



“Stone sled” is designed to skid along the ground behind a pickup or tractor.

“Stone Sled” Makes Big Rocks Easier To Handle

“It lets me remove rocks from fields that are too big to lift by hand, without the need for a loader tractor or any other powered equipment,” says Lester Langeland, Marne, Mich., about his “stone sled” that’s designed to skid along the ground behind a pickup or tractor.

The sled is made from 1/4-in. thick steel and measures 34 by 28 in. It consists of a steel plate with a curved band of 4-in. wide steel on back that’s welded to three lengths of vertical angle iron. Two lengths of 3/8-in. chain are welded to each leading corner of the plate. One chain is 2 ft. long and the other one 5 ft. long.

To use the sled, he backs the pickup up to the rock and places the leading edge of the sled against the back side of the rock, as low as possible. Then he hooks the chains around the front side of the rock and drives ahead until the sled digs itself under the rock.

“I’ve used it for about four years and have found that it works surprisingly well. I can haul off a dozen big rocks in only a couple hours,” says Langeland. “It’s amazing how big a rock can be pulled on it if I can get the leading edge of the sled close to the bottom of the rock. I’ve used it to remove rocks up to 700 lbs.

“I came up with the idea because I don’t have a loader tractor. I carry it in the back of my Dodge 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup during fall tillage and spring planting. It’s especially easy to use after the field has been chiseled or



Leading edge of sled is placed against back side of rock. Then Langeland hooks chains around front side of rock and drives ahead until sled digs itself under rock.

plowed and the rock is loosened up. As long as the rock is slightly loose, I can usually get the sled to wedge under it and can pull it out of the field. Sometimes I use a shovel to dig in front of the sled, so that it will be pulled under the rock as I drive forward. Once the rock is on the sled, it pulls relatively easy. It’s important to hitch the sled as close to the pickup as possible in order to keep the front part of the sled from digging too deep into the ground.”

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Attachment Turns Skid Steer Into A Forklift

You can turn a skid steer into a forklift with this new two-wheeled mast that attaches to the loader arms.

The “Forkster” does the work of a conventional forklift at a fraction of the cost, according to the manufacturer, Kaltec of Minnesota, Inc. The add-on unit uses a pair of hydraulic cylinders and a chain-drive pulley system to lift loads on a pair of 4-ft. forks. The load is carried by a pair of large castor wheels. The wheels telescope in or out as needed. A universal adapter plate is used to attach the unit to the skid steer arms.

A number of accessories that replace the forks are available, including an extension boom, a 1-ton dump box with manual-trip

lever, and a pallet box.

Three models are available. Model 1505 is designed for mini skid steers and has a lift height of 60 in. and a lift capacity of 1,500 lbs. It sells for \$3,995. Model 2508 has a lift height of 8 ft. and a lift capacity of 2,500 lbs. It sells for \$5,690. Model 3316 has a lift height of 16 ft. and a lift capacity of 3,300 lbs. It sells for \$7,850. The forks for all models sell for \$510.

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“Water Wheel” Planting System

“It used to take two weeks to plant 12,000 plants. Now we do the same work in about seven hours,” says Dave Langman, Oro Station, Ontario, who built a “water wheel” planter that’s designed to plant into a layer of plastic mulch.

“I built it mostly from salvaged materials. My total cost was only about \$500. Comparable commercial machines sell for \$3,000 to \$4,000,” says Langman.

The two-wheeled machine is equipped with a 250-gal. tank that feeds water to a 24-in. dia. steel wheel on back fitted with points that poke through plastic. The wheel is partially open on one side. Water is gravity-fed through a plastic hose into the open side. The points, spaced about 1 ft. apart, poke holes in the plastic for plants and deposit about one cup of water per hole.

The planter is equipped with two seats, one on each side of the wheel. One person separates the plant rootballs and hands them to the other person, who pushes the plant into the hole in the plastic.

A valve at the wheel is used to control the flow of water.

“This machine can be used to plant virtually any plant with a solid root ball. I use it to plant an herb called echinacea. We had been planting through the plastic by hand, without adding water,” says Langman. “We built a holding rack on top of the tank for plants, where we can store up to six trays.”

Langman had previously built his own plastic mulch layer using the frame of an old field cultivator. It rides on two spare car tires with a couple of closing discs behind. The machine lays a strip of plastic in a pre-made furrow and covers the edges with soil to hold in moisture and keep out weeds. The furrow is formed by two metal shovels mounted just ahead of the tires.

Both machines are for sale.

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Langman also built his own plastic mulch layer that lays a strip of plastic in a pre-made furrow and covers the edges with soil to hold in moisture and keep out weeds.



“Water wheel” planter has a 24-in. dia. steel wheel on back fitted with points that poke through plastic. Water is gravity-fed through a hose into open side of wheel.



Planter is equipped with two seats, one on each side of wheel.



Two-wheeled mast attaches to skid steer loader arms. It uses a pair of hydraulic cylinders, and a chain-drive pulley system, to lift loads on a pair of 4-ft. forks.