

4-WD Pickup Equipped With Dual Remote Hydraulic Outlets

Dual remote hydraulic outlets on back of his 4-WD pickup allow Charles Ballinger, Atlanta, Ill., to operate his Hesston 3-ton stack mover - which he uses to move round bales.

He removed the pickup's air conditioner pump and replaced it with a hydraulic pump that's belt-driven off the engine crankshaft. A pair of control levers mount on top of a hydraulic reservoir behind the cab, and hoses lead from the reservoir back to a pair of remote outlets at the back of the pickup just in front of the bumper. A drawbar extends through a slot cut into the bumper which was moved back to protect the bed.

"It lets me load up to three bales at a time without ever getting out of the cab. Then I can haul them at highway speeds," says Ballinger. "I installed the remote outlets more than 20 years ago so I could use my pickup to load and haul 3-ton hay stacks. A few years ago I switched to round bales, but I kept the stack mover. To operate the hydraulics I simply slide the rear cab window open and grab the control levers.

"When I used it to move stacks I did quite a bit of custom work. The stacks weighed more than 6,000 lbs. apiece but with 4-WD I had no problems backing the stack mover under them. The stack mover is factory-equipped with a hydraulic motor that operates the chains for loading and unloading and also tilts the bed up or down. The 4-WD pickup will take me places where I can't go with a tractor. However, I have to load it down with heavy weights. It has an



Note hydraulic controls behind rear window. Outlets are hidden behind bumper.

automatic transmission which is necessary for moving heavy loads. The hydraulics also come in handy for moving equipment."

He used sheet metal to make the hydraulic reservoir and mounted it on one of the fender wells under the hood.

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Home-Built Bandsaw-Type Sawmill

When Gary Meisner went into the custom wood cutting business two years ago, he soon realized he needed a high capacity sawmill with a lot of built-in conveniences in order to serve his customers.

So the Grahamdale, Manitoba, mechanic designed and built a mill to suit his needs. He won \$2,000 for first place in the Agriculture/Industrial Division of Princess Auto's first-ever Inventors Fair held in June in Winnipeg.

"Bandsaws are nothing new, but some of the ideas incorporated in mine make it stand out from the rest," says Meisner. "For example, it features an automatic depth lock to make every cut identical. The system consists of 1/2-in. dia. red rod with 1/2-in. nuts spaced 1 1/2-in. apart on all four corners. It allows me to make 3/4 or 1 1/2-in. cuts perfectly.

"Also, my electric over hydraulic log clamp, which operates off a power window motor out of a car, is faster and easier to operate than anything else I've seen on the market."

The 23-ft. long by 6-ft. wide sawmill has

a heavy-built frame made of railroad rails. A 4-cyl. engine out of a 1968 Chevy car powers the mill's 1 1/4-in. wide by 42/1,000-in. thick blade. It spins at 1,000 rpm's.

The hydraulic system, which handles the log, is driven off a pump out of an old Deere combine.

The sawmill, which Meisner pulls behind his 1/2-ton pickup, rides on a pair of 14-in. tires. When in use, Meisner operates the mill from an operator's seat. "Only the most expensive commercial mills have them," he notes. "It comes in handy after eight or 10 hours of cutting wood."

Meisner says he can cut up to 500 board feet per hour from good logs. "It handles logs up to 27 in. in dia. and 18 ft. long with no trouble," he adds.

He built the mill over a period of a year in his spare time, using mostly salvaged materials.

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Homemade "High Wheel" Trimmer-Mower

"It works as well as expensive commercial units," says John Krueger, Blanchard, Okla., who used old mower parts to build his own "high wheel" string trimmer-mower.

The heart of the unit is an old push lawn mower and its 4 hp gas engine. Krueger removed the deck and blade and front wheels and replaced the small rear wheels with 14-in. high wheels off another push mower. A length of nylon cord that does the cutting is attached to a blade spindle assembly off an old riding mower. The spindle is belt-driven off the engine and extends out the front. He cut off part of the spindle and drilled a hole in the bottom of the shaft, then welded on a homemade cutterhead that he made from 1/4 in. thick steel plate. The heavy nylon cutting cord attaches to the plate.

"I use it to mow around trees and along fence lines - any place that my 72-in. mower can't reach," says Krueger. "It'll cut a 12 to 14 in. swath. When the cords get too short I simply replace them. I use the mower's original controls to start it and to regulate speed. I use a lever attached to an idler pulley to tighten the belt and activate the cutterhead. A 14-in. sq. plexiglass deflector mounted on the deck keeps gravel and rocks from kicking back at me. However, I still wear safety glasses whenever I use it.



"I got the idea when my brother bought a 7 hp, electric start commercial trimmer-mower. He paid \$800 for it. I used it a little and liked it, then decided that I could save money by building my own. The 14-in. wheels I use had worn-out tires so I replaced them with new heavy-duty tube tires that look similar to a bicycle tire."

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Front And Rear-Mounted Bale Spears

Coy Cleveland, Paradise, Texas, wanted to be able to haul two round bales at a time with his Ford 5610 row crop tractor. However, he didn't want to mount a loader on the tractor, and he wanted to keep the 3-pt. "mesquite grubber" already mounted on back of his tractor so that he could get rid of mesquite trees whenever he wanted without having to switch back and forth between the grubber and bale spear.

He solved the problem by mounting a bale spear right onto the tree grubber and making his own hydraulically-operated front-mounted spear.

"It works great and didn't cost much to build. I spent about \$100 on the rear-mounted spear and \$250 on the front-mounted spear," he says.

The front-mounted spear mounts on a steel frame that's hinged to a 4-in. dia. steel pipe. A hydraulic cylinder that's connected to the frame is used to raise or lower the bale. Cleveland used lengths of 2-in. dia. steel pipe to make the main spears on both front and rear and sharpened the ends down to a point. He used 1-in. dia. steel rod to make two sets of small spears (one at each end of the tractor) that help keep the bale from rolling. The two small spears on back are welded right to the bottom of the grubber. "If I did it again I'd



mount a bracket on the spears so that I could bolt them on," he says.

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