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PROBLEM STATEMENT:

We do not do our own paving, so we do not have a paving machine; however we do our own asphalt maintenance and repairs. Often when doing a base repair or other maintenance we need to replace asphalt wedge curb. We also have a number of more rural roads with areas that do not have existing curbs, where we sometimes find ourselves installing long sections of curb by hand. As you can imagine, getting a nicely shaped and straight curb installed by hand can be a challenge.



SOLUTION:

We tried a lot of things like stretching string lines, placing backing boards, and all sorts of devices to help shape and align the curb. We finally decided we would try affixing a curbing attachment like you see on some paving machines to our skid steer. So we measured a typical wedge curb in our town and went to work. We copied the basic shape from a curbing attachment from a local paving company and fashioned it to form a wedge curb to match the other curbs installed in our township.

LABOR/MATERIALS/COST:

Materials: \$100
Labor: \$250
Total: \$350

SAVINGS/BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:

We get professional looking results and use less material to form curbs whether they are replacement or newly installed curbing. With input on the design from all of our six man crew, old salt John Arthur welded the contraption together and mounted it to our skid steer bucket. We first lay a windrow of asphalt out with the conveyor on our dump truck and then follow behind with the skid steer. The operator follows behind using a reference line (the painted white line or a reference line we paint) to guide the “Curb-a-Lyzer” to form the wedge curb. After that first use, we came up with a few modifications to improve the operation. We remounted the device with a little more offset from the bucket so that the wheels would not run over the front edge of the curb when on a radius. We also mounted a bracket to accommodate our propane tank and torch to apply heat to the wedge and leading plates. We have since installed about 500 feet of curb that you would never know was not part of the original pavement.