

Compact Logging Arch Built For Small Tree Farms

"It's small enough to fit through narrow openings between trees without scarring them, and light enough to keep from tearing up the ground. Yet it'll handle logs up to 70 ft. long with no problem," says Thomas Esteb, Yacolt, Wash., about his home-built logging arch.

Esteb operates a small tree farm and built the logging arch to pull behind his ATV. Made from 2 1/2-in. dia. exhaust pipe, the 2-wheeled unit measures about 4 ft. long and weighs only about 70 lbs. It's equipped with a 3,200-lb., 2-speed, hand-operated winch. "The lifting point is located 14 in. ahead of the axle, which eliminates all the friction of one end of the log dragging and makes it much easier for the ATV to pull the log without spinning its wheels," says Esteb.

He uses the logging arch to thin out 25-year-old Douglas Fir trees that average about 65 ft. tall.

"Last year I used it to haul 171 logs out of my woods in just two and a half days. The trees averaged 12 inches in diameter and were anywhere from 60 to 70 ft. long. The tongue has a 2-in. ball hitch welded onto it that's free to swivel 360 degrees. As a result, I hardly even know that the logging arch is behind me," says Esteb. He has worked in the timber industry all his life, but never logged his own woods because he saw what happens when you try to thin out trees with tractors and conventional logging arches. "I wanted



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a logging arch that would work with an ATV, but I wasn't satisfied with the ones on the market. On most commercial logging arches, the winch is located directly above the axle so all the log's weight goes onto the logging arch and the ATV's wheels just spin."

He says the unit can also be used to lift and haul 600 to 800-lb. rocks.

Esteb says he's willing to build the logging arch for about \$1,200. He says he also plans to build a model equipped with an electric winch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Thomas Esteb, Jr., 26218 N.E. Gillette Road, Yacolt, Wash. 98675 (360 686-3927 or 360 921-5097; thomasesteb@yahoo.com).

"Bedliner Rake" For Pickups

This new "bedliner rake" for pickups fits any standard broom handle and makes it easy to remove material/debris from the grooves in a drop-in bedliner.

Made from 3/8-in. thick poly, the triangle-shaped rake has a threaded hole at the center. It has different sized and shaped teeth on each side, allowing it to work on any bedliner no matter the size and shape of the grooves.

Unlike a broom, it can remove heavy compacted materials.

Sells for \$8 plus \$2 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Loadhandler Products Corp., 342 Fourth St., Libertyville, Ill. 60048 (ph 800 580-0791; contact@loadhandler.com; www.loadhandler.com).



Triangle-shaped poly rake has different sized and shaped teeth on each side, making it easy to remove material from the grooves in any drop-in bedliner.

Low Cost "Cold Frame" Doubles As Greenhouse

Built simple and strong, these build-it-yourself cold frames from Golden Pacific Structures can also be used as full-fledged greenhouses with heaters and fans.

"Historically, cold frames have been used to prevent frost from damaging high value plants in the field. Often, lightweight poly was temporarily draped over inexpensive frames - thus the term cold frame," explains director Gary Baze. "Our cold frames are built so well many growers are using these inexpensive structures as commercial greenhouses."

"All our GPS cold frames have a Gothic arch roof design," says Baze. Besides shedding snow, the arch reduces condensation build-up and water dripping inside. The taller than usual design also creates a high tunnel effect - more air volume produces better growing conditions.

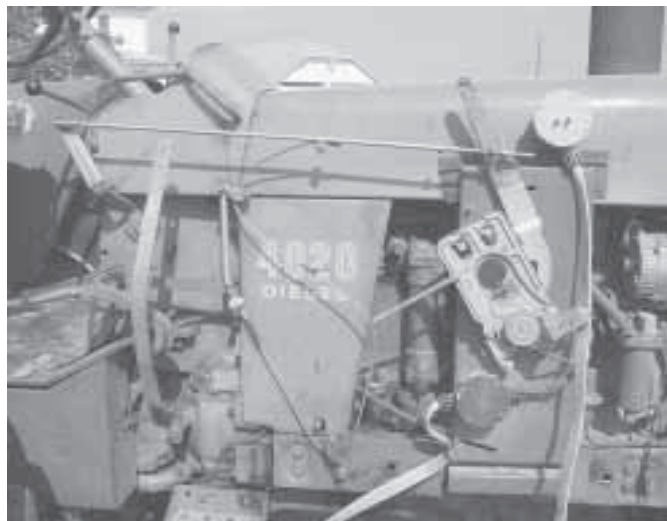
"The frame simply slips together," Baze says. "It's very simple to put up yourself."

The company's website includes step-by-step photos of putting up a cold frame. The frame is made of square tubing, which is stronger than round pipes common in many cold frames.

The cold frames are manufactured in three U.S. plants and shipped by common carrier.

GPS's Windjammer Series 5000 structures come in widths from 16 to 35 ft. and lengths of whatever the grower requires. Kits start at about \$5,000 and have a 1-year workmanship warranty.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Baze, Golden Pacific Structures, 313 Jesse Way, Redlands, California 92374 (ph 909 583-7955; gbaze@gpstructures.com; www.gpstructures.com).



Dave Jones used a power window motor to make a remote control for his Deere tractor (photo shows magnetic control box on cord stuck to side of tractor).

Remote Unit Controls Pto And Throttle

Dave Jones was tired of listening to the chatter of an empty auger as a load finished emptying. A swing hopper on his auger forced him to race around a truck or under the auger to shut off the pto. After a short conversation with a local body shop owner he found an answer to the problem.

"He suggested using a power window motor from a car," recalls Jones. "He even gave me one and showed me how to wire it."

Jones mounted the unit on the John Deere 4020 that powers his 70-ft., 10-in. auger. It's rigged to engage the hydraulic pto clutch and then throttle to the motor. Shutting down the auger eases back on the throttle before shutting off the pto.

"You have to reverse the polarity to shut down, so we have two double-throw switches on the control box," says Jones. "A 30-ft. cable runs from the unit on the tractor to a magnetic-backed control box (which is stuck to the hood in the photo)."

The setup is simple. The power window motor and arm that would normally move the window up and down are attached to a metal plate. The plate bolts to the frame of the tractor and also clips to the hood. A short steel rod runs from a metal sleeve that slips over the handgrip on the hydraulic pto clutch arm

to and through an eyebolt on the arm. Two stops on the rod on either side of the eyebolt allow the rod some needed slippage.

"The pto tends to snap into and out of gear about the time you move the clutch arm halfway," explains Jones. "The stops on the rod let it move as fast as needed without putting pressure on the arm of the window motor."

A cable connected to a midpoint on the control rod engages the foot throttle on the 4020. The cable runs from the control rod through a pulley on the tractor frame and back up to the lever and spring. When the clutch is engaged, the cable puts pressure on the lever, which in turn presses down on the foot pedal throttle. Positioning of the cable end on the clutch control rod ensures the throttle is not engaged until after the pto. A second spring attached to the window motor mount maintains some tension on the cable when it is not engaged.

"The linkage was easy to set up, and it didn't take long to adjust everything," says Jones. "It works great, and it can be removed from the tractor in a few minutes time and easily reinstalled as needed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Jones, 1185 Pine Ave., Fairfield, Iowa 52556 (ph 319 694-3684; triplej@iowatelecom.net).



Build-it-yourself cold frames can also be used as greenhouses with heaters and fans.



Cold frame shell is made of square tubing (left). Besides shedding snow, the arch reduces condensation build-up and water dripping inside.