

Loader-Mounted Log Splitter

After checking prices on a new log splitter Ken Yettaw, St. Paul, Alta., came up with the idea for a loader-mounted splitter for his Ford 9N tractor.

"I needed a splitter for wood larger than 10 in. dia. A new splitter cost about \$1,200 and to build one would've cost \$600 to \$750, whereas I built my splitter using existing parts and salvaged material," says Yettaw. "Another advantage is I don't have an extra piece of equipment to maintain."

He pinned a 6-ft. length of 10-in. wide channel iron to one side of the loader frame, welding a 3/4-in. bolt to the frame and drilling a hole in the channel iron. The loader was originally equipped with two bucket tilt cylinders, one on each side. He moved one cylinder over beside the other one and anchored both cylinders inside the channel iron. To attach the cylinder he welded on a 3/4-in. piece of steel with a 1-in. hole in it, and used the same pin that held the cylinder to the

frame when it was on the other side.

An 8-in. long, 4 by 6 angle iron is bolted onto both cylinders to serve as a push plate. He made his own wedge and welded it onto the channel iron, about 3 in. back from the fully extended cylinders. The bucket hangs freely upside down and is used to support the channel iron.

The 12-in. long, 3-in. wide wedge is made from 1/2-in. thick mild steel that Yettaw sharpened with an angle grinder. A vertical steel pipe welded to the back side of the wedge reinforces the wedge and also helps push off the split logs.

"It took only an hour of welding and three hours to put it all together. I couldn't be happier with it," says Yettaw. "I didn't have to spend any money on cylinders, hoses, pumps, or motor controls. It works fast, too, because loader bucket cylinders move faster than the cylinders on most commercial log splitters, even when the tractor is just idling.



Ken Yettaw built this loader-mounted log splitter for his Ford 9N tractor on-the-cheap, using existing parts and salvaged material.

"To split the log I just lower the loader to the ground and let the bucket hang freely. I connected an 8-ft. length of 3/4-in. sq. tubing back to the hydraulic lever on the tractor that operates the bucket's tilt cylinders. That way I can operate the cylinders right from where I'm splitting the wood.

"To use the loader again I just remove the

channel iron by removing two pins, then put the cylinder back where it was originally located."

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Remote Chimney Sweep Back On The Market

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

I invented and patented this remote-controlled chimney sweep nearly 25 years ago. I've had one in use on my house since then and it has worked great for all that time. A few were built commercially and the people who bought units love them.

Now Gene Boehler, Farmersville, Ill., is bringing them back to market.

Controlled by a rope from the ground, the sweep simply fits over the top of a circular flue and houses a brush with a weight housed in the top. Smoke exits through metal screening below the upper housing. It can be used on a brick chimney if it has a circular metal liner.

The brush has 1 in. of bristles which is enough to keep the flue clean yet still pull easily up and down with a light weight attached. Galvanized steel cable is used.

Arnold and Doris Hall, Dow, Ill., have had a unit installed on their Dow, Ill., home since the early 1990's and say they wouldn't want to be without it. "Before we had the sweep, we were forever doing the messy job of taking down the flue to clean it. This just makes it easy," says Doris.

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Gene Boehler is bringing this remote-controlled chimney sweep back on the market. It was invented by C.F. Marley nearly 25 years ago.



"Wheeled snow pusher" is equipped with a 24-in. wide shovel that rides on a pair of 6-in. rubber wheels.

Rolling Snow Shovel

Using a pair of 6-in. rubber wheels, a New York man found a way to make moving snow much easier on the back.

Edward Dubois says his "wheeled snow pusher" requires no lifting.

"I just push it using my legs and not my back. It's designed to be used on paved surfaces."

He mounted the 24-in. wide shovel on a pair of 6-in. rubber wheels, with a 5/8-in. dia. metal rod serving as the axle. A pair of angle irons bolt on just behind the blade, with a pair of vertical strap irons providing reinforcement. He also ran a 2-ft. length of broom handle through the shovel's handle,

allowing him to push with both hands for more leverage.

"It works great. Whenever I want to dump the snow I push down on the shovel handle and the snow flies right off the blade," says Dubois. "I use it on my 80-ft. long by 16-ft. wide blacktop driveway. It's especially useful when light snow accumulates up to 6 in. deep. I spray wax all my snow equipment, which makes the snow slide off much easier."

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Counterweight is made out of a piece of 24-in. dia., 1/2-in. thick wall pipe. Barrett uses the counterweight when operating a front-mounted boom on his Allis Chalmers tractor.

Simple Tractor Counterweight

"I made a counterweight for my 50 Series Allis Chalmers tractor with a Class I hitch. The weight is made out of a piece of 24-in. dia., 1/2-in. thick wall pipe with brackets to fit the 3-pt. hitch," says Ramon Barrett, Kenai, Alaska.

He cut out a section at the top of the pipe, and ran a rail across the top of the two sides. Then he poured concrete into the bottom half

of the pipe for weight. There's a trailer ball attached to the back of the pipe to tow a trailer without removing the weight.

Barrett uses the counterweight when operating a boom on front of the tractor to haul spruce trees to his bandsaw sawmill.

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