



Using the “learn-as-you-go” method, Greg Lenz built this front-end loader for his Deere 318 garden tractor.



Loader is built strong enough to lift front end of tractor off the ground.

He Built A Loader For His Deere Garden Tractor

“I wanted to add a front-end loader to my Deere 318 garden tractor but Deere no longer makes loaders for this tractor and used loaders sell for \$1,500 or more, if you can find one. I decided to build my own,” says Greg Lenz, Dubuque, Iowa.

He created a wish list before starting construction: It had to attach easily to the tractor; it had to operate while the deck was on the tractor; it had to be able to lift at least

400 lbs; it had to work with the tractor’s on-board hydraulics; and it had to raise at least 6 ft. high.

“I’m not an engineer so figuring out how to make all this happen took more research than I care to think about,” says Lenz. “My biggest fear was starting construction and spending a lot of money, only to find out that I couldn’t complete the project.”

Lenz had never done any metal crafting

before so building the loader was a learn-as-you-go proposition. “I had to learn how to weld, so I borrowed tools such as welders and chop saws. I wanted to stay within a certain budget, but I discovered that the hydraulic components I needed cost more than I expected. Fortunately I have a good friend who works for a supply house and he was able to get me a lot of stuff at cost or just above.”

In the end, Lenz says the loader worked even better than expected. “It has more capacity than the loader that Deere sells today for its 400 series tractors. I was able to build the entire loader for less than \$800.”

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“Leaf Sucker” Picked Up Nine Tons Of Leaves Last Year

Larry Seiter, Conway, Ark., turned an 18-in. dia. impeller vacuum that he obtained at work into a giant capacity 3-pt. mounted, pto-operated leaf vacuum.

The rig sucks up leaves in a 6-ft. wide path, breaks them up into little pieces, and then blows them into a high-sided wagon. Seiter uses his Ford 3000 35 hp tractor to pull the machine, which is painted Deere green and yellow.



Rig sucks up leaves in a 6-ft. wide path, breaks them up into little pieces, and then blows them into a high-sided cargo box.

“I call it the Leaf Sucker 2000 because I built it in 2000. It keeps my lawn looking nice and virtually eliminates the need to do any raking by hand,” says Seiter.

The fan mounts on a frame made from 4-in. channel iron that’s supported by a pair of large caster wheels. The vacuum hood

mounts directly behind the fan and is made out of two sheets of 3/4-in. thick, pressure treated plywood. The fan was originally powered by a 20 hp electric motor and operated at 3,600 rpm’s. Seiter calculated how many rpm’s the pto-operated fan needed to run in order to get the vacuuming power needed to pick up leaves. Then he hooked a jackshaft up to the pto and installed a 24-in. dia. pulley on the fan shaft. “The fan now runs at 2,200 rpm’s, which provides about 3,000 cubic ft./min. of air. It only takes about 5 hp off my tractor so I hardly even know it’s behind me,” says Seiter.

A 6-in. dia., 40-ft. long flexible plastic hose connects to the side of the machine. By sliding a board through the hood, Seiter can shut off the vacuum to the main hood and direct all the vacuum to the hose.

“I used it for the first time last fall on my 3-acre lawn and also on my neighbors’ lawns, and it worked great. I also used it on the tree-covered grounds of a club that I belong to. The cage has a capacity of about 400 lbs. All together I picked up about nine tons of leaves. My machine covers a wider area than most commercial rigs, which are limited to a 4-ft. area, and it also has a lot more suction. It’s also more compact which makes it easier to



Larry Seiter turned an 18-in. dia. impeller vacuum that he obtained at work into a giant capacity, 3-pt. mounted, pto-operated leaf vacuum.

maneuver around flower beds and corners of buildings. The 6-in. hose has tremendous capacity.

“Originally I blew the leaves into a cage mounted on a 2-wheel trailer behind the fan. However, I couldn’t negotiate around trees

very well so I decided to mount the cage directly on the leaf sucker.”

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“Stableizer” Helps Train Any Horse

R.C. ‘Buck’ Wheeler says he’s never met a horse he couldn’t train.

Wheeler grew up training horses on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. As a youngster, he learned to use an Indian training device known as the “war bridle”, which was a rope that fitted over the back of the horse’s head, and through his mouth. He says this gave the rider extraordinary control, but the rope was abrasive and caused problems in the horse’s upper gum.

Wheeler is now a Thoroughbred horse breeder and trainer in Ellendale, Minn., and he’s put together a humane training tool that combines the Indian war bridle with Chinese acupuncture. His patented device is called the “Stableizer”.

It’s a thin strap that fits behind the horse’s ears and underneath the top lip. “It stimulates

an acupuncture point on the horse’s gums that blocks the release of adrenaline,” he says. “And where it passes behind the ears, it puts pressure on two points on the poll – one behind each ear – that stimulate the release of endorphins.”

Adrenaline causes a ‘flight or fight’ response, so when its release is blocked, the horse is less likely to fight, kick or rear and strike at a trainer. “And the endorphin release makes the horse feel good, despite what’s going on around him,” Wheeler says. “Horses actually like the feeling. I have a stallion that lowers his head for me to put the Stableizer on him every time he sees me.”

With the Stableizer in place, horses that have been difficult to clip or shoe can be handled easily. Wheeler says once the Stableizer is in place, he can have any horse

broke to lead in under an hour. Many are also broken to ride in that time - all without fighting the horse or risking injury to the trainer.

The Stableizer has been used on racehorses, draft horses, Bureau of Land Management mustangs, and even zebras, donkeys and llamas. It’s available in five sizes to fit all breeds from miniatures to the largest workhorses. It sells for \$49.95, plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling. Wheeler also has an instructional and training video for \$39.95, or pay only \$29.95 if you buy it along with the Stableizer.

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“Stableizer” is a humane training tool that combines an Indian war bridle with Chinese acupuncture.