

Mower Lift Makes Maintenance Simple

You don't have to worry about bending decks or other components with this new universal mower lift. It's designed to raise any garden tractor, zero turn mower, or ATV.

"It provides you with a safe and easy way to clean the deck and sharpen the blades on virtually any riding mower," says inventor Harold Fratzke, who won a Gold award at this year's Minnesota Inventors Congress.

The 2-wheeled "Nifty Lift" consists of a pair of lift arms with forks on front. It comes with an adjustable, telescoping safety T-bar that slides out and acts as a stop. The safety T-bar and safety pin holders hold the mower stable.

"It's a simple solution to an old problem," says Fratzke. "On most riding mowers you can't change the blades or clean out grass without taking the deck off or tipping the machine over and spilling gas and oil. It also makes it easier to change belts.

"I built as much safety as I could into the lift. Once the mower is raised and the handlebars are on the ground, the T-bar extends out under the mower so someone can't grab the handlebars and dump the mower on you."

The unit can even be used to move small trailers around, using an optional ball hitch.

Suggested retail price from \$199 to \$220.



Two-wheeled mower lift consists of a pair of lift arms with forks on front. It comes with a telescoping safety T-bar that holds mower in place once it's up.



Works on riding mowers and ATV's.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Fratzke, 234 Shoreview Dr., Cottonwood, Minn. 56229 (ph 507 423-6341; hnl@starpoint.net) or Pete's Small Engine, Marshall, Mn. (ph 507 537-1780).

"Slide Sledge" Designed For Tough Jobs

If you've ever held a chisel for someone swinging a sledge hammer, you know it wouldn't take much to smash a hand. With the new "Slide Sledge", no one has to hold the chisel.

"It's the ultimate tool for heavy equipment repair, turning many two-man jobs into one-man jobs. It's ideal for field maintenance and repairs," says Chad Kirschner, Slide Sledge, LLC, Hoffman Estates, Ill.

The Slide Sledge consists of a heavy metal bar inside a long steel tube. You hold the tube with one hand and the plunger with the other.

More than 20 different interchangeable tips are available. A large compression spring holds the tip on. No tools are needed to change tips.

The tool is available with four different sizes of plunger-hammers. One has a 9-lb. drive bar and measures 30 in. long; the second has a 13-lb. drive bar and measures 46 in. long; the third has a 14-lb. drive bar and measures 30 in. long; and the fourth has a 21-lb. drive bar and measures 46 in. long. It delivers a maximum force of more than 15,000 psi.

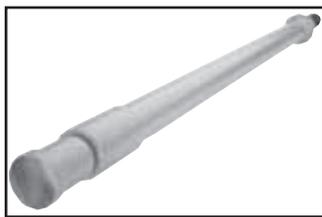
"It can generate more impact force than a sledge hammer of similar weight because the force is linear and because it's always accurate," says Kirschner. "To remove the teeth on a loader bucket you want something shorter and more maneuverable. But if you need all-out power to remove 3-in. dia. excavator bucket pins, you'll want the largest and longest tool. If you want a long hammer to chip away material in a place where you can still maneuver around, the 13-lb., 46-in. model, equipped with a curved chisel, would be ideal.

"It works great for removing tie rods and ball joints, ripper teeth, and loosening beads on large tires."

The Slide Sledge is available in kits that include one tool and up to six different size pin drivers ranging from 1/2 to 3 in. in diameter. Each kit includes a nylon carrying bag with inner pockets to transport and store tool and tips.



You hold the tube with one hand and plunger with the other.



Slide Sledge consists of a heavy metal bar inside a long steel tube.



More than 20 different tips are available.

Tool kits sell for \$300 to \$400. Tips sell for \$30 to \$40 apiece. The company does not sell direct and suggests that you contact its website for the distributor nearest you.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Slide Sledge, LLC, 2500W. Higgins Road, Suite 1050, Hoffman Estates, Ill. 60195 (ph 800 276-0311; fax 877 477-3356; chadk@slidesledge.com; www.slidesledge.com).



Litchfield cut out one end of tank to make an access door and cut off the bottom of the tank to weld in a home-built metal hopper.

Fuel Tank "Blaster" Has Room For Big Parts

Marshall Litchfield, Macomb, Ill., used an old 300-gal. fuel tank to build a state-of-the-art sand blaster.

"It works great and cost only about \$100," says Litchfield.

He cut out one end of the tank to make an access door and cut off the bottom of the tank to weld in a home-built metal hopper. A grate on top of the hopper serves as a table to work on and allows the sand to fall below for reuse.

The tank is equipped with an air-powered blast gun that's pre-plumbed into a quick-tach air hose. A siphon hose runs from the gun down into the sand. When he pulls the trigger on the gun, sand is sucked up out of a bucket and blown out. A 12-volt fan mounts in a metal box at one end of the tank and removes dust during sand blasting. The fan is from an old furnace and so is the filter chamber. An ordinary furnace filter is used to remove dust and debris. A commercial air cleaner equalizes pressure inside the tank.

A 4-ft. long fluorescent light mounts in a rectangular box on top of the tank. The light shines through a plexiglass window that Litchfield cut into the tank.

Litchfield does quite a bit of work restoring antique tractors and says he needed a big sand blaster to work on light metal. "Commercial cabinet sandblasters aren't big enough to accommodate things like tractor fenders and hoods. We have a big sandblaster that's engine-driven that we use outside. However, it has such force that it can swell

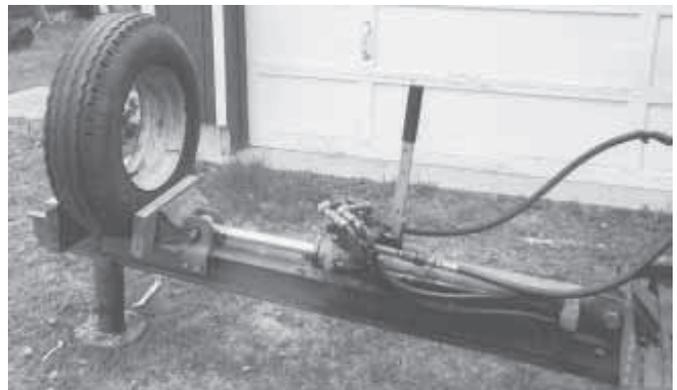


Tank has an air-powered blast gun that's pre-plumbed into a quick-tach air hose.

up light metal and warp it. With a smaller cabinet sand blaster there's less pressure and we can use a finer grit."

To reduce the danger of an explosion when cutting the tank apart, he cleaned out the tank and then hooked up to the exhaust on his pickup to fill the tank with exhaust fumes. "The exhaust is non combustible," notes Litchfield.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marshall Litchfield, 15495 N 700th Rd., Macomb, Ill. 61455 (ph 309 254-3481).



"The bead popped on the first try," says B. Roy Landis.

Wood Splitter Breaks Tire Beads

Wood splitters make good bead breakers, says B. Roy Landis, Cooks, Mich.

He got the idea when working on an old tire with a stubborn bead. He tried a jack and a pry bar, and even considered using a shop press - but the tire was too big.

Finally, he put some wood blocks in his wood splitter and the tire in between. "It popped on the first try," Landis says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, B. Roy Landis, 1051 S County Rd. 442, Cooks, Mich. 49817 (ph 906 644-2282).