



Donald Vanhuis's push mower extends 12 ft. out to the side of his riding mower, allowing him to cut grass on ditch banks.

Side-Mount Mower Reaches Into Ditches

"I came up with a method of attaching a push mower to the side of my riding mower to cut grass on ditch banks. It does the job and entertains the neighbors at the same time," says Donald Vanhuis, Holland, Mich.

The 22-in. Lawn Boy push mower extends 12 ft. out to the side of the riding mower.

The mower, with its handle removed, swivels on the end of a 12-ft. long, 3/4-in. dia., 2-piece steel pipe attached to a hinged metal bracket that bolts onto the riding mower's frame. The hinge allows the pipe and mower to flex up or down.

The pipe is built in two sections bolted together at the middle. Vanhuis mows the opposite side of the ditch first, then unbolts the outside section, turns the Lawn Boy around 180 degrees, and mows the near side.

"It works really well for mowing along

steep ditches near my property," says Vanhuis. "I chose the Lawn Boy 2-cycle push mower because oil pressure at odd angles isn't a problem and because it's fairly light. Also, the mower comes with a float in the carburetor that keeps from flooding or starving the engine of fuel on hillsides.

"The mower hangs freely from the end of the pipe which keeps the arm from exerting any pressure against it and damaging the wheels. It might help to place the Lawn Boy wheels with small caster wheels on all four corners of the mower to improve maneuverability. Also, if I did it over again I'd probably use a bigger and stronger pipe."

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Donald Johnson's 3-pt. mounted stump grinder consists of four 10-in. dia. circular saw blades with spacers between them.

He Grinds Stumps With Circular Saw Blades

"I had several large tree stumps in my yard that had to be removed. I didn't want to spend the money to have the work done so I made my own 3-pt. mounted stump grinder mostly out of scrap material," says Donald Johnson, Maryville, Tenn.

Johnson uses the stump grinder on his Cub Cadet 24 hp tractor. Power is provided by a 6 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton engine that belt-drives the grinder. The grinder itself consists of four 10-in. dia. circular saw blades (24-tooth, carbide-tipped) with spacers between them. The entire unit mounts on an angle iron frame. The bottom part of the frame is pinned

to the 3-pt.'s lower lift arms, while the top part is connected to a metal arm extending back from the 3-pt.'s top link.

The stump grinder is designed so it can be swung up to 12 in. from side to side across the stump, using the flexibility provided by loosening the sway chains on the 3-pt.'s lower lift arms. The operator grabs a T-bar handle to guide the unit. A trip lever mounts on the handle and is connected by a length of cable to a ratchet dog, which locks onto a vertical metal post. Pulling the trip lever back releases the ratchet dog from the post, allowing the operator to lower the grinder into the stump.

Heavy duty bungee cords extend from the tractor back to the frame to counterbalance the weight of the grinder, making it easier for the operator to lift.

"I've used this stump grinder for three years and have removed more than 50 stumps. It works great," says Johnson. "I use the 3-pt. to lower the grinder to within 4 in. of the stump, then get off the tractor and use the trip lever to lower the grinder into the stump. If the stump is wider than 12 in. the tractor has to be repositioned after each cut across the stump. The grinder cuts a path only about 3 in. from front to back, so I also may

have to back up the tractor several times, depending on the size of the stump."

"I've gone through four or five sets of blades since I made it, but I've never had to re weld anything on it. At first I used welded-together steel pulleys which came apart, so I replaced them with cast iron pulleys. I use a big threaded bolt to adjust tension on the belt.

"I bought the motor, pulleys, belt and blades for about \$400. Everything else that I used, I already had."

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Mini Flame Weeder Weighs Only 2 Lbs.

This new lightweight propane torch kit is designed for controlling weeds around your home and garden.

The Mini Dragon propane torch kit uses disposable 1-lb. propane cylinders (not included) that simply screw onto a universal fitting on the torch. It weighs only 2 lbs. and delivers a pin-point flame that won't harm surrounding plants. A knob is used to adjust the intensity of the flame.

"It works great for spot weeding or along driveways and sidewalks. You can also use it between garden rows, around hardwood trees, along fences and borders, inside rock gardens, patios, sand boxes and play areas. It also comes in handy for lighting charcoal, camp fires and so forth," says Mel Limon, Flame Engineering, Inc., LaCrosse, Kansas.

The kit includes an 18,000 btu torch with non-slip grip; flame adjusting needle valve; 1-lb. cylinder connector; and spark lighter. The company also offers a hose kit that lets you connect the Mini Dragon to a larger, refillable 5 or 10-lb. cylinder. The kit includes a 10-ft. LP gas hose, POL tank fitting, and cylinder adaptor.

Sells for \$50 plus S&H. The hose kit sells for \$34.92 plus S&H.



Mini Dragon propane torch uses disposable 1-lb. propane cylinders.

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Stump grinder swings up to 12 in. from side to side across the stump. Flexibility is provided by loosening sway chains on 3-pt.'s lower lift arms.

"Medically Customized" Pickup Gives The Freedom to Travel

People with serious respiratory problems don't have to stay home to be near their oxygen bottle supplier. Roy McLachlin proved that it's possible to head out across country with a pickup and travel trailer and enjoy life to the fullest.

Several years before he passed away, the Fairview, Alberta, man customized his truck to provide a steady oxygen supply while traveling, as well as easy access to his scooter mobility device while stopped. He and his wife, Lorraine enjoyed several years of life

on the road as a result.

"Many people have serious respiratory problems, and some of them just closet themselves away, missing out on most of what life has to offer," says brother Barry McLachlan. "But Roy was the opposite. He wanted to enjoy as much as he could."

McLachlan, who passed away six years ago, installed an "oxygen concentrator" in the box of his pickup. The portable concentrator produced some heat and required a little space, so the truck box was an ideal place for

it. A clear oxygen line ran up through the pickup's back window, where Roy could then hook himself to it while traveling.

The advantage of using the 12-volt concentrator is that it uses bottles of distilled water in its process of producing moisturized oxygen. They're much more readily available and safer to transport than oxygen bottle refills.

According to Lorraine, her husband brought along a few oxygen bottles for use while driving his scooter, but otherwise, the concentrator was his main oxygen supply.

"A bottle of oxygen doesn't last long, but a bottle of distilled water seemed to run the concentrator forever," Lorraine says. "Having this system wired into the truck opened up a lot of doors for my husband and gave him a lot of freedom and independence. He always said, where there's a will, there's a way, and he was right."

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