

# "Best & Worst" Planters

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says Arlen O. Hirsch, Paton, Iowa.

- "I mounted fluted coulters on a square frame ahead of each row unit. The coulters mount on V-wings, with one positioned about an inch ahead of the other to clear trash," says Ivan Schmedding, Winnebago, Neb., about his 1978 **Deere** 7000 4-row.

- "I installed plastic seed firmers on my 10-year-old **Deere** Max-Emerge to help close the seed slot and was well-pleased with their performance in 1995 on both corn and beans," says Robert H. Oliver, Brodhead, Wis. "My biggest complaint about this planter is that the gauge wheels and disc openers load up with mud in wet conditions. Also, the marker marks are almost invisible in some no-till conditions."

- "One thing I don't like about my 1973 **IH** Cyclo 400 planter is that the holes in the seed drum should be lined up so it will run smoother," says Mike Yaussy, Bucyrus, Ohio. "To solve the problem, we added wooden slats to lay between the holes so the drum would rotate smoother. If I needed another planter, I'd look for another 400."

- Marshall Mangold, New Tripoli, Penn., uses a 1995 **Great Plains** 10-ft. no-till drill for beans and a modified early 1970's model **Allis Chalmers** 600 no-till planter with slot tillage. "The AC 600 is a plate-type 4-row model with dry fertilizer. I modified the front bar by fitting it with John Blue anhydrous injector shanks that give this planter excellent penetration without extra weight. I rip a slot, put dry fertilizer in with a coulters, then run a wide coulters through the slot to till it, and then place seed into the same slot. The only problem with the setup is that I must plant slowly but the results are outstanding. I'd like to find a newer version of the same planter and make the same modifications and add a monitor. I modified the planter this way because I had trouble getting penetration in my shale soils.

"Great Plains drill does a good job on beans and small grains but I find seed depth is too variable. I haven't used it enough yet to make suggestions for improvement."

- Ralph Wagner, Jamestown, N. Dak., owns a 1983 **International** Cyclo 800 12-row, 30-in. planter. "It's virtually maintenance-free and other than disc opener wear I've had to make very few repairs. It could have a better monitor and better boot sensors mounted lower in the tubes."

- "The seed spacing could be better," says Tim Waltz, Van Wert, Ohio, owner of a 1985 **International** 800 Cyclo planter. "For some reason not all of the seeds get placed in the seed furrow where they should be. I added three coulters on front of each planter row unit so that I can zone till. I also added a piston pump so that I can dribble 28% nitrogen on as I plant. And, I built a cross auger to make it easier to fill the fertilizer boxes."

- "It's trouble-free and does a good job of seed placement. However, it could do a better job of metering soybeans," says Raymond C. Sigwald, Westside, Iowa, about his 1980 **Deere** 7000 Conservation planter. "I added liquid fertilizer attachments to the planter."

- Dale Badora, Pound, Wis., is well pleased with his 1980 **Deere** 7000 planter. "If I set it to space seeds 8 in. apart, that's what happens," says Dale. "It's easy to change the settings. The gears are mounted on hexagon shafts. It's a dependable ma-

chine with low maintenance requirements. The only problem I've had is that the marker cables break occasionally. Deere needs to add heavy springs or shock absorbers to take stress off the cables."

- "I use two old **Deere** planters equipped with Dickey-john monitors that were put together by my neighbors. They're old and need frequent repair," says Paul G. Albrecht of Walnut, Ill. "We also have a 1995 **Kinze** planter that does a top notch job."

- "My 1985 **Deere** 7100 does a very nice job," says Clifford Trent of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "It's the best planter on the market. I changed mine to a 22-row model. They could have used a larger wire for the monitor sensors."

- Jon Burrier, Middletown, Md., says he's very satisfied with his 1983 **Deere** 7000 no-till planter. However, he adds that it should have plastic fertilizer tubes instead of metal ones. "We replaced the metal fertilizer fill tubes with 6-in. dia. pvc pipe."

- Everett W. Smith of Howard Lake, Minn., likes his **Deere** 7000. "I live only two miles from the dealer which is convenient for parts and service. I replaced the original soybean cups with a **Kinze** seed metering system to get more accurate spacing."

- "I'm well satisfied with my 1986 **Case-IH** 800 mounted 8-row planter," says Joe Spahr, Monticello, Iowa. "We use it to no-till corn into soybean residue. If I were in the market for a new planter I'd buy a **Case-IH** 950 because of the reliability of the planter I have now and the company."

- Arden Johnson, Scandia, Minn., is the owner of a late 1970's **Deere** 7000 planter. "It has good depth control and good seed-to-soil contact. However, it could use an improved opener design for minimum and no-till applications, and it should offer a greater variety of planting rates. It also should have downpressure springs for improved penetration in hard soils."



