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Trailer House Used To Build Covered Bridge

A.H. Green used the frame of a 61-ft. long trailer house to build a beautiful covered bridge at his rural Texas home.

Green got some of the material, like the decking, from his son, who does salvage work.

When Green salvaged the trailer, he tore off wings to each side, leaving the frame 6 ft. wide. He also tore off an old stick-frame

addition. Those materials provided much of what he needed for bridge sides and roof framing.

"I don't believe in throwing anything away," admits Green.

While the trailer would likely have been fine without additional supports, Green built a truss mid frame.

"I set two 8 by 8 timbers in concrete on

either side of the trailer frame and ran cross braces between them," says Green. "That leaves a 30-ft. span to either side."

Green says the bridge is ideal for his five-acre property. His two sons and a granddaughter have houses on the property, and the bridge crosses a small, dry stream bed between one son and the granddaughter.

"The trailer frame worked out well," says

Green. "I was paid to salvage out the trailer house, and if I had sold it for scrap I would have had to pay for the oxygen to cut it up. This way my family got a bridge."

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Jerry Johnston built this 3-pt. mounted, 1-bottom moldboard plow out of an old Oliver 3-bottom plow. Add-on gauge wheel makes it easy to keep plowing depth just right.



One-Bottom Moldboard Plow

Jerry Johnston, Vestaburg, Mich., needed a plow for his garden but didn't want to spend a lot of money. So he built a 3-pt. mounted, 1-bottom moldboard plow out of an old Oliver 3-bottom plow.

He cut two moldboards off the plow and shortened the frame, then used part of the cut-off frame to build a 3-pt. hitch. He also mounted a 16-in. dia. rubber gauge wheel, off an old cultivator, on back. "The gauge wheel makes it easy to keep the plowing depth just

right," says Johnston.

"I use a 1986 Yanmar 169D 4-WD diesel tractor to pull the plow. It's amazing how well this little 16 hp tractor handles the plow, and how fast it gets the job done. It makes plowing fun. In fact, I always think my garden should be twice as big as it is because I get done plowing too soon."

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Cub Cadet Tillage Tools

Bruce Shannon, Murray, Iowa, likes to restore Cub Cadet garden tractors and does landscaping and gardening work. So when he bought a larger Cub Cadet to restore, he made his own line of tillage equipment.

The line includes a one-bottom, 12-in. moldboard plow, a 5-ft. wide tandem disk, and a pull-type harrow cart. He uses the equipment with his Cub Cadet 1872 18 hp garden tractor equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and rear pto.

"I use this equipment to till 25 to 30 gardens in our area every spring and fall. I also do grass seeding on new lawns. I build all my implements, and if they don't work at first then I modify them until they do," says Shannon.

To build the plow he modified a Brinley 3-pt. mounted, one-bottom plow. He used the bottom parts from a pair of International Harvester semi-mounted plows equipped with 14-in. moldboards, including the frog, shear and shim, which he cut down to 12 in. He also used 1/2-in. thick steel to build a 3-pt. mounted frame for the plow.

"Most of the gardens I work in are 16 to 20 ft. long, and I want to get the plow in the ground as soon as possible to do a nice job. However, sometimes the Brinley plow would go 8 to 10 ft. before it got down in the ground and started plowing. My rebuilt plow drops down right away," says Shannon.

He made a 12-in. notched coulter for the plow out of a large 18-in. dia. skil saw blade



When Bruce Shannon bought a Cub Cadet to restore, he made his own line of tillage equipment for it including 3-pt. mounted, 1-bottom plow.

that was originally used to cut up blocks of ice. "If there's any trash on the ground such as cornstalks or soybean residue, a notched coulter will hold the trash down and chop it up instead of letting it build up underneath the plow," says Shannon.

He built the disk by fastening 2 commercial disks together. The harrow cart was made up of a 6-ft. wide section of an IH harrow. "I use the harrow to work grass seed into freshly tilled lawns. I like it because I can pick the cart up at the end of the lawn without having to drag the harrow across the grass and destroying it," says Shannon.

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Floyd Sumy needed a new plow share for his Oliver 40 sulky, 12-in. bottom plow, so he cut down an old 16-in. IH moldboard to fit.

Modified Plow Turns Sod Better

Floyd Sumy owns an Oliver 40 sulky, 12-in. bottom plow. When he needed a new plow share, he cut down a 16-in. IH moldboard to fit. Sumy modified the share as well, with the rear end sliced at a 45° angle. He says it works better than the original and cost a lot less.

"I like to keep my costs down and had pulled the sulky plow out of a fencerow," says Sumy. "I checked on a new cast iron plow share, and it was high priced. Just shipping alone came to \$50."

Instead Sumy found an old, used IH plow with a good 16-in. plow share and moldboard.

"With most of the moldboard a full 16 in., but the plow share cutting only 12 in., I

figured a slice of sod would lay over much more slowly," explains Sumy. "Cutting the angle on the rear of the plow share keeps the sod strip from being completely severed. The uncut corner hangs enough to ensure that the sod layer lays face down."

To make the changes, Sumy set up the Oliver 40 with its furrow wheel, original plow share and landside flat on a concrete floor. He put the landside wheel up on a block to replicate the field situation.

"The nice thing about the Oliver 40 sulky plow is it has lots of adjustment capability with its multiple control levers," says Sumy. "Getting everything in line was fairly easy."

Using chalk, he marked around the cutting point of the plow share and alongside the landside. He then cut off the old plow bottom and slid the IH bottom into place. He lined up its point against the chalked point and the landside against the landside's chalked line. After welding the 16-in. plow share and moldboard in place, he marked back 12 in. from the point on the landside of the share.

"I cut away the extra 4 in. on the plow share and the inside of the moldboard, leaving the remainder of the moldboard its full original length," explains Sumy. "Trimming the landside end of the plow share was more difficult, as it was trial and error. I knew it would work because I used to do it with tractor plows, too."

Sumy says he made a dozen trips back and forth from the field to the shop as he readjusted the angle of the cut. He would

trim off a small amount, try it and return to trim off a bit more until it lay the sod over just right.

"I like to plow alfalfa under and plant corn into it as a way to reduce fertilizer needs," says Sumy. "Last year with the drought, it also made a big difference in conserving moisture."

Sumy said the field he plowed gave his modified plow a good test. He estimates it had been at least 15 years since it had last been plowed.

"It turned over nicer and pulled easier than the original Oliver 12-in., and the long moldboard gave the sod a long slow turn," says Sumy.

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