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## “Weed Eater” Lines Added To Mower Deck Blades

“It pulverizes leaves into small pieces for fast decomposition without any lawn raking whatsoever,” says Steven Simpson, Quincy, Ind., who attaches weed trimmer line to the blades on his Deere 430 riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck.

Pairs of 18-in. long weed trimmer lines loop through holes that Simpson drilled into the mower’s mulching blades. There are 3 blades on the deck and 2 trimmer lines per blade. As the blades rotate, centrifugal force lays the lines over without overlapping.

“It works better than anything I’ve ever used,” says Simpson. “I mow about 5 acres with more than 50 trees on it so I have a lot of leaves to get rid of. Saving time is important to me because I’m a single dad raising a teenage daughter who’s in about every sport you can think of.

“I used it for the first time last year. I went over the yard 3 times in the fall and then once again this spring to take care of a

few leftover leaves. I replaced the lines only once during that time. I had been using the mulching blades by themselves for 6 years, but it took a lot longer because I often had to go over the same area several times. The combination of the trimmer lines and the mulching blades produces a continuous mulching action that reduces leaves almost to dust. I can usually hit the lawn once and I’m done.”

“I drilled the line mounting holes at about a 35 degree angle to the blade, which keeps the lines spaced about 1/4 in. apart,” says Simpson.

He used his drill press to cut a pair of holes about 1/4 in. apart about 1 ft. from each end of the blade. The holes are the same size as the trimmer line.

He uses .95 dia. twisted trimmer line with sharp edges on it. “Bigger .105 line would probably work better, but I used what I had,” he says. “To determine the length of line



Combination of trimmer lines and mulching blades produces a continuous mulching action that pulverizes leaves into small pieces for fast decomposition.

needed I first cut it a little long. Then after I looped the line through the holes I cut it off even with the end of the blade. The line simply loops through the 2 holes so it’s easy to replace.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steven Simpson, 9601 North U.S. Hwy. 231, Quincy, Ind. 47456 (ph 765 712-0930; roadking231@icloud.com).

## “Poor Man’s” Grapple Fork Uses Chain, Tractor Weights

“It handles big piles of brush and weeds with no problem. Best of all, I didn’t spend a nickel to build it - just my time,” says Paul Bernier, Geyserville, Calif., who made his own “poor man’s” grapple fork using a chain and a pair of 70-lb. tractor suitcase weights.

He welded chain hooks to the corners on back of the 8-ft. wide bucket on his Kubota 50 hp tractor. A 12-ft. long chain is threaded through the 2 weights, which set side by side and are centered with the bucket as it’s raised above the ground.

To grab a pile of brush, Bernier drives forward until the weights are up and over the pile and then lowers the weights to the ground. He then backs up with the weights dragging along the ground, until they trap the brush inside the bucket.

To dump the load, he tilts the bucket down until the weights clear the pile and the brush



Bernier attaches chain and a pair of 70-lb. tractor suitcase weights to his loader bucket to hold big loads in place.

falls out.

“The weights trap the brush on the lip of the bucket so it can be lifted up without anything falling out,” says Bernier. “When we’re done handling brush the chains can be quickly removed, allowing us to use the bucket for other jobs.



“My total cost was about \$50, which was mainly for the weights and chain hooks. Other objects, such as an old engine block or a big tire, could be used instead of the suitcase weights.”

Contact: Paul Bernier, 1720 Canyon Rd., Geyserville, Calif. 95441.