

## Tractor-Mounted Chainsaw Carrier

"It's an easy way to haul chainsaws to the woods," says Dana Swick, about the chainsaw carrier he and his father Carlton built to mount on their tractor's drawbar.

The carrier holds two chainsaws and includes a tiltable metal tray that can be used to hold log chains, gas, oil, or other supplies. The tray mounts on a hinged base, allowing it to be swung up out of the way for easy access to the 3-pt. hitch and drawbar. The entire unit can be removed by pulling one pin.

"It's a simple idea but it really comes in handy," says Dana. "We had been carrying the saws in the loader bucket or on our wood wagon, but there were problems. The saws would bounce around in the bucket or on the wagon so we had to be careful. And they took up space so we couldn't haul as much wood."

The carrier consists of a square wooden frame made from 2 by 4's, with two slots in it on top to hold the saws. The frame and tray both mount on an angle iron bracket that hooks up to the 3-pt.'s top link. The angle iron



**Carrier holds two chainsaws and includes a tiltable metal tray that can be used to hold log chains or other supplies.**

bracket is attached to a base made from sq. tubing that slips over the tractor drawbar.

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## Rubber Belt Base Makes Better Steel Wheels

Peter Nolt drives his tractor on a new kind of steel wheel. It uses a base of rubber belting secured to steel bands over wheel spokes. Steel cleats attached to neoprene cushions fasten to the rubber belting to provide traction.

"The combination gives a smoother ride and better traction than with traditional steel wheels," says Nolt. "It causes less damage to the cleat and none to the road. The rubber belting provides 'give' to the cleats so they level out on the road."

Members of the Nolt's Mennonite Church don't use rubber tires on farm equipment and tractors. However, steel wheels are hard on concrete and asphalt roads and can damage steel wheels as well. The new-style tires appear to resolve both problems.

Nolt says local craftsman Eli Zimmerman builds the wheels. Nolt has heard there's another craftsman in Indiana who also makes them.

The wheels are designed to attach to OEM wheel centers. Steel tabs are welded to the inside of a 4-in. wide, 3/8-in. thick steel band sized slightly large than the center diameter. The tabs are spaced to match holes on the center and are bolted in place.

Spokes 1 in. wide, 8 in. long and 1/4 in. thick are welded in a V pattern between the center band and two 2 1/2-in. wide steel bands, 9 in. apart. Two layers of 14-in. wide



**New kind of steel wheel uses a base of rubber belting secured to steel bands over wheel spokes.**

rubber belting are bolted to the circles, creating a 2-in. thick pad.

Steel cleats mounted on neoprene cushions lay across the belting and are bolted to it. The ends of the cleats are bent in a modified, shallow V to provide traction.

"The idea has been around for many years," says Nolt. "It works in the field and is easier on the roads."

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## Tangle-Free Rack Holds Hose, Cords

Hoses and extension cords can't get tangled up on this new kind of hose rack, says Doug Harris, Leawood, Kan.

The plastic rack has a row of "toes" that each hold loops of hose or cord.

Three different models of the "Gecko's Toes" rack are available for water hoses, air hoses, and extension cords. The air hose version can be used to hold welding leads, power washer hose, and oxygen acetylene hoses.

With the water and air hose models you can make 2 loops per toe; with the extension cord model 3 loops. Assuming you make a 4-ft. loop the water hose model holds 150 ft. of hose; the air hose model 100 ft.; and the extension cord model 200 ft.

The water hose model sells for \$15 or two for \$25. The air hose and extension cord models sell for \$12 or two for \$20. A set of all three sells for \$33.

"I don't charge anything for handling, just for shipping," says Harris.



**Plastic rack has a row of "toes" that each hold loops of hose or cord.**

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**Heavy duty implements for ATV's include an aerator, roller, box blade, rubber blade, thatcher and harrow.**

## Mini Implements For ATVs

Three things stand out with Clearbrook Implements for ATV's and lawn tractors - the capability to move implements up and down, heavy-duty quality, and a unique patent-pending Main Frame System, which makes it easy to mount different implements.

"Our equipment is built to farm equipment standards," says Craig Van Kooten, who co-owns the Sumas, Wash., business with Brian Johnston. "I live on 5 acres and was sick and tired of buying lightweight box store implements every two years. I like to buy something once and that's it. We build our small implements like they were big equipment."

The impetus for the business came four years ago, when a neighbor with 4 acres needed an aerator he could pull behind an ATV. He wanted to be able to lift it when he drove over his asphalt driveway and other hardscape areas. Van Kooten and Johnston used a winch and pulleys to make Johnston's aerator lift and lower.

"Once we lifted it, we thought, 'Why can't we do that with other implements?'" Van Kooten says.

After many prototypes they came up with the Main Frame, a 120-lb., schedule 40 tube steel frame that can be moved like a wheelbarrow and rolled over the top of implements. It attaches easily with four latch pins, and it locks with spring-loaded handles. An on-board gel battery powers a Warner Linear actuator to raise and lower the implement. The frame hitches to an ATV with a hitch pin.

The partners expect to offer up to 20 implements, and so far have an aerator, roller, box blade, rubber blade, thatcher and harrow. Customers include hobby farmers; golf



**To mount different implements, a steel frame can be moved like a wheelbarrow and rolled over top of implement.**

course, park and trail maintenance workers; landscapers and others who don't want to invest in a tractor.

"Since we've been traveling we're learning all kinds of applications in wine country and orchards. Calf growers like the slurry (rubber) blade," Van Kooten says. "It appeals to anyone with small acreage."

He notes that Clearbrook implements may help men sell their wives on the idea that a new ATV can be useful and not just a toy. The implements only require ATVs with a minimum of a 250 cc engine, except for the harrow, which requires about 500 cc.

The implements are built to last and powder-coated. The main frame sells for \$1,495 (MSRP) and implements range from \$465 for the rubber blade to \$795 for the harrow. Besides the 42-in. wide implements, Clearbrook offers a 5-ft. box blade and 6-ft. thatcher for UTV's.

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## Live Traps For Gophers

Catching pocket gophers live is not for the faint-hearted. They may be small, but they have a ferocious attitude and sharp teeth and claws. Still, Ron Weatherly has discovered there's a market for live trapping among people who'd rather relocate the pesky critters than kill them.

After making a few traps to sell, it didn't take Weatherly long to realize he could make more money trapping problem gophers for neighbors and businesses around Cartwright, Okla.

Weatherly makes his live traps out of old downspouts, cut about 1 ft. long. He cuts slits on three sides with a grinder to let in the smell of the earth around the trap. He puts an end cap on one end after slipping in bits of carrot or celery or some other bait. The other end has a hinged door that Weatherly bends out of galvanized tin and holds in place with a wire.

The trap is set perpendicular to the gopher tunnel and completely covered with dirt. The roof overhang of the trap stops dirt from falling into the tunnel. The idea is that the gopher is traveling along, smells the bait, stops and turns into the trap. Once he's in, he can't get out. Weatherly attaches a zip



**Live traps for pocket gophers are made out of old downspouts, cut about 1 ft. long.**

tie to the food and extends the end of it up above the dirt. He knows there has been some activity when the zip tie has been pulled down.

Weatherly also uses death traps. His live traps have about a 60 percent success ratio compared to a 90 percent success rate with death traps, which consist of a rat trap inside a downspout.

Weatherly is willing to share his plans with others interested in making the live or death trap versions.

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