

## Weed Eater Motor Powers Bike

A Saskatchewan inventor converted a conventional 10-speed into a motorized bike using a gas engine taken from a Weed Eater string trimmer.

"It doesn't look real fancy but it sure works good," says Don McColl, whose nephew came up with the idea.

The engine mounts on a metal frame alongside the rear wheel. A small aluminum wheel mounts on the trimmer's driveshaft and rubs directly against the rear tire. Mounting rods that hold the motor in can be easily adjusted to keep the aluminum wheel tight on the tire.

The engine's clutch and throttle mount on the bike's handlebars, one on each side.

"My nephew uses his motorized bike whenever he can. It really attracts a lot of attention when he goes zipping by," says McColl.

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Conventional 10-speed bike was motorized with a gas engine off a Weed Eater string trimmer.



Hydraulic-powered "Bush Whacker" mounts on a tractor or skid steer loader.

## Tractor-Sized Weed Whacker

One of the show stoppers at the recent Western Farm Progress Show in Regina, Sask., was this new heavy-duty brush and tree cutter that's designed to quick-tach to the loader arms on any tractor or skid steer loader.

"It works great for clearing trees and brush from under barbed wire or electric fence lines. It can reach up to 12 in. under the fence," says inventor Allan Rookes.

The hydraulic-powered "Bush Whacker" uses 15 1/2-in. long rotating steel blades to clear a 38-in. wide path. An orbital motor belt-drives the blades, which are partially enclosed on back by a shield. There are two models - one for tractors where the blades mount on the right side, and the other for skid loaders where the blades mount on the left side. A steel guard that mounts above the blades is used push trees forward away from the fence as they're cut.

"It eliminates the need to remove the fence line and use a bulldozer to get rid of the brush," says Rookes. "It can cut through trees up to 4 in. in diameter.

"The flails swing freely on a pivot pin, which allows them to fold back in case they hit a rock or other obstacle. To reduce damage when cutting near quonsets, grain bins, and chain link fences, etc., the steel blades can be replaced with more forgiving plastic ones. And in extremely rocky areas you can replace the blades with chains to reduce the potential for damage to the machine."

The tractor model sells for \$10,400



Rotating steel blades turn inside a shield on back.



Blades can be replaced with chains when working in rocky areas.

(Canadian) and the skid loader model for \$8,900.

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## Portable Storage Made From Plywood Or Steel

"We've been making plywood bins for temporary grain storage for 15 years and recently introduced steel bins," says Wilf Leippi, Willwood Industries, Kronau, Sask. Steel bins come with 48-in. high, galvanized, 20-gauge wide-corrugated metal sections that bolt together. Plywood bins come with 4 by 8-ft. plywood sections that also bolt together. A silver gray tarp provides weather protection.

Steel bins come in six sizes that range from 30 to 60 ft. in diameter and 3,500 to 18,000 bu. in capacity (75 and 100-ft. dia. bins available on special order). Plywood bins come in seven sizes that range from 22 to 50 ft. in diameter and 1,700 to 12,000 bu. in capacity. Cost ranges from as low as 10 cents a bushel for plywood to 20 cents a bushel for steel. According to Leippi, the steel bins have a longer life span and are more saleable. "Temporary grain storage is becoming more popular as farmers lease more land and as farms get bigger and farther apart," he notes.

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Mark Hostetler spent two summers studying bug splats on front of buses. "I found you can identify any insect from the size, color, texture, and shape of the splat," he says.



## Splat! What's That On Your Windshield?

Ever wonder what kind of bug caused that big smear on your pickup's windshield?

Mark Hostetler, University of Florida extension wildlife specialist, can probably tell you.

Hostetler spent two summers studying bug splats on the fronts of buses that travel America's highways, taking photos as he went. In addition, he fitted his car with a special collection net across the roof just above the windshield so he could catch the remains of the insects that hit the windshield.

"One summer I traveled the U.S. perimeter, stopping at Greyhound bus stations along the way. I put 11,000 miles on my car. I saw thousands of splats," he says. "I found you really can identify the insect from the size, color, texture, and shape of the splat."

With two years worth of data, Hostetler put his findings, including 28 full-color photos, into a book entitled "That Gunk On Your Car: A Unique Guide to Insects of North America."

There was a serious reason for writing the book. If you watch the splats on windshields when driving around fields, you can tell what insects are probably in your crops.

"My goal with this book also was to reach that portion of the public that would never pick-up a book about insects," he says.

"Insects serve many functions in our environment, including pollinating vegetable crops and serving as food for our backyard birds. It's important for people to understand them. And families can pass time identifying bug splats when driving long distances."

Descriptions in the book are organized by



Hostetler put a bug-gathering screen above the windshield on his car. When he gets a new "splat", he can find out what kind of bug it was by looking in the screen.

scientific family. Some species encountered on the roads are crop or turf pests, but most are common insects you'd find outdoors.

He says research for the book took him to places he'd never been and might never go again. While Hostetler didn't spend much time in corn and soybean country, he figures his guidebook could be informative and even helpful to farmers who find splats on their windshields while driving around surveying their crops. For example, lots of gooeey, creamy-white splats may indicate an outbreak of moths in an area.

The 125-page book sells for \$9.95. It's available from Ten Speed Press (ph 800 841-BOOK), or it can be ordered on the Internet through amazon.com.

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