



“HitchHoist” crane fits into pickup’s receiver hitch without taking up space in the box.

Portable Pickup Crane Mounts On Trailer Hitch

You’ll like this new “HitchHoist” crane that fits into a Class III receiver hitch, unlike other pickup cranes that take up space in the box.

It has a lift capacity of 750 lbs. (that’s fifteen 50-lb. bags of seed or a V-8 engine block), yet weighs only 125 lbs. installed. What’s more, it can be moved easily from vehicle to vehicle.

The HitchHoist lifts high enough to load with the tailgate up. Crane swing is restricted to 110 degrees so loads are deposited directly behind the vehicle.

The company suggests that all lifts be made on level ground. Knowing this isn’t always possible, though, they’ve incorpo-

rated a leveling mechanism to help level the crane in relation to the load. This unique patented safety feature is designed to prevent loads from swinging out of control when rotating the load onto or off of the truck. This feature allows the crane to work without support feet.

At \$995, the company claims it’s the lowest priced portable truck crane on the market.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, M. Vanderpass, Box 39021, London, Ontario, Canada N5Y 5L1 (ph 800 632-9198; Web site: www.hitchhoist.com; E-mail: info@hitchhoist.com).



Leaf vacuum hooks up to receiver hitch. A 10-ft. long flexible hose sucks debris up into hopper on pickup bed. Suction fan is driven by its own auxiliary engine.

“Swing-Away” Leaf Vacuum Mounts On Back Of Pickup

If you’re looking for a source of part-time income, you might be interested in this pickup-mounted “leaf vacuum” that’s designed to clean up leaves anywhere.

“There’s a big market for leaf removal and with this equipment you don’t have to make a huge investment to get started,” says Al Pacunas, Giant-Vac Mfg., South Windham, Connecticut.

The company’s leaf vacuum is a self-contained unit that hooks up to the receiver hitch on almost any pickup. A 10-in. dia., 10-ft. long flexible hose sucks debris up into a hopper on the pickup bed (hopper not supplied). The suction fan is driven by its own auxiliary engine.

The design allows the user complete access to the tailgate without having to remove

the vacuum unit. The vacuum and engine pivot 180 degrees when you unload.

“It’s a simple system that’s easy to operate,” says Pacunas. “There are no expensive hydraulics to maintain. It will even work with dry or semi-wet manure.”

A quick release hose adaptor allows you to quickly remove the hose for transport. Or, the hose can be chained up out of the way for road transport.

Available in three models with 8, 11, and 16 hp engines. The 16 hp model sells for about \$2,700.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Giant-Vac Mfg., Inc., South Windham, Ct. 06266 (ph 860 423-7741; Website: www.giantvac.com).



Electric-powered weed eater plugs into garden tractor’s cigarette lighter, allowing Otis to trim around trees without leaving the tractor.

Handy 12-Volt Weed Eater For Riding Mower

When Val Otis bought an older garden tractor and saw that it had a cigarette lighter, he figured he ought to find a way to use it.

At about the same time he realized he was spending a lot of time going over his lawn with a weed eater to trim around trees.

So he decided to make an electric-powered weed eater that he could plug into the tractor’s cigarette lighter.

His sturdy trimmer has a home-made steel blade. He uses it from the seat of his mower, carrying it on clips alongside the seat when not in use.

The trimmer is powered by a small 12-volt motor. He picked up 100 of them for 20 cents apiece at a salvage sale. Total cost of each weed trimmer he makes is \$5 (he’s made for friends and sold to a few others).

The trimmer simply consists of a metal

handle with an electric push-button switch at the top that you activate with your thumb. The motor direct-drives the 5-in. blade. Otis trims around trees and next to buildings as he mows, so that when he gets off the tractor, there’s nothing left to do.

Otis notes that when he uses the trimmer on a tractor without a cigarette lighter, he simply wires it direct to the battery.

Otis has been so impressed with the way his little trimmer works that he filed for a patent, which he should be receiving any day. At that point, the retired pilot plans to try to put his handy trimmer on the market. He will either make it himself, or find a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Val Otis, 12185 Co Rd 2030, Rolla, Mo. 65401 (ph 573 364-1416).

Track Filler Smooths Ruts Left By Center Pivots

Jim Stevenson, Wheatland, Wyoming, says he and his five sons are all really ranchers at heart. But after coming up with a way to deal with ruts in pasture land left by center pivot irrigation systems, he and his son Otis have become manufacturers.

“We put together a bottom unloading wagon with a screed (a smoothing blade) from scraps we had around here,” Stevenson says. The wagon is pulled directly over the track to be filled. Fill material pours from the bottom-unloading wagon into the rut. The screed scrapes down the ridges on both sides of the rut and levels fill material as the wagon passes by.

“It’s an incredibly simple machine,” Stevenson continues. “But we found that no one had ever made anything quite like it, so we have applied for a patent on it.”

The OTECO Track Filler will haul up to 10 cu. yards (about 14 tons) of fill. It requires a tractor with two remote hydraulic outlets. “It has two cylinders on it,” Stevenson says. “One raises and lowers the screed and the other opens and closes the hopper.”

The Stevensons built the running gear and box in their shop, purchasing hubs, wheels, tires, and cylinders from outside suppliers.

Since they began making the Track Filler last spring, they’ve turned out 21 of them. Twenty are already sold. “We have the process down now so we can do about two a week,” he says. “We could probably do more



Bottom unloading wagon pours fill material into rut. A blade scrapes down ridges on both sides of rut and levels fill material as wagon passes by.

if we had orders.”

Price is \$6,200, FOB Wheatland. Stevenson says they have only one dealer, and he’s in Wheatland. “We’ve sold most of them ourselves,” he adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Stevenson, 330 Goodrich Road, Wheatland, Wyo. 82201 (ph 307 322-3373; fax 307 322-3374).