

## Push Mower Converted To Giant Weed Wacker

Rob Davis needed to mow a large area of 6 to 8-ft. tall weeds growing in front of his home. Some had “trunks” up to 1 1/2 in. dia. He couldn’t handle the giant weeds with his riding mower or a handheld weed wacker, so he converted an inexpensive 22-in. Murray push mower into a giant weed wacker. It mounts on front of his Snapper riding mower, where it’s suspended about 4 in. off the ground.

“The entire front part of the deck is open with the blade exposed, so it’ll chop through even the biggest weeds with no problem where a riding mower would be stopped in its tracks. The only limitation is that the blade is totally exposed, so the operator has to be very careful,” says Davis.

“I started working on lawn mowers for an implement dealer as a teenager back in the 1960’s, in my home town of Allendale, New Jersey, and now that I’m 70 years old I’m still at it,” says Davis. “I designed the bumper so that in the future I can use it with other attachments, such as a snow blade or mini forklift.”

He removed the wheels from the push mower as well as the entire back part of the deck, leaving a 20-in. wide opening that exposes the blades. He turned the mower around to face backward and bolted homemade mounting brackets to remount the handle on the opposite side of the mower deck. He welded a 2-in. receiver hitch on back of the deck and then used 2-in. square tubing to build the bumper, building a hitch onto it. He also tied up the “blade engagement” bar to the push mower’s handle to keep the blades engaged any time the mower is running.

“A short length of strap steel between the mower deck and bumper supports the front part of the mower deck. It’s attached to a



**Push mower is suspended off the ground, with entire front part open and blade exposed. “It chops through even the biggest weeds with no problem,” says Rob Davis.**

threaded rod that I use to adjust the mower up or down, depending on what I’m cutting,” says Davis.

“Once I’m done cutting weeds, I untie the rope to disengage the blades. At one time I tried running the rope from the mower back to the riding mower so that I could start and stop the mower blades without getting off the riding mower. However, I don’t use it any more. By pulling a pin from a receiver hitch, I can quickly remove the push mower and store it in my garage.”

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## Homemade Tool Carrier Bolted To Side Of Tractor

“I use my Kubota 60 hp., 4-WD loader tractor to drag logs out of the woods and cut them up into firewood. I had been storing chainsaws and associated tools on the floorboard or in the bucket, but I wanted something safer so I bolted a homemade tool carrier onto one side of the tractor. It keeps everything handy and neatly organized,” says Robert McMahon, Knoxville, Tenn.

He uses the tool carrier “to carry any tools I might need in the woods, such as chain saws, chains, snatch blocks, chokers, a cant hook, wood maul, wedges, and gas and oil cans. It also works great to carry fencing tools and materials.”

He started with a 30-in. length of 6-in. steel tubing that attaches to the loader’s vertical support arm with 5 bolts. He used a steel plate to seal off the bottom of the tube, and cut notches into the top to store chains. He hangs an old ATV tire on the notches, to carry a 150-ft. cable along with nylon straps. A length of 3-in. tubing welded on front of the 6-in. tubing is used to carry long-handled tools. A pair of 1-in. deep metal scabbards welded on back of the tube hold a chainsaw bar, with a T-handle used to clamp it in place.

McMahon welded a latched “lift hook” on top of the tube to haul a 5-gal. bucket, and he uses a 1 1/2-ft. long, 8-in. wide, open-sided container on back of the tube to store gas and oil cans.

He wanted better protection for hydraulic valves and hoses underneath the tractor, so he made “skid plates” by welding a pair of 7-in. wide, 1/2-in. thick steel plates together and then welding them on below the tube. “The skid plates protect the valves and hoses from rocks and tree stumps,” he notes.

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**Handy tool carrier can handle everything from chains and gas cans to fencing tools.**



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**Electric-operated “goat lift” raises animals up on a pipe floor, leaving the animal dangling on its belly.**



## 12-Volt DC-Powered “Goat Lift”

“A goat, by its nature, will go any place but where you want it to go. But if the goat’s legs are off the ground and the animal is dangling on its belly, it can’t put up much of a struggle. That’s the idea behind my electric-operated goat lift. It raises the animals up on a ‘pipe floor’ which makes working on them a much easier and safer job,” says Lee Johnson, Richburg, S.C.

Johnson owns a large herd of goats and uses the lift to administer dewormer medications, tetanus shots, and ear tagging. “It saves a lot of time and labor compared to trying to catch and hold each animal,”

he says. “I came up with the idea because I’m 71 years old and can’t do a lot of heavy lifting anymore, and I wanted to make the work easier on my helpers.”

The lift measures 10 ft. long by 2 ft. wide and has a sliding gate at each end. It’s designed to hold 5 adult goats at a time, or up to 15 smaller animals. The heart of the lift is a chute with a self-contained metal “pipe floor” made from a series of 1 1/2-in. dia. metal pipes spaced 6 in. apart. Both ends of the floor are chained to horizontal metal bars, with each bar raised or lowered by a remote-controlled, 12-volt DC winch. A single

remote is used to control both winches.

“We place 2 chutes with gates end to end in front of the lift, in order to ‘feed’ the animals into the lift,” says Johnson. “While the goats are being treated, more goats are herded into the chutes so there’s no waiting for the next batch.

“Once the sliding gate is opened, the goats walk the length of the chute, and once the chute is full I raise the pipe floor off the ground. The animals are lifted evenly on their bellies, with their legs protruding between the pipes. At this point they’re bewildered enough that they almost ‘freeze’ while the vet tech injects and drenches them, and then I follow up by applying ear tags, if necessary. Occasionally a young, frisky goat might try to climb out of the chute, but it’s very difficult to do because once their hooves are off the floor they have no leverage to get away.”

An electric-operated goat lift offers several advantages, says Johnson. “We don’t have to fight with the goats as we work on them, and we can work on more than one animal at a time so the work goes fast. All the pipes are chained together, so they can’t spread far enough apart for the entire animal to fall through between them.”

He says he tried to design the lift as simple as possible, which required a lot of thought before the construction process began. “I spent as much time sitting in my shop rocking chair, trying to develop the idea in my head, as I did building the lift. I didn’t want to have to make too many changes later on and do a lot more cutting and welding,” says Johnson.

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**Triple Clover utility hook can hold up to 100 lbs. when hung from a ceiling joist or stud.**

## Triple-Hooked Tack Storage

Joanne Grasso was looking for a way to keep tack organized in the barn and that would be safe when traveling with her horses. She couldn’t find what she wanted on the market so she and two other equestrians came up with the Triple Clover utility hook.

Made from powder-coated steel, it weighs less than a pound and is able to hold up to 100 lbs. when mounted from a ceiling joist or stud. It can be adjusted to any height.

As stable owners started using the utility hook around barns and at horse shows, they found it to be ideal for tack with its design of the hooks facing inward.

The Triple Clover Hook is 9 1/2 in. by 7 3/4 in. and comes in black or green. It can be ordered online for \$ 11.99 and is also available at Home Depot stores and Amazon.

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