he could sell plans if there's enough interest.

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Krueger built this mower for less than \$2,000. It's powered by a 4-cyl., 30 hp Continental water-cooled engine. He uses two levers in front to steer.

## 72-In. Riding Mower Built From Self-Propelled Floor Sweeper

John Krueger, Blanchard, Okla., built a 72-in., rear-wheel drive riding mower using parts from an old self-propelled floor sweeper machine.

"I spent the better part of a winter building it. Not counting labor my total cost was less than \$2,000," says Krueger. "Comparable size commercial mowers sell for \$10,000 to \$16,000."

He bought a Tennant 280 floor sweeper at a junkyard for \$50. It's powered by a 4-cyl., 30 hp Continental water-cooled engine that direct-drives a Sundstrand hydraulic pump, which operates a hydraulic motor that drives the rear wheels. He used 2 by 4-in. box steel tubing to make a new frame and mounted the engine behind the seat onto supports that he made from 6-in. channel iron. He also used 6-in. channel iron to make a new rear axle and fitted hydraulic motors to it to drive the wheels. On the original sweeper, only one of the rear wheels was powered. He added a second hydraulic motor to power the other wheel.

The unit rides on 18.00 by 15 rear wheels

off an old garden tractor and 18.00 by 8 front caster wheels. The caster wheels are attached to the frame by a pair of automotive wheel hubs and spindles. Krueger welded the spindles on top of homemade caster forks (made from 1/2 by 4-in. strap iron) and bolted the hubs to the cut-off ends of the car's front axle.

"I had been using a 14 hp Deere 48-in. mower to cut my 7-acre lawn and a 30-in. mower to do the trimming. My 72-in. mower reduces mowing time by about one third. I use two levers in front of me to steer. By reversing one wheel and making the other one go forward I can turn the mower in its own tracks.

"The sweeper was equipped with a 2 1/2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder originally used to raise or lower the sweeper's broom. I use that cylinder to raise or lower the deck. I built my own linkage that attaches the cylinder to lift brackets on the deck."

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Russell mounted his 20-in. lawn mower on a height adjustable rolling carriage. To use, he positions the deck on one side of frame and pushes rig over the hedge.

## He Uses Lawn Mower To Trim His Hedges

"I was getting a sore back using an electric hedge trimmer to cut the low-lying hedges around our house and yard," says Les Russell who built a height adjustable rolling carriage for his lawn mower that allows him to trim hedges in a fraction of the time it took before.

He made the vertical carriage out of scrap steel. The front of his 20-in. mower deck is suspended from a metal rod while the back wheels fit on a metal crosspiece. The mower slides back and forth freely on top of the carriage. The 1 1/2-ft. long legs for the main frame are fitted with 10-in. dia. wheels off a kids' wagon. The legs each have 3/8-in. dia. holes drilled every 2 in. so mower height can be adjusted from 2 to 3

ft. off the ground depending on how close he wants to trim his hedges.

To use, Russell simply positions the mower deck on one side of the frame and pushes the rig over the hedge. He then repositions the mower on the opposite side of the frame and makes a pass in the opposite direction to finish the job.

"It works great," he says. "I can cut 600 ft. of hedge in 10 or 15 minutes compared to the hours it used to take. I only wish I could figure out something as convenient for trimming the sides."

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