Glenn Haley recently used his loader tractor and modified shop engine hoist to lift a 500-lb. wood planer up into his barn's loft.

He can also use the hoist on back of his pickup. Chains are used to brace the hoist on both the pickup and tractor.

Shop Engine Hoist Mounts On Pickup, Loader Forks

Glenn Haley, Andover, N.H., converted an ordinary bottle jack-operated shop engine hoist into one he can attach to the back of his pickup, or mount on his tractor's front-end loader.

"I can take it with me down the highway or use it in my barnyard or shop," says Haley.

He removed the base from the hoist and made a bolt-on steel mounting plate that fits the receiver hitch socket on back of his pickup. A short length of 3/4-in. dia. pipe that's welded to the plate is used to hold the jack handle.

He also made a receiver hitch socket that bolts onto forks on his front-end loader. The socket is welded to the middle of a 1-ft. long, 3 1/2-in. wide steel plate with holes drilled through it. Holes are also drilled through the forks, which are spaced about 5 in. apart.

Chains are used to support the hoist on both the pickup and the tractor.

"It makes the hoist much more versatile, especially when a tractor isn't available or isn't practical to use," says Haley. "One time I used it on the pickup to help my friend, who lives many miles away, remove a wood-fired boiler from his basement through a bulkhead. I've used it with the pickup to set up a standby power generator for our local fire department and to load a portable cement mixer in back of my pickup. I've also used the pickup to transport a 500-lb. wood planer down the highway, and then used the loader tractor to lift it high up into my barn."

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Photo shows how engine hoist mounting plate and hitch socket fit onto tractor forks.

Hands-free log splitter is mounted perpendicular to the skid loader operator for better visibility.

Back-Saving Skid Steer Splitter

Marvin Feucht and his son, Matt, burn a lot of wood in their outdoor wood burners, so they were looking for an easier way to split wood. They decided to make use of the auxiliary hydraulics on their 1840 Case skidloader to build a hands-free splitter.

They had an 8-ft. I-beam and purchased a 5-in. bore by 30-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder.

"Instead of having this wood splitter in the typical straight out position away from the skid loader operator, we mounted ours perpendicular to the skidloader operator. This allows the operator to split wood with better visibility," Matt Feucht says.

With long hydraulic lines and two quick-tach plates on the I-beam, the Feuchts' design includes 3 splitting options.

They use the first option most often, splitting from the top down with the wood on the ground.

"Since the hydraulic cylinder is on the underside of the I-beam, we bent up a shield to protect it and the plumbing from ground contact and damage," Feucht says.

In the second position, the I-beam is flat and the wood is on the ground. The third option is for conventional splitting for fireplace and small stove wood, placing smaller pieces of wood on top of the splitter.

"A local machine shop helped us design the pusher and suggested we mount the wedge at less than a 90 degree angle at the end of the I-beam. This prevents wood from riding up the wedge and not getting split," Feucht says.

There are 3 splitting options. Above photo shows the I-beam laid flat to split wood on the ground.

Mounted on the skid loader, the splitter can be raised, turned and used as a thumb to pick up wood to split or load on a trailer. The splitter easily splits hardwood up to 30 in. long. The Feuchts use the machine to split wood 12-in. dia. and larger.

"It's enjoyable to run," Feucht notes. "It's safe because the operator stays in the cab and can split alone. I think a lot of people would benefit from a device of this type."

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Tim Ojala built this removable hot water booster for his indoor wood stove. Three rows of U-shaped, 3/4-in. brass pipes heat the water.

Home-Built Booster Heats Water In Wood Stove

Tim Ojala has come up with a simple method to heat hot water with a wood stove. He uses a removable hot water booster he built for his indoor wood stove. He says the 3 rows of U-shaped, 3/4-in. brass pipes heat water fast. With just a small fire to take off the morning chill in the house, he's able to heat water in the hot water tank for showers and household use.

The New Ipswich, N.H., woodshop owner, attached the booster to a frame he made of 1/4 by 2 1/2-in. steel flat stock. The frame fits the stove's opening without making any alterations to the stove. When he needs hot water, he removes the stove's door, slips on the booster frame and replaces the door on the frame.

Cold water enters from the bottom through a flexible truck-type heater hose into a brass pipe at the bottom of the frame connected to three brass pipes that go inside the stove. The hot water returns through a similar setup at the top of the frame.

"To make water circulate properly, the top line should run level or upgrade as thermo siphon action is a gravitational force," Ojala says. "This water heater booster can be connected to any standard electric, gas, oil-fired or indirect water heater tank or stand alone water storage tank that will take normal residential or commercial working water pressure."

He notes copper can also be used with high temperature solder. Units can also be smaller; he made a one-pipe unit for a friend's stove.

To prevent it from burning out, Ojala removes the booster from the stove whenever it isn't needed.

Ojala emphasizes that no shut-off valves should be installed on the water lines unless there is a relief valve, that a licensed plumber must approve all work, and that it's wise to check local codes.

To prevent it from burning out, Ojala removes the booster from the stove when it isn't needed. The booster weighs about 45 lbs. (with water), and is easy to install and remove, he says.

If anyone would like more detailed information on how to build the booster and hook it up to a water heater, Ojala is willing to answer questions.

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