



Home-built, drive-on service deck tilts to the ground for loading.



Once the riding mower reaches a tipping point, deck tilts back to a horizontal position.

Teeter Totter Service Ramp For Garden Tractors, ATV's

"It provides me with a safe and easy way to clean the deck and sharpen the blades on my riding mower. I wouldn't be without it," says Graham Keeney, International Falls, Minn., about his home-built, drive-on service deck.

The ramps hold the tractor about 2 ft. off the ground and are made from corrugated and nonskid metal. They're 10 ft. long by 10

in. wide. The deck's legs are made from 2 1/2-in. sq. tubing, with skid plates allowing the unit to be pulled around Keeney's shop or yard.

What makes the service deck unique is how it tilts to the ground for loading, and then tilts back to a horizontal position once the riding mower reaches a tipping point. "The

deck is balanced to stay in an angled position when not in use, but levels out to a horizontal position as soon as the riding mower reaches the deck's 'overcenter' point," says Keeney.

A small, 1-way hydraulic cylinder positioned under the ramp softens the up-and-down motion. The cylinder is attached to a bracket with a pair of metal pins that

allow the cylinder to pivot as the ramp tilts. "I restricted the flow inside the cylinder so the cylinder moves nice and slow," says Keeney.

He also uses the ramps to drive a garden tractor or ATV into a pickup bed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Graham Keeney, 3913 Hwy. 11, International Falls, Minn. 56649 (ph 218 283-2360).

Rebuilder Specializes In "Everything"

Garnet Townson will rebuild almost any electrical component you send him from cars, tractors or trucks. Alternators and starters are his specialty, but he will attack winch motors, starters, magnetos and others. If it can be fixed on a bench, he's probably done it, says the Class A mechanic. Increasingly, the older the component, the better.

"Ironically, it's getting harder to get parts for newer equipment," says Townson. "More and more companies would rather sell assemblies or even entire units rather than individual parts."

With older parts, it's often a matter of knowing where to look, he says.

"I know companies that carry old parts in Canada and the U.S.," says Townson. "You just have to root and dig."

He suggests calling or writing first for an estimate on parts and labor before sending

anything to him. That way he can do some research, if needed.

"I like to have the year and model with the model number if possible," he says. "At the least, I need to know what it's from and the make and model of it. While he works on lots of late model equipment, Townson says he has seen some unique items over the years.

"I've worked on International magnetos from 1915 and 1916, starters out of the 1920's and even a generator from a 1918 Gray Dort car."

Old or new, Townson gives estimates based on the difficulty of getting parts, cost of parts, and condition of the item to be rebuilt.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garnet's Rebuilding, 2176 Hwy 654th W., R.R. #1, Callander, Ont., Canada P0H 1H0 (ph 705 752-5576; teresatownson@hotmail.com).



Alternators and starters are his specialty, but Garnet Townson will rebuild almost any electrical car, truck or tractor component you send him.

Net Turns Fan Into Dust Collector

Add an Air Net from Lee Valley Tools to a standard house fan, and you've got a slick portable dust collector for your shop. The netting used was originally developed for industrial use to protect workers from airborne particles.

The Air Nets come in two sizes. One fits round fans up to 18 in. in diameter and the other fits round fans up to 24 in. in diameter and square fans up to 20 in. across. To use, simply attach the Air Net to the fan and point the fan away from the work area.

The material traps particles as small as 5 microns. Air infiltration depends on size and speed of the fan. As dust collects, the net discolors, first at the seams.

"When you see discoloration, it's time to wash," says Wally Wilson, Lee Valley Tools. "Using the Air Net around something like drywall dust, you might not notice discoloration. However, if the fan starts to draw heavy, that is also a good time to machine wash. The nets are made with very robust materials."



The Air Net attaches to house fans, providing a slick portable dust collector for your shop.

Wilson emphasizes the net is not meant to be a substitute for dust masks or respirators. The Air Nets are priced at \$56.50 and \$76.50 for the medium and large sizes, respectively.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lee Valley Tools Ltd., P.O. Box 1780, Ogdensburg, N. Y. 13669 (ph toll free U.S. 800 871-8158; toll free Canada 800 267-8767; www.leevalley.com).



"It's just the right height for working in my garden, shop or garage," says Randy Hopkins, who cut a 12-gal. compressor tank in half and attached tractor seats to the top.

Air Compressor "Shop Seats"

Randy Hopkins turned an old air compressor into a pair of handy roll-around shop seats. He cut a 12-gal. compressor tank in half and attached tractor seats to the top.

"The seats are at just the right height for working in my garden, shop or garage," says Hopkins.

He removed the compressor's motor before cutting the tank in half. He bolted the tractor

seats on top and then painted everything IH red and added IH decals. He cut off half of each closed end and welded them to the bottom of the open end to keep tools and parts from rolling out. Wheels and a short handle on back make them easy to roll around.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Randy Hopkins, 9765 E. 2600 N. Rd., Potomac, Ill. 61865 (ph 217 286-3418).