

Kit Adds Wheels To Wheelbarrow

New conversion kit turns a conventional wheelbarrow into a stable, three-wheeled work cart. Lets you move heavy loads around your farm or yard with less effort than is required to handle a one-wheeled load.

The conversion kit includes two large wheels, the undercarriage, a raised handle, and a built-in brake. It can be added to any standard wheelbarrow. The brake keeps the cart from getting away from you.

Sells for \$59.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, United Spray Systems, Inc., Box 86, Le Sueur, Minn. 56058 (ph 800 950-4883 or 507 665-2269; fax 507 665-3520; Website: www.bugpage.com).



Turning a conventional wheelbarrow into a three-wheeled work cart makes heavy loads much easier to move, says the manufacturer of a new add-on kit.

Kit Makes Wheelbarrow Easier To Dump

Your wheelbarrow will practically dump itself when you bolt this new kit onto it. It lets you empty the wheelbarrow without having to tip all the way forward.

The kit consists of a pair of 1/4-in. wide metal straps that bolt between the underside of the cart and also attach to the wheelbarrow's wooden handles near the wheel. There's a U-channel on the bottom side of each strap. A pair of "stops" connect the straps to the middle part of the handles. As you raise the wheelbarrow handles to dump the load, the stops slide up the U-channels which allows the cart to pitch forward off the handles and dump its load.

"It lets you control the wheelbarrow instead of it controlling you, so that at the end of the day you're not nearly as tired," says the company.

The kit fits most wheelbarrows equipped with wooden handles.

Sells for \$130 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ABC Builders and Designers, 3158 Ames, Omaha, Neb. 68111 (ph 402 451-4552).



Bolt-on kit causes cart to pitch forward off the handles and dump its load as you raise wheelbarrow handles.



Starting with a junked 12 hp Sears lawn tractor, Ron Mickle built this self-propelled wheelbarrow. The rear wheels bear the load and power the wheelbarrow.

Power Wheelbarrow Is Easy On His "Aging Back"

Ron Mickle says his "maturing body" was making it difficult to keep his wheelbarrow balanced and rolling at the same time.

"It was a real problem, because I used the wheelbarrow so much," he adds.

So Mickle went to his shop and built the solution to his problem: a self-propelled wheelbarrow.

He started with a junked 12 hp Sears lawn tractor, which he bought for \$50. "I cut it in half and extended the frame rails. The rear wheels bear the load and power the wheelbarrow. I replaced the old engine with a new 5 hp horizontal shaft engine. I ran a jack shaft across the chassis to change direction of the old transmission, so I'd still have the same number of gears forward and reverse," he says. A V-belt from a pulley on the engine shaft powers the transmission.

He put a centrifugal clutch on the engine, but put an idler pulley belt tightener on the V-belt in order to stop without powering down. He put new brakes on the old wheels. The tires on the old tractor were all rotten, so he bought new turf tires for the drive wheels.

He added handlebars made from 3/4-in. standard schedule 40 water pipe with handgrips from an industrial supply firm. He mounted a hand control for the throttle on the handlebars. He set the handlebar end of the frame on a single caster wheel with a pneumatic tire, so steering is done by just pushing it toward the side.

On top of the extended lawn tractor frame, he built a box that's 4 ft. square and about 1 ft. deep. The box has a steel frame, but is lined with wood. He pulled the power wheels on the tractor out as far as they'd go on the

axles and then, in the space between the differential and the wheel, he hinged his box on the axle using pillowblock bearings. The box locks in place so it doesn't dump accidentally.

"I set the box dead-center over the axle, so as long as it's loaded evenly over the axle, it's easy to dump it. But if the load is on one end of the box or the other, you need to be careful when you dump," he says.

Mickle says the transmission in the old tractor was one of the things that made it work for this conversion. "It has three forward speeds and reverse in both high and low range. First gear in high range is about the speed of a slow walk. Geared this way, it has plenty of power for as big a load as I can put in the box," he says.

Not that he's lazy or anything, but Mickle figured such an easy-to-use wheelbarrow would be perfect if he just didn't have to walk behind it all the time. So he made a ride-on sulky from the old front wheels of the tractor by welding the steering knuckles tight and adding a seat and a trailer hitch. He mounted a ball behind the caster wheel on the wheelbarrow just for the sulky.

"The box holds about 1,000 lbs. of dirt or gravel, so it saves me several trips over a regular wheelbarrow, too. I use it for hauling everything, from leaves to firewood to stones," he says. "My wife and daughter use it, too."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Mickle, 37174 School Section Lake Road, Dousman, Wis. 53118 (ph 262 965-2479; E-mail: jmickle@excepc.com).



"It lets me vacuum up a barrel full of liquid at a time," says Glen Woodside, who connected a 55-gal. plastic barrel to a shop vac.

Slick Way To Boost Capacity Of Shop Vac

Connecting a 55-gal. drum to a shop vac is a great way to boost its capacity, says Glen Woodside, Thorndale, Ontario, who uses the idea to suck up large volumes of liquids.

"The plastic barrel I use has two threaded holes in the top. I connect the shop vac hose to one opening, using pipe fittings. Then I run another hose out the other opening.

"I can vacuum up nearly a barrel full of liquid without dumping and only about a cupful goes into the vacuum.

"Even if you just have a small spill, this works better than just using the shop vac because usually when you vacuum up spills, the first thing that happens is that the filter gets wet and plugged.

"This will also work for dry materials, depending on what it is, but you will have to have a barrel where the whole top comes off to dump."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen Woodside, RR3, Thorndale, Ontario N0M 2P0 Canada.

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