capacity and cut down on fill time."

Bill Miller, What Cheer, Iowa: Bill says his 1981 **Deere** 7000 8-row (36-in.) planter works as good as new ones with all the modifications he's added to it.

"I installed Kelderman hydraulic front-fold and flat fold markers, Martin trash wheels, Yetter unit-mounted coulters with 12-wave blades, and Keeton seed firmers. I've updated the press wheel assemblies with cast iron press wheels, added heavy-duty downpressure springs, a Dickey-John radar/population monitor with high rate sensors, Deere harrow attachments, and Deere 750 drill notched marker discs on my markers. Finally, I also added Kinze soybean meters."

Fred H. Shroyer, S. Vienna, Ohio: "Neither are late models, but they do a satisfactory job with little maintenance," says Fred, pleased with both his **IH** 58 6-row planter and **IH** 210 drill.

Mark Huper, Chatfield, Minn.: "I should have bought one years ago," says Mark about his 1996 **White** 6100 6-row (narrow) planter. "It does an excellent job of seed placement. I use it on 800 acres of zone-till and have had absolutely no problems with it since I bought it."

Bruce Thuesen, Jesup, Iowa: "We're very satisfied with it," says Bruce about the 1995 **Deere** 7000 6-row planter he bought last year. "It's equipped to handle conventional or no-till, thanks to the Dawn Trash Whippers we retrofitted it with. That way, we can adapt to different conditions. Overall, we're very pleased."

Richard Cooley, Stanley, Wis.: Richard likes his 1980 **Deere** 7000 planter but isn't satisfied with his 1981 **Deere** drill.

"Corn comes up uniformly and seed depth is accurate," he says about the planter. "On the other hand, I bought the drill with double disk openers but I've found single disk openers loosen soil behind the tractor tires better, making a better seedbed. The drill could also have been designed to adapt to uneven ground better than it does."

He added a catwalk to the front of the fertilizer hoppers on the planter to make filling easier. He also added more cover chains to the drill so the seed gets covered better.

Steve Hileman, Peru, Ind.: "Precise depth and accurate seed spacing are its two biggest strengths," says Steve about his 1998 **Deere** 1780 planter capable of planting either 12 30-in rows or 23 15-in. rows. "However, because it's such a heavy planter, the weight should be better distributed by adding another set of wheels. Trouble is, there's hardly enough room to do so."

Steve and his local dealer also repositioned the fertilizer disk openers for more accurate placement. "We alternated brackets to get the fertilizer placed 1 1/2-in. to the side and 1 1/2-in. below the seed. We worked on it most of last season, but it was really a tremendous improvement."

Gregory Schian, Reese, Mich.: "I'm quite satisfied with its performance and reliability," says Gregory, pleased with his 1996 **White** 6180 12-row front-fold planter. "It has exceptionally accurate seed placement and is easy to set up for different crops. It's also very low maintenance because very few parts ever wear out."

Brian Pahl, Lakeville, Minn.: "It's the most accurate planter on the market," says Brian about the British-built **Stanhay Webb** "Salvo" four-row (40-in.) planter he bought two years ago to plant cabbage (the planter was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 22, No. 2). "Ninety percent of the time it'll space seed exactly 8 1/4 in. apart. The other ten percent of the time, it's off by no more than 1/4 in. It's incredible."

"It's the most accurate planter on the market."

Meantime, Brian, his brother and father recently bought a 1999 **Deere** 1770 12-row (30-in.) planter to use to plant sweet corn. "We bought it for better seed placement than we were getting with our 1994 **Case-IH** 900 Cyclo planter. Placement with it varied too much, although we really liked the Cyclo's central seed hoppers."

Robert Conley, Greensburg, Ky.: "It looks and works better and better to me every time I see prices of new planters," says Robert who modified an early to mid-1970's **Allis Chalmers** planter he uses to plant corn.

The 4-row planter is equipped with Allis Chalmers fiberglass seed boxes, the newest ones still using plates.

"I converted it from pull-type to 3-pt. mounted in order to penetrate our hard Kentucky red clay," he says. "I removed the transport wheels and bolted a 3-pt. hitch off an old cultivator on front. I also built stands for the sides to support it when it's taken off the tractor.

"I plan to add more seed boxes to the planter so I can also use it to plant soybeans.

"Works great and cost only about $600 buying it piece-by-piece at various farm auctions."

Winan McCall, Parker, Pa.: Winan's had good luck with his 1988 **Allis Chalmers** air planter. "It gives me a good stand," he says. "I like not having to change plates as you do on conventional planters. The monitors work well."

Victor Batdorf, Covington, Ohio: Victor's pleased with his 1985 **Great Plains** 6-row (30-in.) drill but has a few complaints about his 1988 **Deutz Allis** 12-row (30-in.) air planter.

"The drill is built strong and gives me a good uniform stand," says Victor. "The planter, on the other hand, should have been built stronger. For example, we've had to reinforce the frame because it started sagging in the middle. We also typically have to replace the rubber ring the seed disk rubs against once a season. I do like the way it folds up for transport, though."

Shane Eidsness, Brocket, N. Dak.: "We're 100 percent satisfied," says Shane about he and his father Steve's 1994 **Deere** 787 44-ft. air drill. "It's easy to set and gives exceptionally consistent placement and uniform stands. We really like having the cultivator on back, too.

