

“Sideways” Log Splitter For Skid Loaders

“My quick-tach log splitter mounts perpendicular to the skid loader instead of in line with it. As a result, it’s coupled closer to the loader and can split bigger logs. And by using the bucket tilt cylinders I can tilt the splitter up or down to work my way around the log, which lets me split logs fast,” says Lewis Legge, Valley City, N. Dak.

The splitter unit bolts to the bottom of an 8-ft. long steel I-beam. A 5-in. dia., 28-in. long hydraulic cylinder bolts onto one side of the I-beam, which allows logs to be carried and/or split at the center of the machine. One end of the cylinder is equipped with a flared metal piece that supports a retractable knife. The knife can be retracted against a “stripper” that’s built into a slot inside the flared piece, allowing a stuck log to be quickly removed from the knife.

“It’s a lot more versatile than other skid loader-mounted splitters that extend straight out in front of the skid loader,” says Legge. “It can lift logs that weigh up to 2,500 lbs., which is much more than other splitters can handle. I came up with the idea because I have a sawmill and sometimes have big chunks left

over that have to be sliced through several times before pieces start breaking off. By using the bucket tilt cylinders I can stay in one place and work my way around the cob. I can go at least 90 degrees around big chunks.

“With the splitter in an inverted position, I can use it to carry large pieces of wood.

“I bought the slide, cylinder, anchor block, and log stripper as a log splitter kit from Northern Tool for \$600. My total cost was less than \$1,000. I fabricated all the rest of the attachments.”

Legge also uses the splitter to set poles when putting up pole frame buildings. “I grab the pole onto the ground pointing away from me, with the splitter tilted in the bucket’s dump position. As I raise the loader arms I also tilt the bucket cylinders back, which stands the pole straight up in the air. Then I drive over the hole, open up, and drop the pole into the hole.”

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Lewis Legge’s quick-tach log splitter mounts perpendicular to skid loader instead of in line with it. As a result, it’s coupled closer to the loader and can split bigger logs. A 5-in. dia., 28-in. long hydraulic cylinder bolts onto one side of steel I-beam.



Belly-Mount Blade For Compact Tractors

If you own a compact utility tractor, you’ll be interested in this new hydraulic-operated, belly-mount grader that’s designed to attach to 2 or 4-WD tractors with 45 hp or less.

The blade measures 6 ½ ft. wide by 7 in. high and attaches and detaches with two bolts. A 5-spool valve operates it.

“It allows you to grade roads too small or inconvenient for conventional graders on bigger tractors,” says inventor Randy Leith, Howard, S. Dak. “As far as I know it could be the first hydraulic grader blade designed for tractors under 45 hp. The blade performs the same functions as a full-sized maintainer. It angles, tilts, raises, pitch heel/toe and side shifts left or right 8 in. from center.”

Leith started working on the mini-maintainer 6 years ago when he was working on road construction. “I got the idea because I have a small acreage and thought there should be a way to use a blade on a small utility tractor just like we use on road construction.

“I used it last summer to grade a lot of driveways in and out of town, and on acreages

and farms. I also used the blade to grade a ½-mile of township road and to do new home construction landscaping where it worked to near perfection. I’ve also used the blade to remove snow from 10 driveways and two businesses.

“People have asked me why the blade isn’t taller. I tell them it’s the curvature of the blade that is key to rolling the material out ahead.”

The tractor needs a minimum of 14 in. of clearance underneath and a minimum of 34 in. between the front and rear tires. The tractor needs to have a hydraulic pump and one available port in and out.

An optional 3-pt. mounted ripper attachment is available. “The ripper works great for breaking up and loosening compacted areas such as driveways, black dirt, gardens, sod, and so forth.

“The whole unit, except for the mounting brackets, can be removed by taking out three pins and disconnecting the hydraulic lines with the quick disconnects that are supplied with the unit,” says Leith.



Hydraulic-operated, belly-mount grader is designed to attach to 2 or 4-WD tractors with 45 hp or less. “It lets you grade roads too small or inconvenient for conventional graders on bigger tractors,” says inventor Randy Leith.

The blade sells for about \$5,000; the ripper for less than \$500.

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Rubber Cutting Edge For Loader Buckets

You can turn a loader bucket or blade into a giant squeegee using bolt-on rubber cutting edges. Marketed in the past to mining and waste management industries, rubber cutting edges will be equally useful at home pushing manure slurry or grain. The beveled piece of rubber on the cutting edges ensures a clean sweep and smooth pickup. Rubber cutting edges in two styles are available from SETCO Tire and Schuyler Rubber Co.

“We recommend 3 in. of rubber for skid steer buckets, 4 in. for small loaders and 5 in. for larger loaders,” says Sharon Birdsong, SETCO. “We recently introduced a cutting edge with 9 in. of rubber for extra large payloaders.”

The cutting edges are made from 100 percent natural rubber in one continuous piece. Pieces of rubber edge are then bonded to a metal blade that bolts beneath the cutting edge of the bucket. Rubber leveling pads are mounted to the rear of the bucket to ensure the

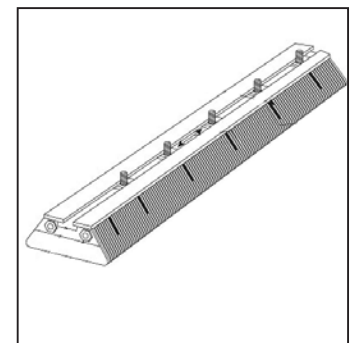
bucket operates at the proper angle.

Depending on the width of the bucket, SETCO’s rubber cutting edges may come in one or up to three pieces for ease of shipping. Edges may be custom designed to fit a specific loader or mounted with a universal slot bolt connection to fit a variety of buckets. Rubber cutting edges are available for nearly all skid steer loaders, backhoes and front-end loaders.

“Our cutting edges range in price from \$81.28/ft. for the 3-in. thick rubber to \$180/ft. for the 9-in. thick rubber,” notes Birdsong.

Schuyler makes its cutting edges out of recycled tires. Each standard-sized cutting edge that is made diverts 16 truck tires from the landfill and saves 220 gal. of imported oil. Pieces are compressed onto steel rods and secured with flat bar retaining plates every 12 in.

Tire pieces for buckets vary from 4 3/8-in. by 9-in. with 2 in. of wear surface extending



Bolt-on rubber cutting edge from SETCO, left, turns a loader bucket or blade into a giant squeegee. Schuyler’s rubber cutting edge, right, also attaches to lip of bucket.

below the end plates to 10-in. by 18-in. with 6-in. for wear surface. An easy slide channel is secured over the top of the cutting edge. Plow bolts inserted into the channel can be adjusted to match the bucket edge bolt pattern.

“Our prices range from \$75 to \$154 per foot,” says Anne Garcia, Schuyler Rubber.

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