

Bob Simpson built a steel frame for his Farmall BN, then mounted a blade on it and added hydraulics so he can push dirt and snow with the tractor.



Farmall BN Gets Hydraulic Lift Blade

Bob Simpson wanted to push dirt and snow with his little Farmall BN, so he built a frame, mounted a blade and came up with a nifty hydraulic lift. He was given the BN to restore when he retired in 2002. He installed new governor gears and tires and gave it a paint job. However, since adding the blade, the showpiece has turned into a workhorse.

"I've used it to move snow, but also a lot of dirt," says Simpson. "I've probably moved 100 tons of dirt with it."

To mount the blade, Simpson fabricated a frame out of 2-in. square tubing and 1 1/2-in. steel pipe. The 4-ft. wide frame is attached to the tractor's drawbar at the rear and hangs by chains from a rocker arm mounted beneath the bell housing.

"I welded a short length of 2-in. pipe to braces that run up to the bell housing," says Simpson. "The rocker arm is a 1 1/2-in. pipe that pivots inside the larger pipe."

A hydraulic cylinder mounted to the drawbar end of the frame is pinned to a short lever welded to the backside of the rocker arm. When the cylinder extends, it rotates the rocker arm, and the chains lift the blade.

"When the cylinder is retracted, the blade either floats or digs in depending on how the



The 4-ft. wide frame attaches to tractor drawbar and hangs by chains from a rocker arm.

lift chains are adjusted," explains Simpson. "The blade weight does all I need."

A power steering pump salvaged from a 1972 Chevy pickup provides hydraulic power for the cylinder.

"A friend of mine was rebuilding the BN's generator and suggested welding a second pulley to the generator and belting it to the power steering pump," says Simpson. "I made a bracket for the pump, and it has worked well."

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Bucket forklift was made by welding 3 round brackets with holes in them on top edge of bucket, and welding brackets on top of 2 L-shaped forks. Steel rods run through brackets to support forks.

Loader Bucket Converted To Forklift

After a friend gave him a pair of forklift forks, Matt McNaughton decided to modify the bucket on his Kubota MX 5000 loader tractor so he can quickly convert it to use them.

He welded 3 round metal brackets with 2-in. dia. holes in them on top of the bucket on each side, and also welded brackets on top of the L-shaped forks. To install the forks, he lifts them into place, then pushes homemade 2-in. dia. steel rods through the brackets and uses clip pins to lock the rods in place. The forks rest against the top and bottom of the bucket.

"I use the forks to pick up pallets loaded with everything from firewood to truck parts, and can also use a pallet as a scaffold. The forks can be spaced up to 5 ft. apart," says McNaughton.

In addition, he welded a receiver hitch on top of the bucket that allows him to move trailers around. "I can fasten anything I want to the hitch such as a winch, anvil, or vise. I sometimes bolt on an 8-in. chain with grab hook that I use to pick up various items."

McNaughton also turned the loader and bucket into a Bobcat-style quick-attach system. All it took was a little work with a grinder and welder.

"I looked into buying a quick-attach system, but couldn't justify the cost," he says.

He welded a quick-tach receiver plate on back of the bucket and also welded matching "pick up" brackets on the loader. Metal alignment ears welded onto the bracket help guide the loader into place.

"I own two different size buckets, and this



To make Bobcat-style quick-tach system, McNaughton welded a quick-tach receiver plate on back of bucket and matching "pick up" brackets on loader.

system lets me hook up to either one without getting off the tractor. Works like a charm," says McNaughton.

"With a loader tractor the bucket is way in front so it was hard to see the hitch point from the tractor seat. The welded-on alignment ears make it much easier to guide the loader into the bucket."

McNaughton has found that hooking the loader up to the bucket is much easier if he approaches the bucket from uphill. "I put the transmission in neutral and then stand up so I can watch the loader as it lines up with the bucket," he says.

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"Mini Pallet" For Hand Trucks

"Our Dolly Pal mini pallet for hand trucks eliminates the need to tilt the load back and then try to jam the hand truck under it. Makes it easy to get under heavy loads and also unload them," says Griff Conti, Dolly Pal & Co., LLC, Littleton, Colo.

Made from highly durable plastic and able to support more than 800 lbs., the Dolly Pal measures 10 by 18 in. and is 1 1/2 in. off the ground. The pallet can be used with any standard hand truck with a plate up to 15 1/2 in. wide.

"Instead of stacking boxes or other items on the hand truck, you can stack them directly on the Dolly Pal and then easily slide the hand truck underneath it," says Conti. "It lets you place a stack of boxes flush against a wall without having to push the load flush against the wall after unloading."

A single Dolly Pal sells for \$19.99; a 3-pack box for \$49.99; and a carton of 14 for \$219.99. Free ground shipping in the lower 48 states.



Mini pallet is 1 1/2 in. off the floor, allowing you to easily slide a hand truck under the load.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dolly Pal & Co., LLC, Littleton, Colo. (ph 800 506-0906 or cell ph 203 515-3103; gconti@dollypalco.com; www.dollypalco.com).