



Using 2 by 4-in. rectangular tubing, some well casing and 1/2-in. steel plate, Don Ramberg built this light-duty loader for his Allis Chalmers WD tractor.

Home-Built Loader For WD

Don Ramberg needed a light-duty loader for his Allis Chalmers WD. He built it himself using old 2 by 4-in. rectangular tubing, some well casing and some 1/2-in. flat steel plate he had lying around. The only parts he bought new were the three hydraulic cylinders.

"I used the 'cut and try' method," he says. "I laid out what I wanted on the shop floor and marked it out with chalk. Once I cut it out, I put the bucket flat to the floor and tacked everything in place to get the right angles."

Once he was satisfied, he made the final welds. The uprights attached to the tractor frame and the top arch were made from the rectangular tubing and carry the brunt of the hydraulic lifting. He welded the flat plate to the bottom of the uprights and bolted them to the frame.

Well tubing was used for the lower arms

and 2 by 2-in. tubing to brace the uprights. Various pieces of old pipe were used to fabricate a bucket mount and pivot points.

"I made it a trip dump when I first built it, but that is so unhandy for picking things up and moving them," says Ramberg. "I added a single hydraulic cylinder in the center of the bucket. It's fine for hauling some gravel and light dirt."

Ramberg says he would add a second cylinder if he was using the bucket for heavier loads. As it is, it's a small bucket and was even smaller when he got it off another old loader.

"I made extensions for the sides and bottom," he says.

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Made from a 1,550-gal. poly tank, Floyd Martin's ice fishing house bolts permanently onto a 2-wheeled trailer for easy transport and setup.



Ice Fishing "Tank House"

Floyd Martin made an inexpensive fish house out of a 1,550-gal. poly tank. It's big enough for two people to fish comfortably. It bolts permanently onto a 2-wheeled trailer for easy transport and setup.

"I used it last winter and got a lot of nice comments on it," says Martin. "I bought the tank for \$450. It was bought new, so it never had any chemicals in it."

"What makes this fish house unique is that the trailer tilts up or down together with the house, so I never have to load or unload anything."

The house has 2 windows, an LP heater, and a pair of 12-volt interior lights that hook up to a vehicle battery. An LP tank that supplies the heater mounts outside the tank.

He used a circular saw to cut a door into one side and to cut the windows. The floor is 3/8-in. thick plywood covered with carpet. There are 3 ice fishing holes in the floor, each equipped with a latch-type wooden door. Two padded, swivel-type boat seats are attached to a home-built metal frame that bolts onto the tank.

He used angle iron to build the trailer frame and 2 by 3 tubing to build the tongue. The axle and wheels were bought new.

A hand-operated winch mounts on a 3-ft. high metal arm at one end of the tongue, and the middle part of the tongue pivots on a bolt.



Fish house is carpeted, has two windows and 12-volt interior lights.

Cable on the winch is connected to the top of the tank.

To set up the house, Martin removes the bolt and then slowly releases the cable on the winch, which allows the tank and trailer to slowly tip 90 degrees backward onto the ice. Then he unhooks the tongue from the vehicle. To haul the house off the lake, he hooks the tongue back up to the vehicle. Then he reinserts the bolt and cranks the winch to bring the tank forward and back down onto the tongue.

"I spent only about \$1,000 to build it. I use my Chevy Suburban to take it out to the lake, but I could also use an ATV," notes Martin.

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Front Hitch For Mowers, ATV's

Walt Bullock refers to his SwiftLift system as a "Swiss Army knife for anything with wheels." Depending on the vehicle it's attached to, it can lift up to 1,300 lbs. and it accommodates 17 attachments, from a trimmer to a tilting box blade.

The Prattville, Ala., entrepreneur came up with the idea when mowing grass with his zero-turn mower.

"The only thing I could do with it was cut grass," Bullock says. "I put a 2-in. receiver on it to add attachments, but couldn't find anything to put on it."

In November 2007, he completed the lift, which fits in a 2-in. receiver and has two vertical tubes with four flat bars that can move up and down 35-in. His first attachment was a forklift — 18-in. long forks on a 14-in. center. It can lift a pallet and bags of mulch, seed, fertilizer, etc.

Bullock's next attachment was a 20-ft. pole extension that can be used to attach trimmers or saws to cut limbs or mow on side slopes. The lift can move minus 160 to 160-degree angles.

"You can cut down the side of an embankment while driving on level land," Bullock says. "You can attach a chainsaw to it, to trim trees."

Bullock also developed a new design box blade, a scraper blade, log splitter, rock blade and grapple to work with the SwiftLift.

"Most grapples cost \$3,500," Bullock says. "We have one for \$699 that we used to lift 40-ft. conduit and 14-in. dia. oak wood 8 ft. long."

He notes that the patented SwiftLift works on anything with a 2-in. receiver. He offers three models: \$399 with a winch; \$599 with hydraulics, and \$399 with a load binder device to use on a trailer hitch.



SwiftLift system fits into vehicle's 2-in. receiver hitch and accommodates 17 different attachments.



Inventor Walt Bullock developed this grapple to work with the SwiftLift.

SwiftLift is made with 1/4-in. U.S. steel and 1/4 by 3/4-in. flat bar. It's powdercoated, and fastened together with grade 9 bolts and washers.

Bullock invites readers to call about needs and ideas they have for applications for SwiftLift. He sells many of the tools as well, or can sell the lift and accessories to work with tools the customer already has.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, TWAL LLC, Walt Bullock, 801 S. Memorial Dr., Prattville, Ala. 36066 (ph 334 224-1456; www.twalinc.com).



MOLECAT trap releases a controlled blast of hot gas to send a shockwave directly at mole.

New Way To "Blast" Underground Rodents

The MOLECAT® is the result of Vernon Reitenbaugh's personal war on the moles wreaking havoc in his wife's rose garden. Standard traps weren't working so he experimented with a different approach using blank cartridges filled with flash powder. What he ended up with is a trap that releases a controlled blast of hot gas and sends a shockwave directly into pests such as moles, gophers, voles, rats and snakes.

"It's an all-mechanical, spring-loaded system," Reitenbaugh says. "It takes 2 oz. of trigger pressure to set it off, and it sounds like an M-100 firecracker when fired above ground, but is muffled when fired in a tunnel."

The percussion blast can cause burns, Reitenbaugh says, so he included two safeties in the design to protect the user.

To prepare for the MOLECAT, locate an exit hole and clear the opening to allow air space around the device. Follow the directions about twisting the knob, setting the safeties and loading the extermination cartridge (see video on website). Then you place the MOLECAT into a clear plastic scent-free bag, and then secure it halfway into the exit hole with the supplied anchor.

Then remove both safeties as instructed, and cover it with a bucket or something similar, so pets won't disturb it.

Reitenbaugh notes that there are two main things to remember. There must be airflow from a gap under the bucket. When the moles feel air coming into their tunnel they instinctively come to plug the hole and activate the MOLECAT. Secondly, and very importantly, avoid leaving human scent. He recommends turning the scent-free bag provided inside out and rubbing the trigger end into the soil. Or the bag can be baited for moles with worm scent or by adding peanut butter for rats, gophers and squirrels.

MOLECAT (with 20 bags, 20 cartridges and anchor) sells for \$99.95 and is patent-pending. It's made in the U.S. and has a 1-year warranty. MOLECAT is available through the website and at some farm and hardware stores. Dealer inquiries are welcome.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, MOLECAT, 11243 S. Beutel Rd., Oregon City, Ore. 97045 (ph 877 665-3228; www.molecat.com).