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Tractor-Mounted Toolbox Carries Firewood Tools

"The large toolbox I bolted on back of my Mahindra 2638 compact tractor really comes in handy for carrying tools such as chainsaws, axes, and log chains. Everything was done using existing bolts and holes, with no welding," says Mike Frantz, Seymour, Mo.

He uses the tractor primarily to haul firewood and to drag logs. "The nice thing about my toolbox is that it's big enough to hold all my firewood tools. Also, it's located right behind the seat where everything is easily accessible," says Frantz.

The toolbox measures 4 ft. long by 14 in. wide and 3 1/2 in. high, with a pair of cut-outs around both ends of the tractor's gas tank.

The sides are made from 3/4-in. pine and the floor from 3/4-in. exterior grade plywood.

A pair of 20-in. long, 1/4-in. thick steel plates support the toolbox, and attach to a pair of pre-existing bolts that secure the gas tank to the rear fenders. The back side of the toolbox is supported by a pair of light chains that hook onto screws underneath the toolbox, then run up and over it and attach to pre-existing pins on the tractor's rollbar.

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Quick-tach assemblies welded to a homemade mounting bracket allow Momper to connect a pallet fork to his Cub Cadet's 3-pt. hitch.

Pallet Fork Mounted To 3-Pt. Hitch

"I wanted to use my Cub Cadet Yanmar 45 hp. loader tractor to haul loaded pallets of bricks weighing about 3,000 lbs., but the loader didn't have enough capacity. However, the tractor's 3-pt. hitch did. So I decided to quick-attach the pallet fork to the 3-pt. hitch," says LeRoy Momper, Fredonia, Wis.

He bought "blank" left and right quick-attach assemblies that include only the handle, spring, and hinge, then welded them to a homemade mounting bracket. The bracket consists of a horizontal length of rectangular tubing and 2 vertical lengths of welded together angle iron, with a spacer

between them for strength. The 3-pt.'s top link pins onto the angle iron, while the quick-attach assemblies hook up to the 3-pt.'s lower lift arms.

"It works great. I have a better view of the pallet fork on back of the tractor than I ever would on front," says Momper. "I can use the system with anything equipped with a quick-attach, including a loader bucket."

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"Spring-Tightened" Tire Chains

"I always had trouble keeping my tire chains tight, so I used some springs from my kids' old trampoline to solve the problem," says John Middaugh, Cooks, Mich.

"I installed the tire chains as I normally do, and then used a smaller chain - which I connected together at the ends - to make a smaller diameter circle at the center of the tire. I then connected the springs between the two sets of chains. I did the same thing on the inside of the tire, wrapping the chain around the axle before hooking up the springs. My tire chains have never been so tight."

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Small circular chain at center with springs attached keeps Middaugh's tire chains tight.



Battery-operated tools fit inside 4-in. dia. by 8-in. long pvc pipes screwed to wood shelf above Larson's workbench.

PVC Pipe Tool Holders

"PVC pipes fastened to the bottom of a wood shelf above the workbench in our shop keep our battery-powered tools out of the way and within easy reach," says Jim Larson of Slayton, Minn.

Larson and his son Jason made the simple holders by cutting a narrow slots in pieces of 4-in. dia. by 8-in. long pvc pipe. Two wood screws hold each piece of pipe to a wooden shelf and the tools slide easily inside, with or without batteries.

"We cut different width slots in the holders to fit different size tool handles," Jim says. "It's an easy way to get the power tools off the bench, especially when we're working with a lot of different parts and pieces. Even the small triangular space between the adjoining pipes is nice for holding pencils, markers, a



Slots cut into pipes are sized to accommodate different size tool handles.

small flashlight or other things that get lost in drawers or on a shelf."

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Modified Air Cleaner Filter Stops Plug-Ups

By Gene Williams

"In your last issue a reader complained that the air cleaner filter on his Country Clipper Challenger zero-turn mower constantly filled with grass.

"I had the same problem on my Country Clipper. After only a couple hours of mowing, the air cleaner filter clogged up so bad that it slowed the engine rpm's down. I was mowing on high, sandy ground which resulted in a tremendous amount of dust, dirt and grass clippings on the machine and driver. Here's how I solved the problem.

"I removed the filter cover and filter, then removed the bolt that holds the filter in place. I then stacked 4 new filters on top of each other and anchored them in place with a much longer bolt. I sprayed Endust dusting aid very lightly onto a large hand towel, then wrapped the towel all the way

around the filters and secured it with a wire or cord. I made sure to spray only the outside of the towel in order to reduce the chance of getting oil on the filters.

"I wrapped 2 layers of towels around the filters to capture more dust and dirt. As long as the filters stay dry, you can blow or vacuum the dust off them and reuse them many times. I've used the same filters for 8 or 9 years.

"You can wash the towel with your work clothes, or hand wash it, and reuse the towel many times. I change the towel frequently, so I always keep a couple of extra clean towels on hand in my shed."

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