

“Hot Wheels” Stove Keeps Shop Warm

If you're cold, do something about it. That's what Gary Tickner figured when the temperature dropped to near zero and his fuel oil furnace couldn't keep his shop warm. He put together a pile of old wheel rims and started welding.

"I cut the centers out of four 25-in. truck wheels and welded the rims together for a firebox," says Tickner, a logging contractor in northern California. "I cut flat plates for both ends and made a door in one at the front of the stove."

He used scrap steel he had in his shop, using 3/8-in. plate for the door and end plates. He cut four air inlet holes in the door and in the rear plate, mounting sliding plates with offset holes over both to act as dampers.

"When I get the fire going, I can open both sets, and the fire draws air in from both ends of the stove," says Tickner.

Cutting the round stove ends out of square sections of steel plate left behind perfect outlines of the stove's round shape. Tickner welded a length of 4-in. pipe between two of the leftover scraps to make a base for his new stove.

After building the firebox, he took a second set of rims and mounted them above the first set to act as a "heatilator". He cut a hole in the second rim from the front in both sets and fabricated a gasket from steel scraps to connect the two.

Tickner then cut three steel plates with seven matching 4-in. diameter holes sized to fit inside the ends of the upper chamber. Seven lengths of 4-in. diameter steel pipe, each the length of the chamber, were welded

to two of the plates with a third plate left to slide free over the pipes.

Before inserting the heat exchanger, Tickner drilled two holes in the front plate and inserted the ends of a rod bent in a U and a few inches longer than the chamber. These ends were then tack welded to the free plate. Pipes and plates were then inserted through the chamber, and the plates were welded in place to cap off the heatilator chamber. A flue was mounted at the rear of the heatilator.

"When I want to clean off the heat exchanger pipes inside the heatilator, all I have to do is pull on the rod and the free plate," explains Tickner. "As the free plate slides back and forth, it scrapes any soot buildup off the pipes."

As a finishing touch to the efficiency of his wood stove, Tickner picked up a used squirrel cage fan for \$10 at a local machine shop and mounted it behind the heat exchanger.

"I don't know how big the fan is, but when I plug it in, I can feel heat moving 30 ft. in front of the stove," says Tickner.

The entire project took him less than two days time, and the only money spent on it was \$10 for the used fan. Now whenever it gets too cold for the fuel oil furnace, Tickner fires up his 'hot wheels' stove.

"You could make this stove as long as you wanted or as big around as available rims would allow," he says.

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Gary Tickner built this stove by cutting the centers out of four 25-in. truck wheels and welding the rims together for a firebox. He cut flat plates for both ends and made a door in one end. He cut four air inlet holes in the door and in the rear plate, mounting sliding plates with offset holes over both to act as dampers.



Ground Hog scraper mounts to the quick-tach plate on skid steer loader arms. Caster wheels on front end help carry three to four times the load a conventional bucket could handle.

Skidsteer Earth Mover

The Ground Hog 2500 from Ashland Earthmovers grabbed a lot of attention at recent farm shows in Des Moines, Iowa and Louisville, Ky. The 2 1/2-sq. yd. scraper mounts to the quick-tach plate on skid steer loader arms. Caster wheels on the front end of the scraper help carry three to four times the load a conventional bucket could handle.

"We recognized that the larger track skid steers on the market could be effective earth moving machines," says Randy Rust, president, Ashland Industries.

Ashland has applied for patents not only on the Ground Hog 2500, but also on the concept of mounting caster wheel-equipped implements on skidsteer and tractor loader arms.

The caster wheels are mounted on an oscillating beam at the front of the scraper. The beam can rotate up to 38 degrees, allowing the wheels to ride over curbs or other objects while maintaining a uniform cut with the scraper.

The scraper is operated with loader arms down and against the frame. This reduces stress on the loader arms. Two 3 1/2 by 16-in. hydraulic cylinders provide lift.

Running on a single remote, the Ground Hog 2500 is easy to control. The multi-purpose unit can place dirt, grade, strip sod or backfill curbs.

"We've had a very positive reaction to the Ground Hog so far," says Rust. "Everyone who has seen it is impressed with how it works. We're working to make it more laser ready for customers wanting to do grade control."

The Ground Hog 2500 takes a 72-in. cut and has a transport weight of just 2,900 lbs. Lists for \$15,450.

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Add-on "stripper knife" is designed for the rotors on IH 40, 60, and 80 series combines.



Photo shows how well the green straw is chopped up and spread.

Combine Add-On Chops Up Green Bean Straw

Jeff Legner, who farms and also operates a welding shop near Odell, Ill., recently sent photos of a new add-on "stripper knife" he builds for the rotors on International Harvester 40, 60, and 80 series combines. It's designed to chop up wads of green bean straw at the back of the combine.

"I got the idea because our IH 1680 combine isn't equipped with a chopper. As a result, if the bean straw is green the combine throws big wads out the back. My add-on stripper knives chop up those wads into small pieces. They bolt in between the cage and keystack crate. The holes are slotted making the knives easy to adjust."

There are three stripper knives, one for each keystack crate, which is a metal plate with four sharp knives at the end. The knives are 3/4 in. long and are spaced between the notches on the notch separator rotor bars.

"The stripper knives are designed to work in all 40, 60, and 80 series combines," says Legner, who notes that he also rebuilds concaves, cylinder bars and corn head stock rolls.

A set of three stripper knives sells for \$300 plus S&H.

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