

An ATV Can Pull This “No Power” Accumulator

You can pull this lightweight small square bale accumulator behind an ATV, pickup, or small tractor. When used with a loader-mounted grapple fork, it'll greatly reduce the labor needed to bring in bales, says Jeff Oetting, Jonesburg, Mo., a dealer for the new “Hay Tech” equipment.

The 8-bale unit converts from offset side tow to direct-behind transport position in less than a minute. It's covered by three new patents.

“There are no hydraulics, microswitches, chains or pulleys to cause down time,” says Hay Tech owner Steve Crutchfield. “The simple working mechanism makes this accumulator virtually foolproof. It requires no timing, adjusting, or maintenance and is the heaviest-duty ground-driven accumulator on the market.”

Oetting says he originally bought one for himself and liked it so much, he became a dealer.

“If the ground is soft in the spring of the year, you're not going to do nearly as much damage pulling this rig behind an ATV,” he

points out.

The last bale that enters the unit trips open the gate at the back, leaving the 8-pack of bales behind in the field. A spring-loaded latch on the gate causes it to re-close.

“It's simple and trouble-free. There's not much to go wrong,” Oetting says.

Hay Tech also manufactures an 8-bale grapple fork which fits virtually all loaders 40 hp and above, including skid steers.

Crutchfield points out that this hay handling system “allows one man to bale and load square bale hay without additional labor.”

Both Oetting and the factory offer a free video that demonstrates the unit working in the various modes of transportation.

Whether it's purchased from Oetting or directly from Hay Tech, the current price for the accumulator is \$5,995 plus freight. The bale grapple sells for \$2,000 plus freight.

If you are not within 25 mi. of one of their dealers, HayTech will sell factory direct and the unit will be delivered by a factory technician.



Lightweight, small square bale accumulator can be pulled behind an ATV, pickup, or small tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jeff Oetting Farm and Welding, #30 Hayfield Lane, Jonesburg, Mo. 63351 (ph 636 488-3324 or 636 488-3304; email: oettingfarm@socket.net); or Hay Tech, 6468 Wolf Pond Rd., Bascom, Florida 32423 (ph 800 355-1957; email: freevideo@haymaster.biz; website: www.haymaster.biz).



Loader-mounted grapple fork greatly reduces the labor needed to bring in bales, says inventor Jeff Oetting.

Powered Parachute Takes Off From Water

If you live near a body of water and have about \$30,000 to spend, you might consider Rapid Launch's Powered ParaChutes.

“Rapid Launch is the only water-based flying machine on the market,” says Gordon Balena, company president.

The unit is about 14 ft. long, 6 1/2 ft. wide, weighs about 550 lbs., and can handle an additional 525 lbs. (pilot and one passenger). A 65 hp motor powers it.

You don't need a pilot's license to operate it although the \$500 worth of instruction is mandatory. After flying 25 hrs. you take a written and flying test to become a Basic Flight Instructor, which is issued from the Experimental Aircraft Association. After that, you attend a one-day training session at the Alexandra, Minn. facility.

Although you can fly at altitudes of up to

10,000 ft. with wind speeds between 12 and 15 mph for about two hours, most enjoy “slow sights” from between 200 and 1,000 ft., according to the website. “The best times for flying are early morning and late evenings when winds are the most calm,” the company says.

After each use, the parachute is stuffed in a parachute bag and put in a passenger seat, Balena says.

It comes in three models and is sold fully assembled.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rapid Launch, 321 Oak Ridge Dr., Vadnais Heights, Minn. 55127 (ph 866 889-5989 or 651 639-0007 or 651 639-0705; email: info@rapidlaunchusa.com; website: www.rapidlaunchusa.com).



“Rapid Launch” powered parachute is the only water-based flying machine on the market, says the manufacturer.

Cub Cadet Turned Into Walk-Behind “Mini Forklift”

Want to get everything you can out of your Cub Cadet? Then take a look at what Dwayne Lowe did. He turned a 1982 model 1582 hydrostatic Cub Cadet into a mini forklift that's a cross between a loader tractor and a utility cart.

Instead of a seat, it has a 30 by 48-in. dump bed fitted with forks. A pair of hydraulic cylinders tilts the bed up or down. The rig can haul loads up to 1,000 lbs.

He bought the tractor, minus an engine, at a mower salvage yard for \$300. He removed the seat and shortened the hood, equipping it with a pull-start Briggs & Stratton 8 hp engine. He unbolted the steering wheel and re-mounted it on front of the tractor, re-connecting it to a pair of rebuilt tie rods. He also repositioned the hydrostat control lever next to the steering wheel, inverting the lever to reverse the gears.

The dump bed is built from angle iron and expanded metal. Its cylinders are powered by a booster pump driven off the tractor's hydrostatic transmission. The lever that was originally used to lift the tractor's mower deck up and down, is now used to control the forks and dump bed.

Lowe can walk behind the tractor when operating it or he can stand on a small plat-

form which helps counterbalance large loads.

“It gets a lot of different reactions from people. I hear everything from, ‘you ruined a perfectly good Cub,’ to ‘that's pretty cool,’” says Lowe. “I spent a total of about \$500 to build it.”

Lowe has a small amusement ride business and uses the mini forklift to load equipment onto trailers. The bags roll up like a big tarp and weigh up to 1,000 lbs.

“If I want, I can replace the forks with a dump box to haul dirt, rocks, plants, small bales, and so forth.

Lowe had to make some other modifications to the tractor to convert it into a mini forklift. “I bumped the hydraulic line pressure up from 500 to 1,500 psi, which provided enough hydraulic pressure to operate the cylinders. I also had to reverse the output of the engine in order to operate the hydrostatic transmission. The throttle is still on the dash. I grab the hydraulic deck arm on one side of the steering column and push on it to dump the load. Pulling back on the lever brings the deck back down to the horizontal position.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwayne Lowe, 88 400th St., Chanute, Kansas 66720 (ph 620 433-1559).



Dwayne Lowe turned a hydrostatic Cub Cadet into this walk-behind “mini forklift”. It has a 30 by 48-in. dump bed with forks on front that tilt down for loading.



To operate the tractor, Lowe walks in front of machine and drives it backward. Operator can stand on fold-down front step to counter balance big loads.