

Walk-Behind Dozer Blade For Snow, Dirt

By C.F. Marley

Albert McWhorter wanted a utility blade that would be handier to use than a pickup or tractor-mounted blade.

So the Taylorville, Ill., retired farmer came up with a small self-propelled, dozer-type push rig to remove snow and grade his 100-ft. driveway.

"It's easy to handle and maneuver," McWhorter says. "Best of all, it cost practically nothing to build. Just \$6 for the engine I got from the junk yard."

He used the differential and 4-speed transmission out of an old garden tractor a friend gave him. He bolted together a 3-ft. long by 1 1/2-ft. wide frame for the machine built out of scrap sq. channel iron.

The unit, which is equipped with original tires off the garden tractor, is powered by a 6 hp Briggs and Stratton engine. He mounted it toward the rear of the transmission to balance the rig perfectly so there's no weight on the lawn mower handlebars he uses to push it.

McWhorter mounted a 3-ft. wide blade off an old garden tractor on front of the machine. To follow the contour of his driveway, the blade floats 1 ft. up and down on a pin underneath each side of the rear end and a chain in the center. Angle can be changed by changing position of a pin in factory bored holes in the back of the blade's mounting bracket.

A 2-in. dia. horizontal pulley and home-



built belt tightener clutch operate the gears from a cable on the handlebars.

A muffler off a junked motorcycle mounts vertically on a rod on the left side of the machine. McWhorter removed the insides so it would let enough exhaust escape.

"It does a beautiful job leveling the driveway," says McWhorter who built the machine last summer. "I haven't used it for snow yet, but it should handle at least 1 1/2-ft. drifts easily since that's how high the blade is."

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New-Style Pickup-Mounted Snowblower

"This isn't the only pickup-mounted snowblower on the market but we believe it's the easiest and safest to use," says Al Kremer about the two-stage snowblower his company recently introduced.

Pak Systems "Sno-Hog" mounts on most Meyers, Western or Fischer lift systems. An Onan 24 hp 2-cyl. engine powers the 16-in. dia. auger and a 20-in. dia. impeller with 7 in. deep vanes.

"The electric start, choke, 2-spd. electric throttle, low oil shut off, chute rotation and optional chute deflector are all controlled from the pickup cab instead of out front," Kremer notes. "A 12-volt fuel shut off solenoid valve mounts under the hood of the pickup so all fuel lines which run from an optional auxiliary tank or off the truck's fuel system help to meet all safety guidelines."

The unit features a 25-in. vertical opening, full-width hardened steel cutting edge, adjustable skid shoes and 60 in. vertical bank cutters. Quick-tach electric and fuel line connections make for easy installation and removal.

Sizes are 84 and 94 in. (wings attach to match dually wheels) and sells for \$6,995 and \$7,145, respectively.

The company also makes a full line of hydraulic snowblowers for skid steers, diesel powered and direct drive intermediate size blowers for backhoes, tractors, medium and heavy duty trucks and equipment.

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Rear Assist Blade For Snowblower

"It lets me travel forward at 7 to 8 mph instead of backing up at 2 to 3 mph," says Kenneth G. Gadd, Moose Jaw, Sask., who built a rear assist blade that attaches to his snowblower to help roll in snow.

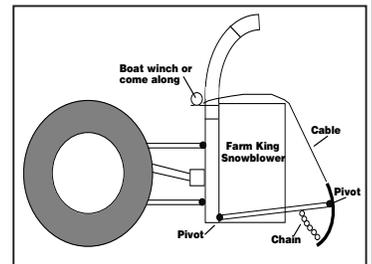
The 8-ft. wide 1 1/2-ft. high blade attaches to Gadd's 8-ft. Farm King snowblower. It's built out of a section of steel water tank, 1/4-in. thick. The curvature of the blade helps push snow into the snowblower.

The blade trails 2 1/2 to 3 ft. behind the snowblower. It attaches to the snowblower with 3-ft. long floating arms built out of 2 by 4-in. tubing. They mount on the blower on 1 1/2-in. dia. shafts.

A boat winch mounted on top of the snowblower raises the blade for backing up.

To use, Gadd raises the snowblower about 9 in. off the ground and drives forward with the blade rolling snow into it.

He uses a Ford 5000 65 hp tractor to pull the rig.



"It'll handle as much snow as the tractor can get through," he says. "It's much faster and more convenient than backing up."

Out-of-pocket expense was minimal and Gadd says a similar rig could be built out of all new materials for about \$200.

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Front-Mount Snowblower

If you've got an older tractor with a rear-mount snowblower, you'll be interested in how Andrew Easter mounted his snowblower on front of his tractor.

"Mounting it up front instead of on back gives me better visibility, better handling and more versatility," says the Cockeysville, Md., farmer. "The 1959 Deere 730 D I use it on had a pretty fast reverse, which made it extra difficult to use on the rear."

His front-mount 7 1/2-ft. Lucknow snowblower is driven off a shop-built transfer case mounted on the rear pto shaft. A 10-ft. driveshaft built from Schedule 80 pipe runs from the transfer case, which reverses direction of the output shaft to accommodate front-mounting, under the rear axle up to the right front side of the tractor. A bearing in the middle of the shaft helps to support it.

A 4-in. channel iron frame runs from the drawbar up to the snowblower. Two custom-built caster wheel assemblies also help support the weight of the snowblower.



They bolt onto the snowblower frame. The wheels are lowered and raised up to 10 in. via a 3/8-in. dia. cable running back to the tractor's 3 pt.

Anti-sway chains running from the front of the tractor to each side of the snowblower keep it stable.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$800, much of it for the transfer case.

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Snowblower For 4-WD ATV

When a neighbor bought a new Polaris 4-WD ATV last year, he asked Mark Foldesi to rig up a snowblower for it.

The Greenbush, Minn., farmer obliged by finding a way to mount a blower on front.

"We used a 36-in. snowblower off an old lawnmower and expanded it to 42-in. wide to match the width of the ATV's wheel base," Foldesi says. "I made mounting brackets out of square tubing.

"To run the blower, we mounted an 8 hp Kohler engine on it so the unit's self-contained. It can be raised and lowered using the 1,500-lb. winch the ATV was equipped with. The angle of the spout adjusts from the operator's seat using a crank that comes up over the handle bars.

"We built the unit last November and my neighbor and I were both impressed with how



well it worked. In fact, we're thinking of building another one this year."

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$650, including \$400 for the Kohler engine the men bought new.

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