



Log skidder rides on 13-in. flat-free tires that support a steel shelf 2 ft. above the ground. A 2-ft. steel upright bolts onto each side of shelf.

“ATV” Log Skidder

Charles Irwin, Martville, N.Y., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a log skidder he built to pull behind his ATV.

“It’s easy to load and lets me safely haul logs up or downhill, without tearing up the ground,” he says.

The log skidder rides on 13-in. flat-free tires that support a 1/4-in. thick steel shelf made from 6-in. sq. tubing. The shelf sets 2 ft. above the ground. A 2-ft. steel upright bolts onto each side of the shelf. Each is secured by a bolt that is double nutted. There’s a pin 2 in. above it. By removing the pin, Irwin can lower the upright to the ground to form a ramp on either side.

To skid out a log he drives alongside the log, then unhooks the skidder from the ATV and drives it up to the opposite side of the log. There, he pulls cable from the ATV’s electric winch out to the log and hooks it onto a chain placed under the log. The winch then rolls the log up the ramp and onto the shelf. The last step is to hook the ATV back up to the skidder.

“The skidder’s tongue is made from 2-in. sq. tubing and is light enough that I can easily lift it up onto a ball mounted on back of the 4-wheeler,” says Irwin. “I can load up to 4 logs at a time. When I’m done loading logs I pin the upright back into its vertical position. Then I wrap a chain around all the logs and



Each upright is secured by a double-nutted bolt with a pin 2 in. above it. By removing the pin, Irwin can lower the upright to the ground to form a ramp on either side.

under the skidder’s tongue and use a chain tightener.

“I’m amazed at how much the ATV can pull. Most of the weight is on the skidder’s wheels, so all the ATV has to do is pull. Before I built it I made a model out of wood just to see if it would work and to see how much wood the 4-wheeler could haul. I spent about \$1,000 to build it.”

Irwin says he’s willing to build the log skidder for others, or tell them how to make one. “I’d be glad to provide drawings and measurements. I think it’s a good idea and I just want to share it with others,” he says.

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ATV-Mounted Logging Arch

Tom Allison, Orofino, Idaho, made this handy logging arch that slips into a 2-in. receiver hitch on back of his Kawasaki 650 4-wheeler.

The logging arch is made from 2-in. tubing and is fitted with a Harbor Freight electric winch that’s mounted on top of the arch. A 1/2-in. thick steel bangboard is welded onto the base of the arch to keep logs from damaging the back of the ATV. A turnbuckle on back of the arch extends down to the receiver hitch and is used to take strain off the arch.

“I use it when cutting firewood and even take it on camping trips. It can handle logs weighing up to 600 lbs.,” says Allison. “I use a remote control to operate the winch. I back up to the log, then raise the nose of the log off the ground and wrap a chain around it.”

“I also built a similar receiver tube setup for spooling barbed wire out the back of the 4-wheeler. It works slick, too.”

On the same 4-wheeler, Allison welds on 1-in. tubing to extend the rig’s front and rear racks 9 in. He then covers the oversize racks with plywood and carpet.

“It adds a lot more room to carry stuff,” says Allison. “I can haul just about anything I want on the racks, including chainsaws, toolboxes, air compressors, etc. The chainsaw’s bar slips into a wooden case that’s fastened to the plywood, while the toolbox screws down to the plywood. I use bungee cords to hold other things down. I keep a tractor radio on the front rack.”

He also added a 2-ft. high vertical steel rack onto the rear rack. It’s used to strap on various items including the remote control for the logging arch’s winch. “By removing two wing nuts I can flip the rack forward down onto the seat and slip by low hanging branches.

“With the vertical rack in place I can even haul deer out of the woods,” says Allison. “I lay the deer across the rear platform and tie its feet together between 2 short vertical prongs



Logging arch slips into a 2-in. receiver hitch on back of Allison’s 4-wheeler and is fitted with an electric winch.



Allison uses a remote control to operate the winch. “It can handle logs up to 600 lbs.,” he says.

on top of the rack.”

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Garden Tractor-Sized Wood Handling Rigs

When Jerry Johnston goes to the woods to cut firewood, almost all the equipment he brings is home-built and designed to work with his Yanmar 4-WD, 16 hp tractor. The equipment includes a 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven buzz saw or log splitter and a wood hauling trailer that pulls behind both machines. A hydraulic-operated snow blade mounts on front of the tractor, where it clears trails through the woods.

“The 3-pt. mounted buzz saw makes quick work of a pile of wood,” says Johnston. To build it he used an old 30-in. 1940’s buzz saw blade. He drives it with a tractor pto through a right angle gearbox that belt-drives the blade. He used 2-in. channel iron to build a frame and stand that supports the blade, and sheet metal to make blade guards.

The 3-pt. mounted log splitter is operated by a pto-driven hydraulic pump and mounts on a 3 by 6-in. tube frame that serves as the oil tank. The splitter’s 24-in. long, 3 1/2-in. dia. hydraulic cylinder “nests” down inside the wedge, which keeps the height down. The wedge is made from abrasion-resistant, semi-hard material.

“I wanted the splitter to be lightweight, compact and simple so I could use it on back of my small tractor,” says Johnston. “It was much cheaper and easier to put together than building separate components. It’s as short as I could make it, about 6 ft. high when raised, to clear tree limbs in the woods. By lowering the 3-pt. I can set the table down on the ground for large blocks, or raise it to a more comfortable working height for smaller blocks.”



Almost everything Jerry Johnston brings to the woods to cut firewood is home-built and designed to work with his Yanmar 4-WD, 16 hp tractor. Equipment includes a 3-pt., pto-driven buzz saw, a log splitter, and a wood-hauling trailer that pulls behind either machine.

He built the trailer using the axle off an old golf cart and 16-in. high airplane tires. It measures 5 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, and 2 1/2 ft. high. The sides are made from 2 by 6’s that are held in by metal stakes. The front and back are open. A side-mounted toolbox holds gas, oil, and chainsaw chains for cutting wood.

The trailer holds about 2/3 of a face cord of wood. If he wants, Johnston can install 3 homemade wooden seats that snap on between the trailer’s sides. “I sometimes take people for rides on trails that go through our woods. They have a lot of fun,” says Johnston.

The snow blade is made from 1/8-in. thick sheet metal and measures 4 1/2 ft. wide

and 24 in. high. The bottom is protected by heavy angle iron. The blade is controlled by 2 cylinders – one raises and lowers the blade and the other angles it from side to side. The blade is supported by a heavy steel bar that goes back to the tractor’s drawbar.

“It’s made like the big snow blades designed for use on big 4-WD tractors,” says Johnston. “I built it when I bought the tractor new in 1987, and it hasn’t broken yet. I use it for moving snow, dirt, backfilling, leveling, and in the woods to clear trails.”

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Log splitter is operated by a pto-driven hydraulic pump. The 3 by 6-in. main frame serves as the oil reservoir.

