

Bucket-Mounted Rototiller Powered By Gas Engine

Don Ritchhart, Lincoln, Ill., 91 years old, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a loader-mounted rototiller he put together that's powered by a pull-start gas engine. Ritchhart raises or lowers the loader to control the rototiller's depth.

He built a rectangular frame that bolts onto the bottom of his Bobcat tractor's loader bucket and bolted a 3-ft. wide rototiller off an old pull-type garden tiller to the bottom of the frame. The rototiller is belt-driven by a 10 hp. gas engine.

The entire unit rides on a single wheel off a riding mower that functions as a gauge wheel.

"It's easy to use, and I have a good view of everything in front of me. I just tilt the bucket to adjust the depth of the rototiller's tines," says Ritchhart. "The rototiller was equipped with a small pulley, which just happened to match up with the engine."

Ritchhart built the unit last summer and

used it to prepare the ground where a big above-ground swimming pool had stood. "The owner wanted to reseed the ground with grass, but there was a lot of sand on top with some sod growing on it, and dirt below the sand. I wanted to mix the sand and dirt together."

He spent only about \$500 to build the unit. "My friend and neighbor bought the rototiller and wood chipper at an auction and gave them to me. I paid someone to weld the frame together, which was my biggest cost."

Ritchhart used existing holes in the bucket to bolt the frame on and didn't make any modifications to the bucket at all. "I can remove the entire rototiller by pulling three bolts," he notes.

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Don Ritchhart bolted a 3-ft. wide garden rototiller to a steel frame that bolts onto his Bobcat's loader bucket. Tiller is powered by a pull-start gas engine.



Darragh Egan can haul a bale and bale ring at the same time to a pasture and then lower the ring over the bale, without having to get off the tractor.

"Two-In-One" Round Bale Feeder

This "2-in-1" round bale handler, developed by Irish manufacturer Darragh Egan at Ballyealan Engineering, lets you haul a bale and bale ring at the same time to a pasture and then lower the ring over the bale, without having to get off the tractor.

The unit can be mounted either on a 3-pt. hitch or a front-end loader. It consists of 2 parts – a bale hauler with tilting forks and a hinged ring hauler that extends up and over the bale.

To haul a bale and ring, the operator loads the bale onto the forks, then hooks the arm

onto the top of the ring. A curved bar on the lower part of the arm keeps the ring stable during transport.

To place the ring over the bale, the operator tilts the forks down and slowly drives forward at the same time to set the bale upright on the ground. Then he lowers the ring down over the bale.

The arm can be removed whenever it's not needed by pulling 2 pins.

You can watch the unit in action on youtube or by going to <https://www.facebook.com/ballyealanengineering/posts>.

Handy Fence Clip Tool

Anyone who has built a T-post fence knows that attaching fence clips to posts is a time-consuming task – especially when it comes to woven wire. Fencing pliers are often cumbersome to work with, and it's easy to lose one's grip.

When Dave Taylor of Springfield, Mo, was building fence for his daughter's horse, he knew there had to be a more efficient way of putting on the clips. His solution was a small, easy to use fence clip tool that holds and bends multiple sizes of clips.

Dave made his fence clip tool from a 5-inch piece of 3/8-inch round steel rod. He heated one end of the length of rod until it became malleable, and then flattened the end to 7/16 in. Once the metal cooled, he drilled 3 different-sized holes in the flattened end of the tool to match the most commonly used fence clip sizes.



Easy-to-use fence clip tool can be used to hold and bend multiple sizes of clips.

To use the tool, Dave simply puts a fence clip in place on the post, slides the clip end into the proper sized hole, and bends the clip around the wire. The small size of the tool allows it to easily fit between strands or squares of wire, and makes the entire process much faster and easier.

Taylor made the tool for his own use and has no plans to sell it.

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