

Mini Skid Steer Equipped With Beefed-Up Attachments

Vince and Kyle Herring can't imagine life without their Ramrod Taskmaster 750 skid steer. What they don't care for is many of the commercially available attachments that don't seem to stand up to heavy use.

"We use it at least 12 hours a week for everything from hauling wood to digging trenches to hauling stones and mowing," says Vince.

Constant use plus changing needs have led Kyle to either rebuild or build new tools. Modified or built-from-scratch attachments include a materials bucket, a dirt blade, a leveler, a salt and sand spreader and a mower.

An important tool for the Herring acreage is Kyle's modified Swisher mower. He repositioned the trailing mower with a mini skid mounting plate for forward use. He also replaced the small single cylinder motor with a 15 hp twin cylinder. A brush guard made from 3/4-in. tubing and expanded metal protects the motor.

"I used 1/8-in. steel and 3/4-in. angle iron to reinforce the sides," says Kyle. "Adding 1-in. steel edging on the sides lets it slide over the ground easier."

The biggest change of all was in the blade mount and bushing. Here Kyle replaced the old mount with a 6-in. sq., 3/8-in. thick steel plate. A new bushing was machined out of 2-in. solid steel with high tolerance for roller bearings.

"The machined steel bushing gives a lot of meat around the bearings, so there is no give," explains Kyle. "I used to be throwing bearings out on the old cast iron bushing. With all this cold rolled steel, there are no problems no matter what it is used on."

With the lift provided by the Taskmaster, the Herrings use the mower for chopping down shrubs and tall weeds when they are

too big to simply mow over. "With a weed whacker, you have chunks of stuff," says Vince. "With this, we can lift the mower up over a shrub and pulverize it till there is no trace left."

A bucket Vince has nicknamed "The Pelican" has proven extra useful. Kyle designed it to make maximum use of lifting power by holding the load close to the mini skid, like a pelican holds its pouch.

"The machine is rated to carry 750 lbs. up in front of the arm pins," explains Kyle. "By setting the weight closer to the body, it can carry much more."

"The Pelican" holds almost half a yard, and is narrow and deep. The top front is angled forward so material dumps out easily and smoothly.

Other modifications made to the Ramrod include a kill switch for use with the mower and 8-ply plus tires instead of the 4-ply that came with it. Vince also added lights front and rear, a pressure gauge and an inverter so he can run AC hand tools off the mini skid.

One of the commercial attachments that has come in most handy is the forklift. The Herrings store the various attachments on pallets in a shed, moving them in and out with the forklift. It also works great for moving firewood used to heat their house and attached frame and gallery business.

"We use pallets for everything now," says Kyle. "We use woven wire to make a basket and plumbing strapping to attach the bottom strand to the pallet. The round shape gives it strength, and we can move piles of rocks, wood or mulch where it's needed without stacking or unstacking."

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Kyle Herring mounted a trailing mower on front of the machine by using a mini skid mounting plate. He also replaced its small motor with a 15 hp twin cylinder. A brush guard protects it.



Kyle Herring designed a bucket his brother calls "The Pelican", because the skid steer arms hold the bucket close like a pelican holds its pouch. The machine is rated to handle 750 lbs. but it can carry much more, they say.



The Herrings use pallets to carry cargo, including rocks (left). They also made a salt and sand spreader.

Nitrogen-Filled Tires Last Longer

A Sunrise, Fla. company called N2Revolution is making it possible for anyone to drive more efficiently by offering a technology that was formerly used only by race car drivers and the president on Air Force One.

Company president Robin Pearl says inflating tires with nitrogen instead of air boosts gas mileage and reduces tire wear.

N2Revolution's 98 percent nitrogen product hit the market in mid-September at service stations equipped with "nitroflators".

According to Pearl, the reason high purity compressed nitrogen is superior to compressed air (which is 78 percent nitrogen and 20 percent oxygen) is that it doesn't allow rubber to oxidize and it eliminates moisture inside the tire which also damages rubber.

"It also stabilizes tire pressure better than air. That means less wear, less heat build-up and less gas consumption, saving money in the long run," he says. "Tire costs are estimated to be the second highest operating cost after gasoline. When your tires are consistently inflated at proper pressure, you will benefit from extended tire life and increased tire mileage. You'll also get a smoother ride with better handling, braking and steering."

Since pricing is at the discretion of individual dealers, the cost to consumers varies greatly. In some cases, the service may even be offered as a free bonus when other services are provided.

At press time, N2Revolution had dealers in Ohio, New Jersey, North Dakota, Florida and Georgia, but the network was growing



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rapidly, with new dealers signing on every day.

"We expect to have dealers from coast to coast within the next three months," Pearl says. "We welcome all new dealer inquiries."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, N2Revolution Inc., 5289 NW 108 Ave., Sunrise, Fla. 33351 (ph 866 441-8473 or 954 741-4278; fax 954 337-4614; Sales@PurigeN98.com; www.PurigeN98.com).

Free-Standing Ladder Holder

Until recently, James Granzow, Hubbard, Iowa, didn't have a problem putting Christmas lights on the trees around his house. But they're around 15 ft. tall now so he came up with a nifty free-standing ladder holder that'll work great for other jobs, too.

Made out of 1-in. dia. electrical conduit, the rolling cart has an 11-ft. long base. He sets an extension ladder in a small box just ahead of the wheels.

Two telescoping supporting arms are held to the ladder by a rod that goes through one of the ladder's rungs. The arms can be adjusted to hold the ladder at whatever angle is needed.

The support arms are 3/4-in. conduit over 1/2-in., with drilled holes every 6 in. in the smaller pipe.

The base conduit extends under the tree's branches to the trunk in order to keep the ladder as close to the tree as possible.

A 1/4-in. thick truss-like cable runs under the entire base from one end to the other to add strength. It's hard to see in the photo but Granzow says, "That's where all the pressure is."

"If I have to extend the ladder in excess of 15 ft. there are long telescoping poles made from 1-in. over 3/4-in. conduit that attach to the upper portion of the ladder and reach the ground several feet on each side of the rig," he says. "This stabilizes it from side to side and provides added strength to the entire rig."



James Granzow made a ladder holder out of 1-in. dia. electrical conduit that lets him use an extension ladder even when there's nothing to lean it against.

"After I'm done with it, I just slide it into the machine shed rafters," says Granzow. "It works real good."

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