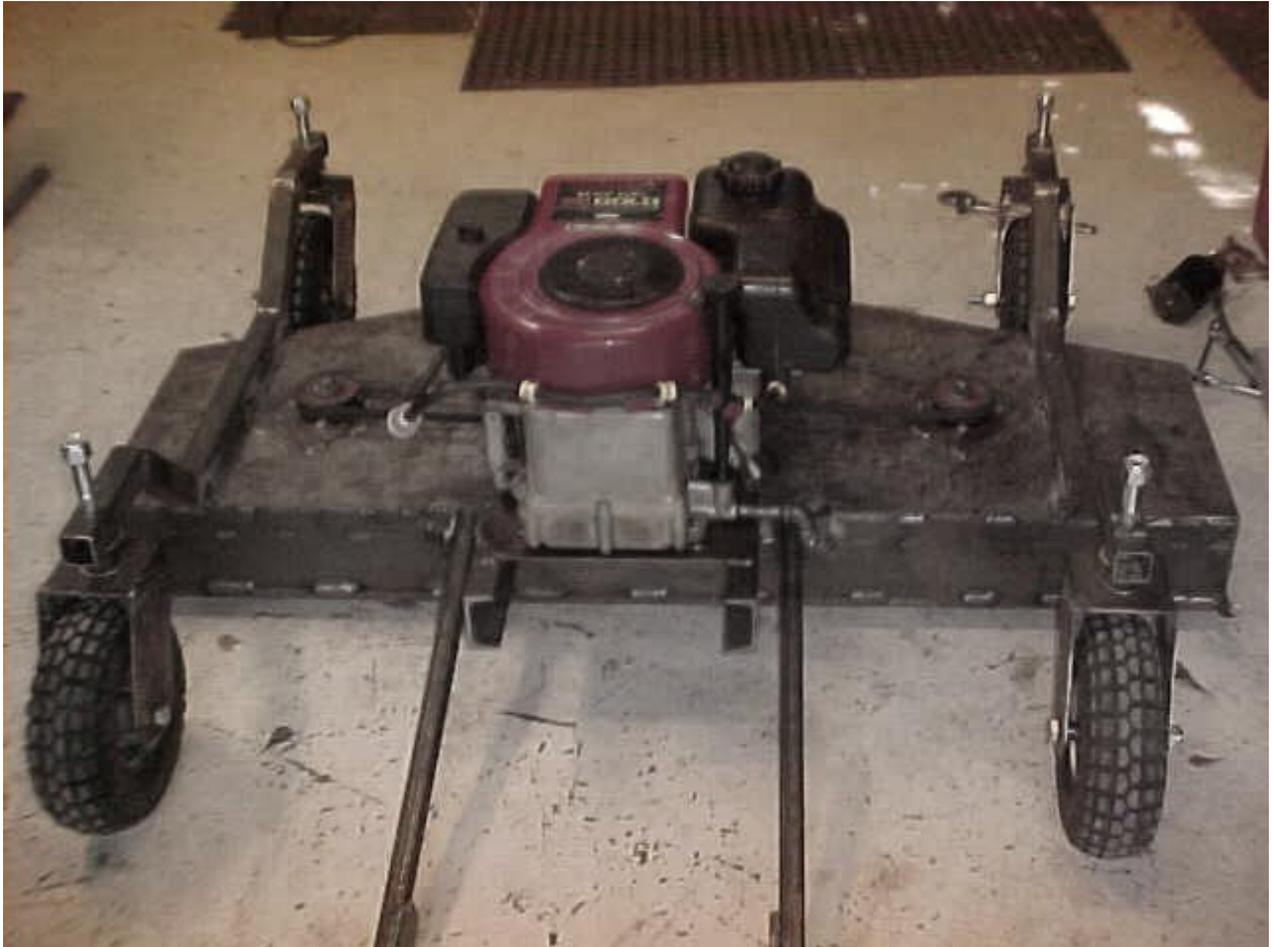


Front Mount Mower for ATV

Having a slack spell on making home projects, my friend was in need of working on a project of his own. He had lots of grass to cut, and was tired of pushing lawn mower, but had an ATV, and wanted to make a mower deck to use with his ATV. I did not do too much on this project as the deck was all cut out and welded up by my friend, but he lacked an enclosed dry area to work on it, so it was brought to my home shop to finish.



