

Self-Propelled Generator Easy To Move Around

When the power goes out on Bob Johnson's farm, he takes the generator out of his shop and drives it 200 ft. away to his yard pole. There, he plugs the generator into a transfer switch that supplies electricity to his house.

"The generator weighs about 300 lbs. When I bought it 2 years ago it came equipped with 8-in. wheels and was very hard to push across the yard," says the 81-year-old Johnson. "I installed 20-in. wheels on the generator, but it was still hard to push. So I decided to self-propel it."

He started with the transaxle off a Sears Craftsman 12 1/2 hp. riding mower that has 6 forward speeds and one reverse. He cut down the frame and mounted a 1 hp. electric motor on it. The motor is wired to the generator and used to belt-drive the transaxle. Johnson made a pair of wooden handles and added a belt tightener clutch on it.

"It moves along like a wheelbarrow except that I push down on the handles to give the wheels traction. It works great even when the ground is icy or snow-packed," says Johnson. "To operate the motor I start the generator and let it warm up a little, and then I plug the motor into the generator. After that I select the right gear, squeeze the clutch lever, and drive away."

Johnson can detach the generator by pulling a pin from a clevis that attaches to the transaxle frame. "The pin serves as a pivot point and makes the generator easy to steer," he says. "I already had added a crank-style jack on back of the generator to make sure it runs level on uneven ground."

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Johnson mounted an electric motor on the transaxle off a riding mower. Motor is wired to generator and used to belt-drive the transaxle. A pin serves as a pivot point that makes the generator easy to steer.



Rance Bryan's quick-tach rock grapple comes with 2 grapple arms independent from one another. Works great when handling uneven loads.

Quick-Tach Grapples, Hopper Built To Last

"Our new quick-tach rock grapple fork is built heavy and comes with two 1/2-in. thick steel grapple arms independent from one another. Works great when handling uneven loads. Also, the hydraulic cylinders that control the arms are hidden behind the bucket to protect them from damage. That's important when moving large limbs, tree trunks, and other debris," says inventor Rance Bryan, O' Fallon, Mo.

He describes his Veteran Equipment and Trade Company as "a 100 percent owned SDVOSB (Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business) that manufactures high quality skid steer attachments". Bryan started his company, Veteran Equipment & Trade Company, after serving 2 tours overseas in Iraq.

Other products he builds include a brush grapple, bucket, stump bucket, and a 2 cubic yard hopper.

The rock grapple comes with an AR400 steel cutting edge and Pengo forged cutting teeth. The inner tines are made of 3/8-in. thick steel spaced 3 in. apart. "The AR400 steel cutting edge is the best on the market. It'll outlast many competitor's lower quality steel edges," says Bryan.

The rock grapple is available in 72 and 84-in. models, with the 84-in. model selling for \$2,595.

The brush grapple is also available in 72 and 84-in. wide models and is made from 0.375-in. thick steel, with 2 in. hydraulic cylinders used to operate the grapple arms.

"Most manufacturers of clam-style brush grapples have one continuous grapple arm, which puts a strain on the arm when hauling uneven loads," says Bryan. "The two arms on our grapple fork operate independent of each other, so if the material being loaded is



Bryan also builds this skid loader-mounted, 2 cubic yard hopper.

higher on one side of the bucket than the other the arms will compensate and hold all of the material down," says Bryan. "The grapple hinge pins are 1 1/2 in. thick, whereas most manufacturers use only 1-in. pins, and there are grease zerks on all the pins."

An 84-in. brush grapple fork sells for \$1,995.

An 84-in. bucket sells for \$1,295 without teeth; with teeth, \$1,495.

The 2 cubic yard hopper is made from 3/16-in. thick steel, with all inside seams welded throughout. The bottom is reinforced with several 3-in. wide C-channels, which extends out in front for additional stability when the bucket isn't attached to the skid steer.

The hopper sells for \$1,195. Universal attachment brackets made from 1/4-in. plate steel are also available and sell for \$129.95; \$229.95 with 3/8-in. steel.

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"Rotating forks" let Petrevich lift steel totes loaded with firewood over the side of a dump truck, then rotate them upside down to dump wood directly into truck.

"Rotating Forks" Dump Firewood Totes Upside Down Into Truck

Eric Petrevich, Glen Gardner, N.J., sells firewood to individual homeowners and wholesale markets, delivering the wood in a dump truck. He eliminated a lot of handling by adapting German-made "rotating forks" designed for use on a forklift to his Kioti 75 hp. 4-WD loader tractor. It lets him lift steel totes loaded with firewood over the side of the truck, and rotate them upside down to dump the wood directly into the truck.

The forks were made by Brudi, a German company, and consist of a big semi-circular steel plate equipped with a pair of long forks. The plate mounts on a shaft that's connected to a horizontally-mounted hydraulic cylinder, and extending the cylinder causes the plate and forks to rotate 180 degrees.

Petrevich bought the forks used on eBay for

\$1,800, and mounted them to a commercial quick tach mounting plate. He installed a camera on the mounting plate, which he uses to line up the forks when picking up totes.

"It lets me load the wood directly from my wood processor into totes without ever handling the wood by hand, and then stack for storage. I can stack the totes up to 3 high."

He says tote cages are ideal for firewood storage. "They can't rot, and the wood stays exposed to the wind and sun. I cut the lids off the totes for use as covers that keep rain and snow off the wood."

You can watch the rotating forks in action at farmshow.com.

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Extending a hydraulic cylinder causes semi-circular steel plate and forks to rotate 180 degrees.