

Snowplow Blade Fits Receiver Hitch

"I used scrap metal to build a very basic snow plow that fits into the receiver hitch on our 4-WD pickup. It was easy to build and the price was right," says Jeff Hoard, Austin, Nevada.

Hoard says they get numerous 3 to 8-in. snowfalls every winter in their area. "If we don't get the snow off the driveway right away, come spring thaw we'll have big trouble getting in and out of our yard," he notes.

Hoard fashioned the 10-ft. long, 10-in. high blade out of one side of an I-beam off a mobile home frame. A couple of vertical pipes were added to accept weights in case of a heavy, wet snow. A length of chain, installed at an angle, keeps side strain off the hitch.

Thin metal flashing, screwed onto the front of the blade, provides a slick surface for snow to slide on.

The plow flips up by hand for road transport, and is easy to mount. There's nothing to adjust on it.

"It trails the vehicle so of course it's not the perfect snowplow, but it does let us clear our driveways fast and comfortably," says Hoard. "On those rare occasions when we get a foot of snow or more, I'll go out and plow at every 4 inches or so at first. I plow a path as wide as possible to provide room for the discharge of later passes, and I still end up with a decent width driving area.

"I think this same idea could provide a small winter income because you can travel



"It lets us clear our driveways fast and comfortably," says Jeff Hoard, who used scrap metal to build a snowplow that fits into the receiver hitch on his 4-WD pickup.

long distances and clear large areas fast.

"Once I scrounged up the materials it took only about four hours to make. Our Ford 4-WD pickup has no problems with traction. The pickup's tires have an aggressive tread which helps. I rarely have to put it into four-



wheel-drive."

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Robert Hittle converted a pair of Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD pickups into this two-door extended cab pickup that's equipped with a 5 1/2-ft. long bed.

Extended Cab "Chore Truck"

"I use it for hunting and for hauling stuff back and forth to town. It saves putting miles on my new pickup," says Robert Hittle, Liberal, Kansas, who converted a pair of Chevrolet 3/4-ton 4-WD pickups into a two-door extended cab pickup that's equipped with a 5 1/2-ft. long bed.

He bought a 1989 model for \$500 and a 1994 Supercab for \$750. He raised the body of the 1989 model by 3 in. so its frame would match the one on the Supercab. Then he cut half the cab off the 1989 model, including the doors, window, and roof. He removed the

bed from the Supercab, then cut the cab in half and welded the back half to the 1989 model. Then he added a flatbed on back. The flatbed has a headache rack and a triangle-shaped toolbox on front.

"It really works good," says Hittle. "Sometimes I also use it to pull a tandem axle goose-neck trailer equipped with a flatbed, and also to pull a camper."

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Bob Comer bought this soil pulverizer for just \$50 and says it makes a great lawn roller. He says the ridged roller does a better job than a tank-type roller because it's more aggressive, working the soil back and forth but not going so deep that it makes it rough.



Soil Pulverizer Used As Lawn Roller

When Bob Comer spotted a soil pulverizer with a "for sale" sign on it, he knew right away it would make a great lawn roller. It cost just \$50.

Originally, the tool was used for breaking up smaller plowed ground for seedbed preparation.

Comer says the ridged roller does a better job than a tank-type roller because it's more aggressive, working the soil back and forth but not going so deep that it makes it rough. He rolls over the lawn three times in the

spring when the ground is soft, he says, adding that he creates a criss-cross pattern. It puts little ridges in the lawn that disappear after a few rains.

"I don't have a fancy golf course lawn," he says. He likes the way the roller smooths out the yard after winter.

He hitches it to his John Deere 318 garden tractor which pulls it fine.

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Bale cushion bar (see arrow) breaks fall of dropped bale to keep it from weakening tub mounts. Cushion's 3 1/2-ft. arm drops down into tub as it's retracted.

Bale Cushion Saves Tub Grinder

Last year, when Phil Schalin dropped the first of his 3,000-lb. silage bales into his hay shredder, he knew the unit wouldn't last long if he couldn't find a way to cushion the drop.

"Dropping something that heavy from above the 5-ft. tub, easily has the potential to break the tub away from the table and weaken the frame," Schalin explains. "I decided right away to design and build a bale cushion, and it has worked great."

The frame of the bale cushion sits on the outside front of the Haybuster's frame. Angle braces run up the front wall of the tub, then extend at a right angle across the top for about 10 in., where there's a hinge connecting to the cushion's 3 1/2-ft. arm, which hangs down (when retracted) inside the tub. The arm is only about 3 in. inside the bale chamber itself, so there's still plenty of room for the bale to turn. The hydraulic cylinder that controls the arm, passes through a hole that Schalin cut through the mesh in the front wall of the shredder.

When Schalin lifts the cushion arm up in preparation for receiving a bale, it extends toward the back at a 90° angle.

"As you lift the bale up with the shredder fork, it slides forward until it contacts the hydraulic bale cushion arm, which breaks the

fall. Then, you let it down by retracting the cushion arm," Schalin says.

The force of the bale is transferred from the arm to the cylinder, to the cushion arm's frame.

"We only had two hydraulic controls on the tractor, so I had to put in a splitter valve. I used the one I had sitting on the shelf from a Schulte Rock Picker," he says. "Because of the way it was designed on the rock picker, it's controlled by ropes, so I just transferred the idea to the shredder. You pull one rope and it activates the arm of the cushion; the other rope controls the shredder's floor chains, which rotate the bale."

Schalin used 4-in. square tubing for the cushion's framework, and 2 3/8 tubing for the arm itself. The device incorporates a 3 1/2 by 20-in. cylinder off Schalin's cultivator.

The project's design and construction took him 2 to 3 days.

"To buy new materials, you'd probably be looking at \$1,500 to \$2,000 to build it," he says, "but I didn't spend much because I used scrap that I already had."

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Simple Way To Fill Planters, Drills

Here's a simple way to make a seed-filling spout when loading bulk seed into planters and drills.

Max Serr was frustrated by the amount of seed he would lose when using a bulk seed bin and auger provided by his local dealer. "They just put a short flexible hose on the end because they don't want their equipment getting damaged with a spout swinging around. The problem is, a lot of seed gets spilled on the ground, especially if it's windy."

Serr solved the problem by taking a 6-ft. piece of thin-walled 4-in. pvc pipe and cutting it lengthwise from one end to the other. The pipe is flexible enough that you can spread it apart with your hands and insert the downspout into it, yet it closes tight enough to stay on the hose.

He inserts the auger spout about one third of the way down the pipe. "It swings around easily and lets you work at almost any angle.



Max Serr used a 6-ft. piece of 4-in. pvc pipe to make a simple auger spout that he uses to load bulk seed into his drill.

If the pipe gets hit as you pull the cart forward, no damage will be done. It'll simply swing out of the way," says Serr.

When he's done, the pipe comes off easily.

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