

He Built A Lawn Tractor Lift Hitch

Oregon handyman Jerome Kuenzi says the power lift hitch he built for the back of his 1974 Cub Cadet 128 lawn tractor works great for hooking up yard tools and trailers.

The base of Kuenzi's hitch is supported by an 8 by 10-in. piece of 1/4-in. mild steel plate bolted into four holes in the back of the transmission. Vertical metal gussets on each side have mounting holes that support lift arms held in place with 1/2-in. pins. Kuenzi built the lift arms and cross bracing out of 1/2-in. mild steel plate. Hooks on each side and one on the horizontal brace form a simple 3-pt. mount that Kuenzi uses to carry his 10-ft. wide 3-pt. sprayer. A 12-volt pump runs the booms. He also uses the hitch to carry weights when the front push blade is on the tractor. He plans to build a box blade that the hitch will carry for leveling gravel and dirt.

A hitch ball welded to the top of the cross



Up and down dash controls via a winch connected to the battery.

brace of the hitch is especially handy, pulling his wood splitter, a yard trailer and moving trailers their metal shop builds to the parking lot.

"My tractor doesn't have hydraulics, so I mounted a small Badland electric winch on the metal plate," Kuenzi says. "Power cables run straight from the tractor battery to the dash, where I have an up and down control to raise and lower the winch."

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Hitch is bolted to the back of the lawn tractor transmission.

EZ Winder comes with a 12-volt rechargeable battery that can run up to 180 cycles or 60 days between charges.



How To Motorize Your Truck's Landing Gear

The EZ Winder™ makes dropping or hooking up semi-trailers easy and hassle-free. It's designed to work on all major manufacturers' landing gears.

The device can lift up to 30 tons, which reduces the risk of damage to the trailer nose and landing gear from drivers that don't crank a loaded trailer to the correct height.

EZ Winder offers two universal trailer kits. The I-Beam EZ Winder Kit works with box, reefer, chip, and flatbed setups. It includes the EZ Winder motor, all required bracketry and mounting hardware, a 12-volt 20Ah SLA battery with a smart charger and wiring harness, and detailed installation and operation instructions. The Sidemount Kit is similar but is compatible with tanker, bulk, pneumatic, chassis, and drop deck flatbed. Included is the EZ Winder motor, along with side-mount bracketry, a C-Channel battery mount and bracketry, a 12-volt battery, and necessary instructions. All purchases include a battery pack and smart charger for independent operation from tractor power.

Installation takes around 1 1/2 hrs. The company provides detailed written and video instructions after purchase and maintains a helpline for technical support. The system will operate without power from the cab for up to 180 cycles or 60 days. You can recharge the battery through the 7-way.

The device is capable of shifting from high to low gear along the company's patent-pending sliding hinge. It's easy to operate - just push the power button and press and release the up or down buttons to use. And, since the EZW is battery-powered, the cab doesn't need to be hooked to a trailer to operate.

Customer reviews share how easy the winder is to install and praise how well it can reduce injuries.

Contact the company directly to purchase the EZ Winder or secure a 90-day trial.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EZ Winder, 610 Monroe Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38103 (ph 901-521-1040; sales@EZ-Winder.com; www.ez-winder.com).

Pancoast took the idea for side dressing dry fertilizer from an earlier FARM SHOW article and built his own rig.



Dry Fertilizer Side Dresser

When Earl Pancoast searched FARM SHOW's Archives for ideas to side dress with dry fertilizer, up popped a page from Vol. 12, No. 2. The story featured the late William Stahl, Loysville, Penn. He mounted fiberglass hoppers holding 700 lbs. of dry fertilizer on a toolbar with Yetter coulters and dry application tubes behind them for side dressing no-till corn. His rig also had a row crop cultivator he could attach to the rear in conventionally tilled ground.

"Stahl's rig was just what I was looking for," says Pancoast. "I started looking for the components I needed at local auctions."

He picked up a 6-row, 30-in. row IH cultivator at one auction and a set of fertilizer boxes from a Deere 7000 planter at another one. He also picked up a hydraulic drive cross auger at a third auction.

"I recalled my dad doing something similar with a Minneapolis Moline cultivator and

fertilizer boxes," says Pancoast. "Unlike his or Stahl's, which had ground drives, I mounted the hydraulic drive from the cross auger."

The hydraulic drive gives Pancoast more control and a bigger operating window. "Sometimes the corn gets away from me and gets too tall for a ground drive unit," he says. "With the hydraulic drive, I can raise the toolbar up and drop the fertilizer alongside the row. It's not as good as scratching it in, but it works."

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Ford Multivator wider unit shown with optional fertilizer box.

Between-Row Tiller Stands Test Of Time

A specialty crop tiller from Ford Distributing called the Multivator keeps finding new uses and more work in larger fields.

"The Multivator has been popular with traditional market gardeners doing an acre or two, but it's also finding its place in market garden farms of 10 to 15 acres," says Adam Scott, Ford Distributing. "We're also seeing a growing interest in using Multivatros to till cover crops into the soil before planting."

The Multivator is an Italian-designed tiller built for inter-row cultivation. It was first introduced into the U.S. about 22 years ago.

Mitchell equipment "Americanized" it, strengthening the frame and other components for higher horsepower tractors. It features tillage heads mounted to a toolbar with only two bolts for easy readjustment to different-sized beds and row spacing.

A single hexagonal bar powers all heads from a single gearbox. Each head floats independently with the ground surface. However, down pressure can be applied to penetrate hard ground.

Tiller heads vary from 7 to 10 in. on the

smallest head to 28 to 32 in. on the larger. Adjustable guide wheels determine frame height. It fits Cat. 1 or 2 three-pt. hitches and is available in a variety of frame widths. Horsepower needs vary from 15 to 50 for the smaller units to up to 150 for larger units.

"The basic design of the Multivator is unchanged," says Scott. "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Multivator users seem to agree. Scott notes that a significant number of buyers are repeat customers. "They wore theirs out and are back for a second or third time," he says. "They appreciate the labor-saving benefit."

"Our base machines sell for \$5,000 to \$10,000, but we do custom-build larger machines as well," says Scott.

Options include higher frames and add-ons such as a fertilizer box. Ridgers can be attached behind each head to throw tilled soil back onto ridged rows.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ford Distributing, 10784 Industrial Parkway, Marysville, Ohio 43040 (ph 614-873-4620; www.forddistributing.com).