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## Made-It-Myself Forklift Rafter Boom

Raising rafters for 16-ft. tall ceilings requires a long reach, and Joel Zumbach's skid loader-mounted rafter boom didn't have it. He didn't feel making the boom any longer was a safe option. Instead, he designed one to mount to a forklift.

"I could only get a 22-ft. reach with the skid steer, and even then, the back end got pretty light under the load," says Zumbach. "Mounting it on the forklift with its 16-ft. reach gave us a 28-ft. reach for the boom."

Zumbach fabricated the boom out of 3-in. heavy wall steel pipe with a steel plate at one end. The boom's base was a reinforced crossbar welded to sleeves that slid on the forklift forks. Both the sleeves and the crossbar were made with 2 by 6-in. steel tubing salvaged from an old camper frame.

"I reinforced the crossbar with a piece of 1/2-in. thick steel plate from an old TMR mixer," says Zumbach. "I torched a hole in the steel plate, and welded it to the end of the boom/pipe and then welded the plate to the crossbar."

To provide more surface to attach braces to the boom, Zumbach welded two pieces

of steel salvaged from a John Deere corn planter about 4 ft. up its length. Two short lengths of 1-in. pipe from an old greenhouse were welded to the steel and bolted to the forklift load backrest. Another longer piece was passed through a hole in the steel plates on the boom. It was bent to the ends of the crossbar where it was welded in place.

"We couldn't tip the boom end to the ground to hook the rafter like we could with the skid steer," says Zumbach. "Instead, we used a 12-volt winch mounted to the crossbar to lift the rafter to the end of the boom."

He mounted a battery to power the winch to one of the fork sleeves and ran the controller back to the operator's seat.

Zumbach describes the boom as a work in progress, often changing from one job to the next. "It's had different versions according to the need we had," he says. "We just cut it apart and weld it back together."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joel Zumbach, 8538 County Rd. 152, Henderson, N.Y. 13650 (ph 315-222-8710).

## Cadet 'Original' Now In Showroom Condition

Arnold Schueck has an appreciation for Cub Cadet garden tractors dating back 50 years to his youth, but it wasn't until 2023 that he achieved his dream of owning a completely restored "like new" Original. Schueck bought the creeper gearbox-equipped tractor in 2012 for the bargain price of \$300 on eBay. He used it one fall to dig potatoes, then started cleaning, sandblasting, and priming it a year later. Then various personal issues waylaid the project for 9 years.

Schueck realized then he couldn't finish the project, so he enlisted the help of Justin Binkley, who had posted pictures on Facebook of Cadet restorations he'd done. Schueck delivered his dismantled Original frame, wheels, engine, and boxes of parts to Binkley so he could finish the work.

Over the next 8 mos., Binkley rebuilt the starter and replaced the clutch pad, the carburetor, and several bushings, along with the throttle and choke chokes. He tuned the engine, thoroughly cleaned and primed all the parts, then finish coated them with iron guard paint. A new seat, a shiny straight pipe vertical exhaust along with a new wiring harness and decals brought the Original back to showroom condition.

Schueck proudly drove and displayed his Original at two tractor shows in August 2023. He was excited to see adults and kids admiring his "like new" tractor.

Schueck has owned several Cadets over the years and says this one is definitely his favorite, a lot like the one he drove on his father's farm cleaning manure pits in 1968, but much cleaner and better smelling. He was so pleased with Binkley's work on the



Completed chassis rides on tires that Schueck provided.



Showroom new and field ready, Schueck's "Original" Cadet was a hit at events he attended in 2023.

Original that he's having him restore another Cadet for him.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arnold Schueck, Barto, Penn. or Justin Binkley (jpbinkley@gmail.com).



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