

## Hydraulic Chain Saw Works Great On Front-End Loader

Trimming trees along fencelines is a far more pleasant and safe job than it used to be for Ronnie Campbell, thanks to a hydraulic-powered chain saw he made up to easily slip on and off the forks on his front-end loader.

The Mount Juliet, Tennessee man salvaged the bar, chain, sprocket and one side cover from an old chain saw and mounted them on one side of a steel plate. He mounted a .45 cubic inch hydraulic motor onto the steel plate.

The saw attaches to some square tubing that slides onto the forks and is tightened in place with two bolts. It takes just a few minutes to attach or detach the chain saw tool, according to Campbell.

After much experimentation with various sizes of hydraulic hose, he determined that 1/2-in. input and 3/8-in. output hose would give him the power he needed. The hydraulic hoses run on one side and plug into the tractor's front remote. From the seat of his tractor, he can control the chain saw attachment (forward and reverse) with one lever, and the height of the fork.



Hydraulic-powered chain saw slips on and off the forks on Ronnie Campbell's front-end loader.

He installed a pipe above the rear sprocket to drip oil and lubricate the chain, keeping the bar from getting too hot.

The unit sticks out about 3 ft. beyond the end of the forks. Campbell can reach branches 12 ft. up.



Pipe filled with lubricant keeps chain from getting too hot during hard cuts.

"I worked on it off and on for a couple of months and it was a real learning experience for me. Hydraulic lines were my biggest expense. I guess I spent \$200 to \$300 putting the saw together."

Campbell says he was inspired to do this

project after reading a FARM SHOW story about a chain saw mounted on a Bobcat.

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## Custom Tree Trimmer Uses Skid Steer-Mounted "Bobsaw"

When Ammon Brenneman, Guthrie, Kentucky, a long-time FARM SHOW subscriber, read an article about a 3-pt. mounted saw made by another reader a few years ago, he figured he could improve on it.

"After a bit of experimenting, I came up with a saw that fits on the quick-tach mount on my skid steer loader," he says.

He started with a 30-in. buzz saw blade and mounted it on an arbor he made using off-the-shelf bearings and a 1-1/2-in. shaft. The saw sits at the end of a 20-ft. length of steel tubing.

He powers the blade with a hydraulic motor, which drives a B65 V-belt to a pulley on the arbor. The motor mounts on top of the steel tube.

He says the hydraulic system on his loader can easily deliver more than the 18 gal. per minute needed by the motor to run the saw at optimum speed.

He tried several blades before he found the carbide-tipped blade he's now using. It holds its edge better than anything he tried, so even when he's busy 8 or 10 hours a day, he doesn't need to sharpen it more than once a week or so. While the blade he's using is tougher than others, he says he's had to replace it once or twice when contact with a tree or branch caused it to bend.

With the 20-ft. tube, Brenneman's saw works far enough in front of the loader that he doesn't have to worry about branches falling on him.

Mounting it on the skid steer arms allows Brenneman to raise the saw nearly 25 ft. high. "Because the arm is 20 ft. long, just a little movement of the loader arms can make a big difference in the saw height, so it takes a little while to get used to running it," he says.

"It's a lot more maneuverable mounted on the skid steer than it would be on a 3-point hitch," he adds. "You can run right down a fence row with it in a hurry."

Brenneman farms and does custom tree trimming in the off season. He mostly trims branches around buildings, power lines, and along fence rows. "I'm usually busy with it from October until April," he says.

Brenneman also makes a few of his "Bobsaws" for sale. "I only make them when I have time, and right now I have orders backed up," he says. The selling price is just under \$6,000, not including shipping.



The 30-in. buzz saw mounts on the end of a 20-ft. length of steel tubing. "The saw is far enough in front of the loader that I don't have to worry about branches falling on me," says Brenneman.



Mounting the saw on the skid steer arms allows Brenneman to raise saw nearly 25 ft. high.



Saw is belt-driven by a hydraulic motor that operates off skid loader hydraulics.

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The "A.R.M." is a 15-ft., foldable arm that adapts a Stihl chain saw to a front-end loader. It can reach up to 30-ft. high branches when it's fully extended.

## "A.R.M." Lets You Trim Branches With Chain Saw

A device called "The A.R.M.," takes the danger out of tree limb removal by placing the operator in the comfort and safety of a tractor seat instead of balancing high in the bucket of a front-end loader, or on a ladder while trying to run a chain saw.

Gerald Miller of LaFontaine, Indiana invented The A.R.M. (short for All-purpose Reaching Machine) and says it's a safe and inexpensive tool that adapts to a Stihl chain saw and front-end loader.

The patent-pending 15-ft., foldable arm reaches up to 30-ft. high branches when it is fully extended, depending on the loader. Three bolts allow for quick attaching and detaching of the A.R.M.

"It's easy to remove the chain saw from the A.R.M. when you need to cut trees on the ground," Miller says.

A small hole must be drilled through the saw's trigger, but this is the only modification required. The hole is necessary for connecting a steel line that runs to the vehicle's cab, controlling the chain saw's throttle.

Miller says an additional set of valves must be added to the operating vehicle to control the flow of hydraulic fluid to the tool.

"When manipulating the A.R.M., it is im-

portant and almost necessary, to start the chain up slowly as the saw enters the cut and progresses through it. Otherwise, the saw will hang, or worse yet, break," Miller explains. "The valves help to control the volume of hydraulic fluid, thus acting as limiters to slow down the actuation of the bucket and loader. The type of valves we recommend are variable valves, which allow you to set them full open, full close, or anywhere in between."

The A.R.M. features an angled design that allows the best possible view of the chainsaw's blade while sitting in the tractor. The angled design also allows for maximum reach over fence rows.

A tilting head allows for quick access to fuel and oil reservoirs even with the chain saw attached.

The A.R.M. folds at two elbows for transport.

Sells for \$1,100 or less, depending on the amount of customizing required.

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