

New Products From The Louisville Lawn Equipment Expo

New Way To Motorize A Wheelbarrow

Here's an easy way to add power to an existing wheelbarrow. The chain-driven "MotoBarrow" wheel simply bolts to a standard 6, 8 or 10-cu. ft. wheelbarrow.

Roger Simons at Innovative Fabrications got the idea for the MotoBarrow kit when his wife and son were moving rock across a creek and up a hill on their property. His wife said they needed a powered unit and asked why they couldn't just put a motor on the existing wheelbarrow.

Simons put together a prototype, and it worked great. People saw it and suggested he get it patented.

Several prototypes and a patent later, Simons is now marketing the kit direct. No modification of the wheelbarrow is needed. The MotoBarrow simply bolts on where the factory-installed front wheel or wheels attach. The compact unit fits inside the existing frame of a traditional wheelbarrow, making storage easy.

The 3-wheel model uses three standard wheels, but has 30 lbs. pressure in the center wheel and 15 lbs. on outside wheels to ensure easy turning.

"The higher pressure in the center wheel lets it turn like a dream, while the side wheels add stability," says Simons. "Plus when you have to go through uneven soil like a tilled garden, it pulls evenly as there is always at

least one wheel that hits the high spots and keeps pulling."

The MotoBarrow consists of a powder-coated steel frame, four-cycle gas engine, chain-drive gear reduction system, axle, tires and hand throttle. The drive features quick-adjust chain adjusters and sealed bearings. An optional rear axle attachment is also available to replace the rear feet and eliminate the need to lift the wheelbarrow while moving.

The MotoBarrow throttle can be mounted for left or right hand control. With its centrifugal clutch, the drive remains in neutral until the throttle is activated. At full throttle the MotoBarrow moves at a brisk walk.

Customers can choose from a 1.6-hp, four-stroke Honda or a 1.4-hp four-stroke Subaru. Both are priced at \$549.95 for the 3-wheel drive model. A 2-wheel model sells for \$499.95. The rear wheel attachment is priced at \$129.95. Shipping is extra. Simons says the company can also mount the MotoBarrow on a new wheelbarrow and sell it as a complete unit.

"One of the unique things about the drive is the square tubing over square tubing that we use for the subframe," says Simons. "It prevents transfer of engine vibration to the frame of the wheelbarrow."

The unique drive system uses reversible hubs on the drive axle to engage the wheels.



Photo shows 2-wheel-drive model, left, and 3-wheel-drive model, which is also fitted with optional rear wheel kit.

A lug on the hub pushes against an ear on the wheel to push the wheelbarrow forward. Slip out the securing pin, reverse the hub and the wheels become freewheeling.

The drive lug acts like a differential. When you turn, it allows the outer wheel to run ahead of the inner wheel; yet you still have postrotation," explains Simons.

On the 3-wheel model, either or both outside wheels can be disengaged from the drive

if not needed. On the 2-wheel model, one of the wheels can be disengaged.

Simon points out that attaching or detaching the unit can be done in a few minutes.

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Replaceable Plastic Cutting Tips Eliminate Mower Blade Sharpening

How would you like it if you never had to sharpen a mower blade ever again? That's what will happen if this new mower blade with replaceable cutting tips catches on.

"New Edge" blades made their debut at the recent Green Industry Expo, in Louisville, Ky. Since the show, inventor and manufacturer, Jim Lindmeyer, has been swamped with orders from professional lawn care companies and retailers.

He says the simplicity of always maintaining a sharp cut is what has attracted attention from potential customers. "The poly tips are easy to replace, and it takes just seconds compared to unbolting a metal blade," says Lindmeyer. "The cutting tips slip easily into the blade with no tools, and centrifugal force keeps them seated. A double locking safety system makes sure they will never fly off during mowing."

The blade - which is actually not a blade, but a holder for the cutting tips - is fashioned

from American-made steel with a powder coat finish. The polypropylene cutting tips are designed to create a lifting effect. Each tip has a cutting edge out front with a toothed edge at the back that lifts and mulches cut grass. Lindmeyer says the plastic tips are made to stand up to the heaviest use and are resistant to most liquids found in a typical garage or shop.

"They're nontoxic and recyclable," he says. "Each pair should last for 8 to 10 hours of cutting. When they need replacing, you just pull out the worn ones and slip new ones in."

Lindmeyer currently sells direct to dealers but is also setting up distributors. He says the largest wholesaler in Canada has taken on the product and will be making it available through Canadian lawn and garden equipment retailers. Cutting tips come in packs of 6 pairs and sell for under \$10, or 12 pairs for under \$18. The tip holder "blade" has a sug-



Poly cutting tips, right, slip into blade holder shown above. Notches on tips help mulch grass.

gested retail price of less than \$20.

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"Mower Tilt" Makes Maintenance Easy

FARM SHOW found a handy new device for push mower decks at the recent Green Industry Expo in Louisville, Ky.

"I wanted a way to do maintenance without tipping the mower on its side or having to have someone hold the mower handle down," explains inventor Arthur Wright, who had a prototype on display.

With his MowerTilt, you just push a round 12-in. pin into the ground with your foot, hook the mower handle under the bracket, and fasten it in place with a pin. If you're on sandy or soft ground, you can slip in a second pin from the opposite direction for a better hold.

The J-shaped bracket can also be used in the shop to hang weed whips and other lawn tools.

Wright is negotiating with two companies

interested in marketing his invention. The disabled coal miner, who spent 35 years underground, says he was overwhelmed by the reaction to his invention at the giant lawn and garden trade show.

"I never could have imagined the reception I got to my idea," he says. "I had more than 1,000 interested customers and could easily have sold 500 to 600 of them at the show."

Wright hopes to keep the price around \$15 retail, but final pricing will depend on production and marketing costs. He promised to let FARM SHOW know when Mower Tilt becomes available.

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You push the "Mower Tilt" pin into the ground with your foot, hook the mower handle under the bracket, and fasten it in place with a pin.

