

3-Point Mounted Cable Layer

Indiana handyman Don Myers built a 3-point hitch attachment for his Deere lawn tractor that works slick for installing invisible dog fencing. With a few simple add-ons and take-offs, the hitch also works as a subsoiler, a chisel plow and a rack to hold tractor weights.

Myers says he came up with the idea because installing invisible fencing with a self-propelled spade was difficult and time consuming. His invention lets him drive the tractor while the shank digs a trench and the invisible fence wire is smoothly placed in the ground through a curved stainless steel pipe.

"It works on the same principle as a tiling machine installing perforated drainage pipe in a farm field," says Myers. "It doesn't require much power because the cable is only going 2 to 3 inches deep in the ground."

The foundation for the device is a Cat. I 3-pt. hitch that mounts on the back of his garden tractor. Myers bolted a 24-in. long piece of 1 1/2-in. angle iron to each side of the hitch frame and extended a 1/2-in. stainless rod between the top of the 2 pieces.

The rod provides lateral support and holds a spool of invisible fence wire.

For digging trenches, Myers bolted an 18-in. long piece of metal bar to the back of the 3-pt. hitch frame. It has 3 holes to adjust the depth. The 1/2-in. by 2-in. bar is curved forward at the base to create a pointed shank that automatically pulls itself into the ground as the tractor moves forward.

Myers bolted a curved piece of 1/2-in. tubing to the back of the shank to route the cable into the ground behind the trench. "It's simple and effective and works like a charm," says Myers. "Sure beats the heck out of walking behind a self-propelled trencher."

Using the device for subsoiling or chisel plowing simply requires unbolting the curved install tube from the shank, then removing the vertical support bars and spool from the hitch frame. Removing the shank allows wheel weights to hang from the hitch frame if a snowblower or other implement is mounted to the front of the tractor. Myers can make plans available if others are interested in



"It works on the same principle as machines that install drain tile in farm fields," says Don Myers about the 3-pt. mounted cable layer he built for his lawn tractor.

building one like it. He says the device should fit other brand garden tractors with 3-pt hitches.

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Alan Linda connected an old Black & Decker 12-volt compressor to a pair of spot sprayers, eliminating the need for hand pumping.

Pumped-Up Spot Sprayers

"I got tired of hand pumping up spot sprayers when treating weeds around the farmyard. I was able to eliminate the problem when I found an old Black & Decker 12-volt compressor and connected it up to a pair

of sprayers," says Alan Linda, New York Mills, Minn.

"I discovered that hand-pumped spray tanks have 'skins' that are thick enough to drill and tap to a 1/4-in. pipe thread. I

Junked Plow Buries Pipe Fast

Millard Smith wanted to run an underground water line from his pond to a garden near his home. Because it was 300 ft. in hard, dry Texas soil, he built a one-row "plow" to feed the 1-in. plastic pipe underground.

"I used materials available around the farm. I had some old points from a box blade and made a framework to attach to the 3-point hitch. I had old discs to make the reel to hold the plastic pipe that fed into a plastic pipe on the plow," Smith explains.

He was able to cut a trench and bury the pipe in one pass.

"It sure was handy. This saved me a lot of hand digging and covering," Smith says. "I suppose one could bury electric underground cable as well."

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One-row "plow" is used to place 1-in. plastic water line underground.

threaded in a barbed adaptor, used some small plastic tees, and connected hoses up to both spray tanks. Now I no longer have to pump.

"What really makes it convenient is a 12-volt remote that I bought at Agri-Supply (www.agrisupply.com) that lets me start and stop the compressor with the push of a button. I pump the sprayers up to about 20

psi, although they're rated for 40 psi or more. You have to be careful to stay under the rated psi. Everything is mounted in the carrier on back of my ATV so I can quickly get around quickly to kill weeds."

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