"Our only complaint is that the company should have used better bearings on the rolling baskets. Deere makes a good triple sealed bearing but didn't use them for this application for some reason. Dirt gets into the bearings and really chews them up. We have to replace bearings constantly."

Frederick J. Lange, Rock Tavern, N.Y.: Frederick's only complaint about his 1970's **Massey Ferguson** 2-row (36-in.) corn planter is that the welds on brackets holding the fertilizer disk openers weren't heavy enough. "I have a lot of small fields and stony ground and I broke a lot of welds when it was new," he says. "But I rewelded them and it's stood up well ever since. Otherwise, I'm very satisfied. For example, the fertilizer hopper is extremely accurate, more so than the one on a Deere 4-row planter I had before."

Frederick mounted spray nozzles behind the row units so he can band herbicides at planting.

Myron Glasnapp, Sac City, Iowa: Myron says there isn't a thing he would change about his 1997 **Deere** 1760 12-row (30-in.) planter. "I'm very satisfied," he says. "It gives me good, even seed spacing and nice uniform stands. Also, mechanical adjustments are simple."

Simple, Low-Cost Way To Adjust V-Wings On Older Deere Planters

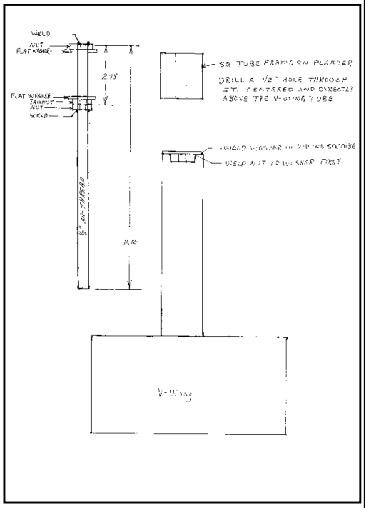
If you've got a Deere 7100 planter, you know how hard it can be to accurately adjust the V-wings in front of the row units with the original bolt and slot set-up. You may have also checked into getting a screw-type attachment, like those used on newer 7200, 7300 and 1700 series planters, but found you couldn't justify the cost.

The solution comes from Bruce Gamble of Gamble Machining, LaFeria, Texas.

"First, pull the pin out of the mounting bracket and let the V-wings fall off the bottom of the planter," Gamble says. "Then, weld a flat washer on back of one side of a nut and weld that assembly to the top portion of the tube on the V-wing assembly. Next, drill a 1/2-in. dia. hole through the 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing the V-wing attaches to. Take a length of 1/2-in. dia. threaded rod and weld another nut onto it about 3 in. from the top and screw another nut on top of the first. Drop on a flat washer and slide this assembly up through the hole you drilled in the sq. tubing. Then put a washer and nut on top of the threaded rod. Screw the nut down on the rod so it's close but not tight and weld it in place on the rod.

"Finally, reattach the V-wings by screwing them to the All-Thread."

This screw-type attachment is much less costly and requires no frame modification compared with Deere retrofit kits, Gamble notes.



Screw-type adjustment for V-wings.

"It makes adjusting the V-wings much simpler and quicker," he says.

If there's interest, he'll sell full kits for about $150 for a 6-row planter, or plans.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gamble Machining, Rt. 1, Box 173, LaFeria, Texas 78559 (ph 956 797-2169).

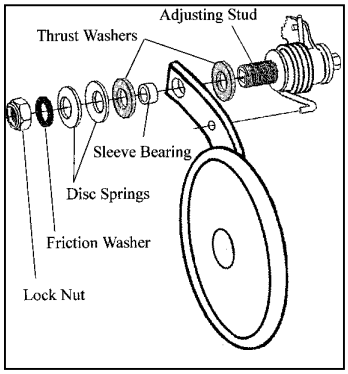
Press Wheel Arm Pivot Kit For Deere No-Till Drills

RK Products Inc. has introduced a repair kit for the press wheel arm pivot on Deere 750 and 1850 no-till drills. It is similar to the closing wheel arm pivot kit RK Products introduced recently and uses several of the same components.

Because of severe space restrictions the adjusting mechanism is placed on the same end of the bearing housing arm. The original welded pivot pin is eliminated and the adjusting stud which is bolted to the bearing housing serves as the pivot. A sleeve serves as the radial bearing surface between the adjusting stud and the arm. Teflon filled composite thrust washers are used on both sides of the arm.

An axial force of approximately 350 lbs. is applied to the arm through two disc springs. This is more pressure than is required to keep the arm parallel to the end of the bearing housing but still allows the arm to pivot freely. The spring pressure is easily adjusted by turning the nylon insert lock nut.

The bearing surfaces are scaled extremely well without the use of auxiliary seals. No lubrication is required. With no looseness in the pivot joint, the press wheel tracks accurately and improved seed germination should result. The press wheel is prevented from getting too close to the opener disk thereby reducing the chance of mud build-up or other problems.



Force of approximately 350 lbs. is applied through two disc springs.

In addition to the press wheel arm pivot kit and closing wheel arm pivot kit, RK Products offers a number of repair kits for Deere, Kinze and other planters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RK Products Inc., 3802 Jean Street, East Moline, Ill. 61244 (ph 800 580-6818 or 309 792-1927).