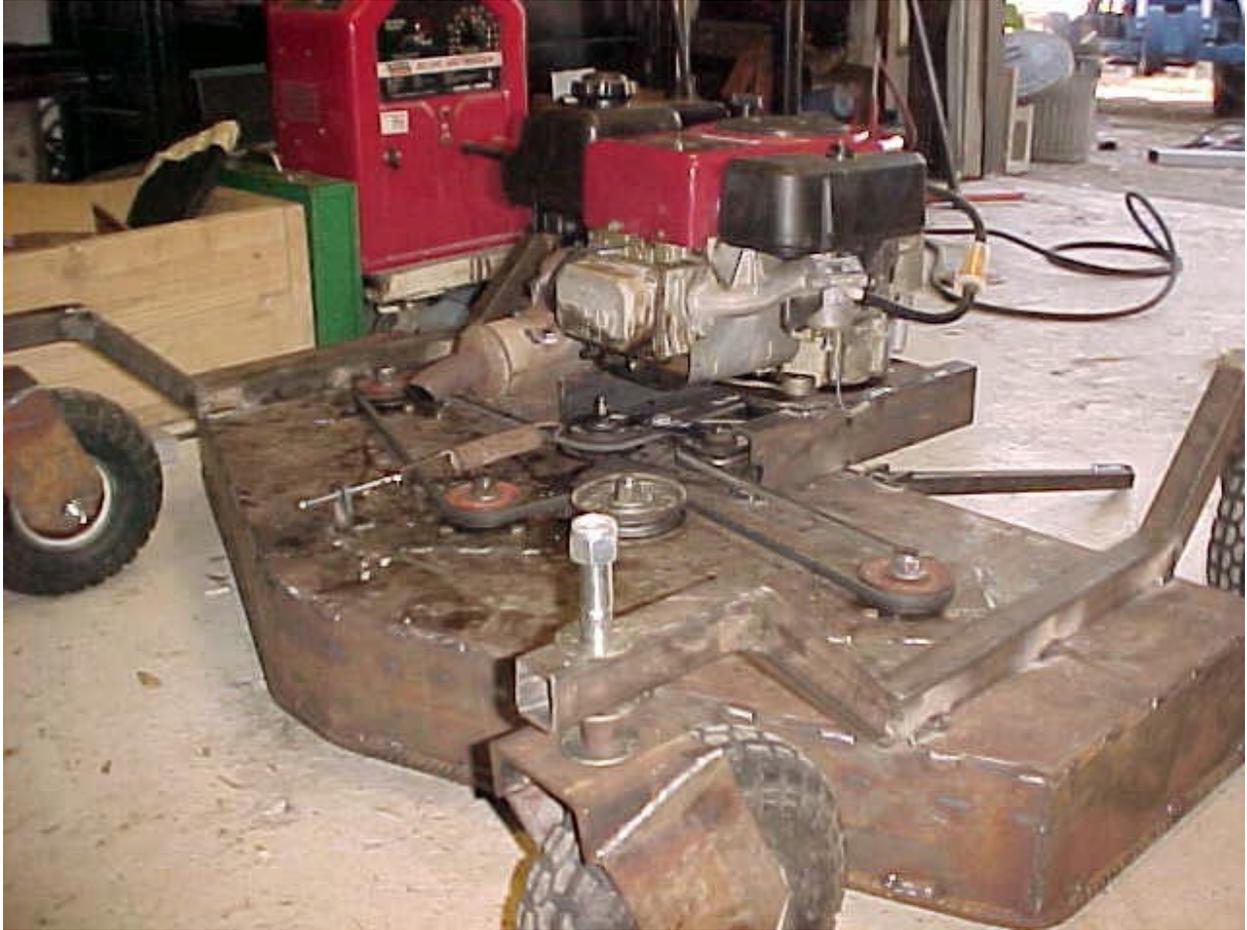
The mower deck is 54" wide and has three blades. The spindles used for the blades are from an old Gravely mower deck. The deck is made of 1/8" thick steel plate.



The engine is from an old MTD riding tractor that literally fell apart. The motor was in good shape, and is a 14 HP Briggs and Stratton OHV and has electric start.



The arms to mount the wheels are 1 1/2" sq steel tube. The spindles for the wheels to swivel on in cater fashion are 3/4" diameter bolts. Spacers are used between the mount arms and the caster assembly to adjust cutting heights. A 5/8" diameter bar is welded around the bottom of the mowers skirt to reinforce it. The push arms are made of 11 gauge 1" steel tube with 3/8" steel plates for the bracket to adapt to the ATV frames mount.



The blades are driven at whatever RPM the engine is running at and the pulleys are all 3" diameter. The castor assemblies were made of 1/8" steel plate and 4" channel iron.



Above is a close-up of belt drive and tensioning system. The tensioner off the trashed MTD was used, in addition to a heavy spring. There is a 3/4" bolt head welded to the tensioner itself that is used with a wrench so you can put the wrench on the bolt head and pull on the tensioner to allow easy belt removal.

He decided to make it a push type instead of pull for the sake of maneuverability. During its initial trial run it worked extremely well, but we found that the blade speed needs to be increased a bit more, so we have to install a larger sized drive pulley on the engine. We added a stanchion of 2" steel tube to mount the ignition switch and throttle assembly at a height that was easy to reach from the seat of the ATV. A wire harness from the ATV battery will allow direct connection for cranking. We made a mount that adapted directly to the ATV frame where the frame is stout and had many gussets. No chance of the frame getting bent by mounting it there. It allows free floating of the deck up and down ditches and hilly terrain. Sway braces were added to eliminate side play. No holes were drilled in the ATV frame to mount this deck, and installation and removal is quick and easy with just 2 lynch type pins. He plans on getting it painted with Rhino Liner on the underside and topside instead of regular paint. Should be an interesting item to see how the RHINO liner material holds up top the erosive action of a mower deck. He may just have one great idea there to help prevent mower deck rust out.