

# Chains Convert Bush Hog To Heavy-Duty “String Trimmer”

“I got the idea one day while looking at my handheld, gas-powered string trimmer. I thought I could use the same idea on my 3-pt. mounted, 5-ft. bush hog mower by shortening the blades and welding chains onto them. The chains hang down and just bounce off rocks, without causing any damage to the machine or the blades,” says Lynn Taylor, Tecumseh, Mo.

Taylor came up with the idea because he has a lot of rocks on his small acreage, none of which is cultivated. “I have to do a lot of mowing in order to keep grass, weeds and brush down. If the vegetation grows too tall I can’t see the rocks as I mow, and they can cause a lot of damage,” he says.

The bush hog came equipped with a pair of blades which he cut down to a 9-in. length. He then welded lengths of heavy 1/2-in. dia.

log chain onto the blade ends, welding the top link on each chain horizontally to the blade.

“I made the modification years ago and am still amazed at how well the chains chop up the material,” says Taylor. “They smash brush and leave soft, splintered stumps, whereas blades leave stumps with sharp edges that can puncture tires.”

Taylor says the combined length of the chain and the portion of the blade that it’s welded to is the same as the length of the blades before they were shortened. “Anyone who tries this idea should make sure all the chains are the same length so everything stays balanced,” he notes.

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Taylor cut bush hog’s blades down to a 9-in. length, then welded lengths of heavy log chain onto blade ends. “I’m amazed at how well the chains chop up material,” he says.



Clifford Smith mounted a 22-ton wood splitter alongside his Farmall Cub. Once he’s on-site, he rotates splitter to operate vertically.

## Cub Converted To Mobile Wood Splitter

Clifford Smith turned one of his Farmall Cub tractors into a motorized wood splitter that he can drive into the woods to cut firewood for his shop.

Smith uses many of the tractors in his 18-tractor collection for gardening, landscaping and other work around his Villa Ridge, Mo., property. Back in the 1980’s he ran a wood splitter off a Farmall’s pto.

A couple of years ago he had the “wild idea” to mount a splitter on the side of a Cub. He purchased a 22-ton splitter and made room for it on the Cub by replacing the front with a low-boy axle and changing the rear tractor’s tires. He discovered that the bolt pattern on 15-in. Dodge 1/2-ton pickup tires is the same as the Cub’s.

“The smaller tires lower the tractor, and the rear tire is out of the way of the splitter,” he explains. “The log splitter pump is mounted on top of the transmission and runs off the

pto.” Smith notes that the Cub has a fast pto without gearing it up much, which is important for running the splitter.

The splitter is stored horizontally when he drives the Cub. Once he’s on-site, he upends the splitter and can move wood onto it without having to lift.

With an 8,000-lb. winch on the back of the splitter, Smith can pull logs out of the woods and has the option to load them on a trailer behind the Cub if he wants to cut boards on his sawmill.

“This outfit works great,” Smith says, with the small tractor able to drive through narrow places.

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Last summer a Pennsylvania Mennonite farmer hooked up his cultivator to an Edwards front-mount 3-pt. hitch, designed specially for small tractors.

## Front 3-Pt. Hitch Designed For Small Tractors

Torben Jenk of Malvern, Penn., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a tractor equipped with a front-mounted cultivator. It was hooked up to a state-of-the-art, front-mount 3-pt. hitch made by Edwards Equipment, Union Gap, Wash.

“I saw this set-up last June at an organic farm operated by a Mennonite family in central Pennsylvania,” says Jenk. “The farmer said he likes it because he has a much better view with the implement in front. He had tried using belly-mounted attachments with the tractor, but said they take too long to attach and detach. He did note one limitation—the extra weight up front can cause some ‘crab-steer’ slippage on hillsides.”

The hitch isn’t new but is unique, says Randy Searl. “We’ve been building front-mounted hitches for almost 35 years and sell a lot of them up and down the West Coast, where they’re widely used with pack forks to haul bins of fruit out of orchards. These hitches are designed mainly for tractors from 25 to 150 hp. Models are available to carry 800, 1,500 or 3,000 lbs. 24 in. in front of the hitch.

“The hitches can be set up for use with any Cat. I or II 3-pt. mounted implement. We also build a variety of front-mounted implements including forks, mowers, brush removers, spray booms and so forth. We don’t build cultivators, but our hitches can carry cultivators made by other manufacturers.”

The 3-pt. hitch that Jenk photographed bolts on in place of the tractor’s front weight bracket. Steel arms run down both sides of the tractor all the way back to the tractor’s



The 3-pt. hitch bolts on in place of tractor’s front weight bracket and can be set up for use with any Cat. I or II 3-pt. mounted implement.



clutch housing to help support the load. A single hydraulic cylinder is used to raise and lower the hitch.

A hitch ball on either side of the frame can be swung out to the side, allowing easy attachment and detachment of implements.

The company’s 1,500-lb. capacity 3-pt. hitch sells for \$3,200.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edwards Equipment Co., 4312 Main St., Union Gap, Wash. 98903 (ph 509 248-1770 or 800 452-5151; sales@edwards-equip.com; www.edwards-equip.com).

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