



Krueger converted a zero-turn mower into a multi-use runabout to get him around.

Poor Man's ATV

When John Krueger ran across a cheap zero-turn mower, he decided to turn it into what he calls a poor man's wheelchair. However, once he had it set up, he found lots of uses for it besides running around his farmstead.

"I buy a lot of basket case equipment," says Krueger. "The owner thought the motor was shot. He said he was getting hot sparks shooting out of the flywheel cover. I figured I could pull the motor off and replace it with a small motor I had salvaged."

Krueger is no stranger to working on mowers. Nearly 26 years ago, he turned a self-propelled floor sweeper into a 72-in. wide riding mower (Vol. 21, No. 3). When he tore into this one, he got a pleasant surprise.

"I pulled the cover off and found the Bendix starter was stuck in the engaged position," says Krueger. "When the motor idled, the engaged starter was throwing out sparks. I replaced the Bendix, and it was fine."

He already had a working zero-turn he used for mowing. His homemade riding mower also worked fine. He didn't need a third mower, so he removed the mower deck and made some modifications for a run-about. His first step was to make it safer.

"I'm 83, so I wanted a safe way to mount and dismount," says Krueger. "I installed a handrail on the front of the frame and hung headlights on it."

His next step was installing a bumper hitch

with a ball for towing small equipment. He bolted a length of angle iron to the zero-turn frame behind the motor. It had several holes already drilled in it that he could use for mounting a ball or pinning a clevis hitch.

Krueger then decided to adapt it to carry an 8-gal. sprayer with a 12-volt pump. To provide mounts for the sprayer, he first butt welded two lengths of 3/4-in. pipe to short lengths of angle iron. He bolted the angle irons with the pipes upright to the zero-turn frame and the ends of the bumper hitch.

His next step was to make a platform for the sprayer that could ride on the uprights. He used angle iron for the platform frame and bent a length of pipe to make a surround for the sprayer tank. He welded the pipe ends to the platform frame and covered the frame with pieces of plywood.

Krueger cut a length of angle iron to match the distance between the upright pipes on the zero-turn bumper hitch and welded 6-in. bolts to both ends. He then welded the angle iron to the pipe surround.

"To mount the sprayer to the zero-turn, I lift the platform up and slide the bolts into the pipes," says Krueger. "So far, I've only used the sprayer with a spray wand, but it's handy for spot spraying around the buildings."

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"Bales can be unrolled onto the ground, over a simple ring bale feeder or into a mixer," says sales representative, Matt Wendling.

Unwinder Makes Big Bale Feeding Easy

Tar River Manufacturing says their hydraulic RBU-100 bale unwinder comes with a universal skid-steer mount for front use or a 3-pt. hitch hookup for the rear of a tractor.

"Bales can be unrolled onto the ground, into a simple ring bale feeder, or into a mixer," says sales representative, Matt Wendling. "Some users unroll large bales in front of a small square baler for re-baling purposes."

The solid steel unit is equipped with three rotating 49 in. steel spears driven by a bi-directional hydraulic motor. The speed of rotation can be increased or decreased by feathering the tractor's hydraulic system

lever.

Manufacturing is done in Europe, but the unwinders are available at dealerships throughout North America.

The RBU-100 comes standard with hydraulic hoses but without couplers, as they vary depending on tractor makes and models. Units sell for \$3,325 plus S&H.

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Garden cart made from recycled pallets and bicycle wheels works well and distributes weight evenly for chores.

Pallet Wheelbarrow Rides On Bike Wheels

Jeff Ness of Split Oak Farm in Bagley, Minn., constructed a homemade wheelbarrow from pallets and bicycle wheels. Lightweight and easy to maneuver, Ness and his wife can use it to transport up to four square bales at a time.

Ness gained inspiration for this project after visiting a friend who used a similar cart on his property. This friend had purchased it in 1986 as a kit from a Vermont manufacturer. "The cart easily hauled bushels of apples and was hardy and well made."

Impressed with how well the cart's bicycle tires rolled through rough garden ground, Ness set out to mimic the design and build his own homemade garden cart.

His cart uses two bike wheels, scrap wood, and extra hardware sourced from various

projects. The tongue and groove panels that made up the bottom base came out of a house renovation project, and the handles came from an old broken wheelbarrow.

To date, the cart serves various purposes at Split Oak Farm. "We use it for everything but mostly for moving square bales around the farm," says Ness. "Its size is based on two to four square bales that can be stacked easily without falling off the side. We also use it to haul firewood, squash, buckets and bricks. My wife even uses it to haul garden furniture around the yard, as it saves our back from moving heavy items."

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Riley Hladun built this multipurpose attachment for his skid steer using materials he had lying around his shop.

Skid Steer Attachment Does Two Jobs

By Chad Smith, Contributing Editor

Riley Hladun of Duval, Sask., wanted to make one universal attachment for his skid steer rather than buy two separate attachments.

Hladun needed to move equipment in and out of his machine shed and be able to mount a post-hole auger to the bucket too.

"When I needed to use the bucket for something else, I had to unbolt it and take the thing off," he says. "That was cumbersome and took me about 20 minutes."

The original plan was to build a mainframe out of 2 1/2-in. square tubing and weld on a 2-in. receiver coupler to add on a typical ball hitch for a truck.

But that limited the different types of equipment he could move around the farm. It also had to be sturdy to handle the force needed to use the post-hole auger. "I stuck the snout of my attachment out by two feet," Hladun says. "For the post-hole auger part of it, I used some 2 1/2-in. square tubing with a 1/4-in. wall that I had in my shop."

"I mounted that onto the post hole auger and made it into a sort of receiver hitch," he says. "To remove the auger, all I have to do is pull one pin and it's free and clear."

After that, he can slide the truck hitch back

into the attachment. Hladun says he killed "two birds with one stone" by doing this.

"I don't have to buy a post-hole attachment for my skid steer," he says. "I have a cattle farm here and didn't want to spend up to \$5,000 on something that doesn't get used every day."

He's drilled roughly 20 holes with the auger this fall using the attachment. Hladun is interested to see how the auger works as winter sets into Saskatchewan and the ground freezes.

He's not finished with the combination equipment mover and post-hole auger. "I also want to add on a removable bale spear," he says.

Building with scraps saved him a lot of money, and it only took an hour to build the attachment. He's not planning on building this for sale but would be happy to tell others about his project.

"With the price of steel and other supplies in Canada today, I probably saved around \$800 doing it this way," he says.

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