



"It loads itself," says William Burgener about his home-built, trailer-mounted log loader.

## Built-From-Scratch Trailer-Mounted Log Loader

"I use my home-built trailer-mounted log loader to transport logs out of the woods. It's built heavy and saves a lot of time," says William Burgener, Merrill, Wis.

The trailer measures 15 1/2 ft. long by 5 ft., 8 in. wide and is hydraulically operated by a Lawson 8 hp. gas engine. Logs are loaded onto the trailer by the grapple, which is supported by a boom that rotates on front of the trailer. The bucket opens up to 33 1/2 in. wide.

"I bought this log loader from someone else who had built it from scratch, modeling it after an Anderson clam trailer," says Burgener. "I use this rig often as I love to be out working in the woods. It can handle logs up to 8 ft. long by 22 in. in diameter. I sit on a seat at the front of the trailer and use valves on a control box to operate everything.

"After I bought the unit, I put on Ford wheel rims and installed 31 by 10.5 by 15-in. white-lettered tires, which I got from a friend. He and I horse trade for different things so



Boom can handle logs up to 8 ft. long by 22 in. diameter.

they didn't cost me anything."

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## Handy Bucket-Mounted Log Tongs

"It lets me pick up and haul logs without ever having to get off my tractor," says James Box, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, who uses a pair of long ropes to open and close log tongs he attached by a long chain to the bucket on his Deere loader tractor.

The chain bolts to a clevis that's welded to the top of the bucket. Box welded a large nut on both sides of the tongs and tied ropes onto each nut. The ropes run through clevises he welded onto both sides of the bucket and then back to the drier through small nuts he welded onto the loader arms. The tongs hang about 2 ft. below the bottom of the bucket.

Box keeps the rope ends in his lap as he drives the tractor. He pulls on the ropes to open the tongs and lowers the bucket over the log, then lets go of the ropes to close the tongs and raises the bucket to lift the log off the ground.

"I came up with the idea because I'm 70 years old and want to take it a little easier," says Box. "I own about 4 acres with a lot of timber that's continually blowing or falling down due to storms so I have a lot of logs to pick up. I place them on a trailer for people to come by and cut up into firewood. I had been using the bucket-mounted tongs without the ropes. My wife would hold the tongs open while I let the bucket down over the log, and then step back as I raised it. The ropes now make it a one-man operation."

If Box wants he can raise the log 2 to 3 ft. higher by tilting the bucket all the way



A pair of long ropes are used to open and close log tongs from tractor seat.

back. "The extra height comes in handy when installing 8-ft. fence posts in the ground," he notes.

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Glenn Fisher converted a pair of 300-gal. metal cage totes to haul and store firewood with less labor.

## "Cage Tote" Firewood Storage

Glenn Fisher needed an inexpensive way to haul and store split wood that he uses in his home furnace, so he converted a pair of 300-gal. metal cage totes.

"I had been splitting wood and storing it in a barn, then carrying it by hand into our home," says Fisher. "The cage totes come mounted on wood pallets, so I can use my small 30 hp. loader tractor to haul the cages from the barn to our porch. I just open the front door to our home and get all the firewood I need. It's an unbelievably convenient firewood handling system."

He used a screwdriver to pop the plastic

tank out of the cage, then used a bolt cutter to cut a 12 by 28-in. opening into one side of the cage. He used a hand-operated grinder to smooth off any jagged edges in the opening. "I converted two totes this way," says Fisher. "The red oak wood I use is very heavy, so I fill each tote only about half full. I just throw the tote in over the top and let it lay where it falls. If I need to I can stack one tote on top of the other."

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Sawdust collector inside building vacuums sawdust and carries it outside into a covered trailer.

## Dust Vac System For "Inside" Sawmill

Dale McLaen likes having his Lumbermate 2000 sawmill inside a building, but dealing with the sawdust was a problem. So he added a sawdust collector to the old granary building that vacuums sawdust into an outside collection trailer.

"The Lumbermate 2000 is designed to be portable with leveling blocks when set on the ground," says McLaen. "I moved it inside and built 8 leveling legs. They raise the mill up about 24 in., so the bed of the mill is at about desktop height."

"I can saw logs without stooping or bending over. It also lets me easily sweep up around the sawmill when I'm done."

Sawdust from the mill itself never touches the floor. McLaen attached a homemade manifold to the side of the sawmill, where sawdust is normally expelled from the safety shield at the drive end of the bandsaw. A 4-in. flexible hose runs from the manifold to a 2 hp., 110V, bag-type dust collector normally used in a wood shop.

"I bought the dust collector new and discarded the bags and brackets before mounting it from a rafter above the sawmill," says McLaen.

The sawdust from the sawmill is pulled up the flexible tube by the suction fan and then expelled out of the building through a solid 5-in. plastic pipe.

"The collector captures nearly all of the coarse and ultra fine sawdust that comes off the blade and is very quiet when operating," says McLaen. "Because the fan and motor are mounted above the mill, the collection hose is never in the way and follows the sawmill from one end of the log to the other."



A plastic pipe directs the sawdust into trailer made from a converted manure spreader.

Once outside, the sawdust and chips are blown through a second flexible pipe to a covered trailer made from an old IHC 103 manure spreader.

"I removed the beater, replaced the floor, fixed the apron chain and built a removable cover for the top with an inlet pipe at the right front corner and outlet pipe at the left front corner," says McLaen, who also added plywood baffles inside the trailer to slow down the flow of air.

Once the trailer is full, it's a simple thing to unhook the inlet hose and pull the trailer to a field for spreading. A hinged wooden door at the rear of the spreader is swung up and out of the way so the sawdust can be unloaded with the apron chain.

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