

Remote-Controlled Mower Never Needs Recharging

You can sit on the porch and mow your lawn with a handheld remote control using this new gas-powered mower fitted with radio controls.

Unlike the new electric-powered robot mowers, it never needs recharging.

"It's always ready to go when you need it," says inventor Luis Medina, Evatech, Inc., Tarpon Springs, Fla.

The electric start mower has a 6 1/2 hp gas engine and a 21-in. blade. A pair of DC electric motors mount on back and are used to drive the machine's rear wheels. The engine turns the cutting blade and runs the alternator, which powers the motors and also charges a 12-volt battery.

The front steer machine rides on 12-in. wheels on back and 8-in. caster wheels on front. A joystick control on a radio-controlled transmitter is used to control both speed and direction.

The "brain" of the unit consists of an AM receiver, microprocessors, and a gyroscope. The gyroscope senses if the mower runs off course and signals the microprocessors to redirect the wheels accordingly.

The rig has a remote range of 2,000 ft. Top speed is 8 mph, and it'll cut up to four acres per gallon.

"It's fun to operate and is also pretty effi-

cient," says Medina. "It has enough power to mow a 15 degree slope. Most of the machines we've sold so far have been to disabled people. We plan to mount a wireless video camera on the mower which will transmit to a receiver hooked to your TV. That way you'll be able to operate the mower from inside your house."

The two wheel motors operate independently which results in a zero turn radius, notes Medina.

By mounting a 12-volt cigarette lighter adapter on the frame, you can even use the machine as a portable generator to operate electric tools, TV's, radios, etc., he adds.

Sells for \$2,299. A manual start model is also available and sells for \$1,600.

The company also offers plans that let you convert any walk-behind mower to a remote controlled hybrid model. "The plans show what kinds of motors and other parts you need, how to connect the electronic parts, mount the alternator, and so on," says Medina.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Evatech, Inc., 3153 Prides Crossing, Tarpon Springs, Fla. 34688 (ph 727 938-8890; email: sales@evatech.net; website: www.evatech.net).



You can relax in a chair and mow your lawn with a handheld remote control, using this new gas-powered mower fitted with radio controls.

Electric Wood Splitter Quiet, Powerful

Mark Adams, Bristol, Vt., built a one-of-a-kind electric wood splitter that's quieter than anything on the market and designed to go easy on his back.

The wood splitter is powered by a 240-volt, 3 hp electric motor that belt-drives a hydraulic pump.

In order to use the electric wood splitter away from the shop, he made a heavy-duty 150-ft. electric cord.

Adams also built a telescoping boom out of 2 and 2 1/2-in. square tubing. It picks up chunks of wood that are up to 26 in. in diameter and sets them in the center of the splitting surface.

The splitter can split logs up to 20 in. long, which is the maximum size Adams' wood boiler will accept.

To raise and lower the boom, he mounted a 2 by 18-in. cylinder on back of the splitter. The boom and cylinder mount to a 3-in. pipe that will let the boom swing.

The boom can be used on either side of the splitter. Tongs grab the chunks of wood.

Adams spent only about \$500 to build the splitter because he had a lot of steel on hand. He bought the pumps and cylinders.

He's used it for a year and a half. Neighbors like to borrow it because it's so quiet.

Although not interested in making any more himself, he's willing to help anyone else who wants to build one.

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Wood splitter is powered by a 240-volt, 3 hp electric motor that belt-drives a hydraulic pump.

"Double Whammy" Pressure Washer

Brent Pitcher, Montrose, Ill., wanted a high pressure washer for cleaning out his hog buildings - something with more cleaning power than what he could find on the market. So he built his own 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven unit that's equipped with dual pumps.

Water is delivered to the pumps out of a 1,000-gal. tank mounted on a trailer.

"It has an output of 12 gal. per minute at 3,000 lbs. pressure. With so much volume and pressure it'll cut right down through 2-in. thick manure," says Pitcher, who uses an 80 hp utility tractor to operate the unit.

He started with a pair of 6 gpm General brand pumps (www.generalpump.com; ph 651 454-6500) that he mounted on opposite sides of a steel frame that attaches to the tractor's 3-pt. The tractor pto-drives a 4-groove, 14-in. dia. pulley that double belt drives each pump. A length of hose connects the two pumps together and leads to a pressure wand. Another hose serves as a bypass hose - when Pitcher lets up on the wand trigger the unused water is delivered back to the tank.

"Using the two pumps together produces a high volume of water, which is the key to its success," says Pitcher. "Commercial single pump models often operate at only 4 to 5 gal.

per minute and at about 2,500 to 3,000 lbs. pressure. I've heard of people who hook two electric operated pressure washers together, but then you have two motors to take care of and you need an electricity supply wherever you want to use the washer. Also, using two electric motors takes a lot of amperage. All I have to do is hook the pumps up to the tractor and go.

"I use it about every four months. The pulley design allows me to run the tractor slow at just above idle. I keep the trailer outside the barn and have about 200 ft. of hose hooked up to the wand, so I can use it anywhere inside the barn.

"I bought the pumps and pulleys new and spent a total of about \$1,200. A single cold water pressure washer operated by an electric motor and mounted on wheels sells for about \$1,200."

When it's not in use, the entire unit mounts on four jack stands. A short length of sq. tubing with a stand at the bottom of it is welded to each corner of the frame. The tubing has a series of holes in it, allowing the stands to be bolted to the pipes.

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Brent Pitcher built this 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven pressure washer equipped with dual pumps. It has an output of 12 gal. per minute at 3,000 psi.

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