

“Made It Myself” Tow-Behind Forklift

Marty Gallaher, Hartford, Alabama, needed a forklift to load his home-built barbecue grills onto customers’ trucks. He couldn’t justify the cost of a self-propelled forklift so he picked up an old forklift mast and converted it into a 2-wheeled, pull-type rig.

The mast mounts on a steel frame that he made out of 6-in. channel iron and fitted with a home-built axle and a 10-ft. tongue. Two cylinders tilt the mast back and forth. Two more cylinders are used to raise or lower the forks, which reach 9 ft. high. Power is supplied by the tractor’s hydraulics.

“It does the work of a self-propelled forklift at a far lower cost and I can go anywhere without getting stuck. It comes in handy for

a variety of jobs,” says Gallaher. “I paid \$350 for a used forklift that wasn’t in operating condition and about \$50 more on parts.

“I mounted the forklift’s original hydraulic control levers on the frame behind the tractor where I can reach them from the tractor seat. There isn’t enough fluid in the tractor’s hydraulic system to make the lift go all the way up, so I mounted the air compressor tank from a semi tractor on front of the frame and use it as a hydraulic reservoir.”

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Marty Gallaher converted an old forklift mast into this 2-wheeled, pull-type rig. He can reach the forklift’s original hydraulic control levers from the tractor seat.

“Roller” Screed Works Concrete Up To 20 Ft. Wide

Contractor Joe Churchill, Quincy, Illinois, figured there had to be a faster, easier way to screed concrete than using his old heavy vibrating power screed.

Churchill has more than 30 years experience in concrete work. He says he’d used vibrating screeds most of this time and found them too heavy, too noisy and too hard to clean.

After working on it awhile, he developed the Spin Screed. He figures his invention is the easiest-to-use power screed ever developed. It’s so light one person can pick it up and load it into a truck. It consistently leaves the aggregate material just below the surface, unlike vibrating screeds that can sometimes cause the aggregate to sink too deeply into the mixture and leave the surface weak.

The design is simple. Churchill mounted one end of a length of aluminum pipe on a heavy-duty right angle drill. He mounted the drill in a specially designed T handle to make it easy to use. The opposite end of the pipe attaches to a similar T handle, so it spins freely.

To use the Spin Screed, you simply lay the aluminum pipe over the poured concrete. One worker takes each handle and the one with the power unit turns it on. Then they pull it along the surface opposite the direction the pipe spins. That way, as the pipe spins, it lev-

els the high spots and fills the low spots in front of it. Churchill claims the Spin Screed doesn’t bring excess water to the surface as it brings up the concrete paste. For this reason, he says the surface will be more durable than that created with a vibrating screed, which can bring water to the surface.

By setting the screed pipes on stakes, you can make multiple parallel passes over slabs wider than 20 ft. Churchill says the screed pipe can be set to produce crowned or swaled surfaces, in addition to flat ones.

The total weight of a Spin Screed with a 20-ft. aluminum pipe is less than 100 lbs. The motor weighs 13 lbs. and the T handles about 3 lbs. The motor and T handles will work with any length of aluminum pipe up to 20 ft., so no matter what the width of the pour, you can cut a screed to fit it.

Churchill says his simple invention has allowed his construction crews to screed concrete faster and easier, which improves both profits and morale.

Sells for \$1,080, including drill. If you supply the drill and pipe, \$485.

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Spin Screed uses a heavy duty right angle drill to rotate an aluminum pipe (above). Pipe is laid over the poured concrete and then pulled along the surface opposite the direction pipe spins. Spinning pipe levels high spots and fills low spots in front of it. Drill is mounted in a specially designed “T” handle to make it easy to use (right).



Wendy Pasman adapted a number of machines to go with their Deere garden tractor. They use them to produce feed for their dairy goats and sheep.

Small Farm Operation Makes Do With “Mini Tools”

Wendy Pasman says she and her husband, Art, can’t justify the cost of big equipment to produce feed for their small flock of dairy goats and Shetland sheep, but still have to cut and store forage for them, and maintain their fields. So they do everything with mini-size tools, some of which they built themselves.

Their primary tractor is a Deere 111 gar-

den tractor. “The tractor runs almost every day, summer and winter,” she says. To handle all the fieldwork with the 111, the Pasmans made or adapted a number of machines.

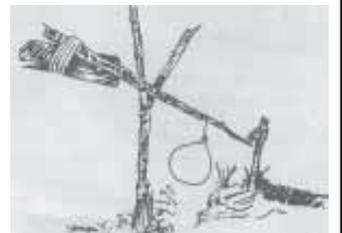
They cut hay with a walk-behind 34-in. sickle mower. A year ago, she found a small wheel rake at a farm sale and adapted that for raking hay. “It was made for raking lawn clippings, so we had to strengthen it to work

Lift Pole Snare

If you’ve got some pests hanging around the farm that you’d like to eliminate without having to buy expensive traps, you might just try this old-time idea.

The lift pole snare has probably been around for centuries. You need a Y-shaped branch to balance it on. A pole laying across the “Y” is fitted with a slip-not loop of wire that hangs down at head height over the trail. A weight is tied to one end of the pole – such as a chunk of wood – and the other end is held lightly in place by a notched stick. When an animal’s head goes into the loop, the pole yanks him up, choking him.

You can make the trap as big as needed,



Lift pole snare is balanced on a Y-shaped branch.

depending on the size of the animal you’re trying to trap. *Backwoodsman Magazine*

in heavier material,” she says.

They haul loose hay in from the field in a hayrack made to fit on a two-wheeled trailer frame welded together by Art and their son. “We use it so much I just made a new bottom and sides for it,” she says. “I have hay rack sides for it that fit on the sides, front and back. It’s lower in the back to make it easier to pitch the hay on, but it will handle a big load of hay.”

Pasman says they can’t always count on good hay drying weather, so she devised an alternative system that lets her bag wet hay to make silage. It consists of a rolling platform fitted with a wire panel that’s bent into a circle.

“I hang the biggest black plastic trash bags I can buy on the wire, which holds the bags open and supports them while we pitch in the wet hay,” she explains. “When we pack

the bag as full as we can, I tie the end shut with baler twine and then haul the bag from the field on the cart.”

This is her first year at making silage this way, but she says the heavy plastic bags she’s using have resisted puncturing and the material inside has the appearance and smell of good quality silage.

When they need to work the soil, they have an old horse-drawn cultivator that works quite well as a small chisel plow. All they had to do was devise a hitch so they could pull it with the 111. They break up clods with a small spike-toothed harrow. Then they seed and fertilize with a lawn spreader they adapted to pull it behind the tractor.

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