## 7-Row "Bean" Splitter Bar Added To 8-Row Planter

Wade Meter, Athens, Ill., wanted to plant no-till corn and no-till, narrow-row soybeans. He already had a **Deere** 7000 8-row, 30-in. corn planter, but he didn't want to spend the money for a new no-till planter or drill for beans.

He solved the problem by bolting seven row units off a junked-out 7000 planter onto a 5 by 7-in. toolbar that hooks up behind the corn planter. The rear row units are staggered to run between the front ones and are equipped with **Kinze** soybean brush meters. When planting corn, Meter uses only the front toolbar. To switch from corn to beans, he replaces the corn seed meters on the main toolbar with **Kinze** brush meters, then backs up to the splitter toolbar and hooks up.

He also added Yetter no-till coulters to both toolbars.

"It lets me plant both corn and soybeans accurately and saved a lot of money," says Meter, who uses a **Deere** 4430 tractor to pull the planter. "I paid \$300 each for the seven add-on row units. They were in rough shape so I installed new disc openers and bearings. Altogether I spent about \$6,000. I saved at least \$20,000 because a new **Deere** no-till drill sells for \$25,000 to \$30,000. I had rented no-till drills to plant soybeans but was never satisfied with the job they did and thought they were

too expensive. The **Kinze** brush meters space seeds much more accurately than **Deere** soybean cups. It takes only about 15 minutes to switch from planting corn to soybeans."

Meter mounted a pair of steel bars on the rear toolbar that hook up to brackets on the front toolbar with a pair of 1 1/2-in. dia. pins. "The arms keep both planters rigid. Even on corners the rear row units stay in line with the front ones," says Meter. "The pins allow the rear toolbar to flex up and down to follow the ground contour."

Meter made a set of notched planter markers for planting soybeans in undisturbed corn stalks. He bought a new set of blades and turned them backward, then cut 1 1/2-in. deep notches in them. "I unbolt the original markers after I'm done planting corn and bolt on the notched markers. They're more aggressive than the original markers and do a good job."

The rear-mounted row units are powered by a separate ground-driven transmission. Hydraulic lift assist wheels salvaged from an old **IH** 500 corn planter are used to raise or lower the rear toolbar.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wade Meter, Rt. 1, Athens, Ill. 62613 (ph 217 636-8109).

## Do-It-Yourself Repair Kits For Deere, Kinze, White Planters

You can rebuild planter units to "better than new" condition with four new do-it-yourself repair kits, according to manufacturer Phil Kester of RK Products, East Moline, Ill.

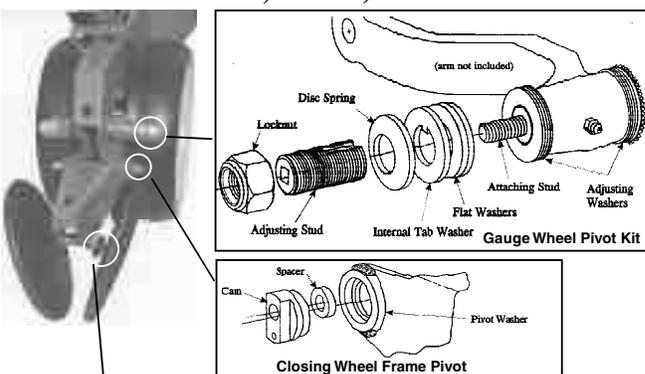
**Gauge Wheel Arm Pivot (Threaded Adjustment)** - "This is truly a one-time repair kit. Once installed, the pivot joint will never again need repair," says Kester, noting that unlike other repair kits on the market, his kit can be installed on any pivot arm no matter how badly the pivot shaft and bore of the hub are worn. No need to purchase a new pivot arm.

Kit includes a disc spring that provides up to 3,900 lbs. axial force to the end of arm hub which forces the arm to operate parallel to the machined shoulder on the pivot shaft.

Adjusting washers let you set gauge wheel so it lightly rubs the opener disc at the point where the disc emerges from the ground, keeping it clean and virtually eliminating plugging. "What's more, once modified, the pivot joint is completely sealed from dirt."

Sells for \$37 per row. Fits **Deere** 7000 & 7200, **Kinze**, & **White**. When ordering for **Deere** 7000 Series, specify size of bolt that holds arm on pivot shaft.

A kit for "regular" gauge wheel arm



### Closing Wheel Bearing Support (kit not shown)

pivots is also available for \$19 per row or \$25 with handle.

**Closing Wheel Frame Pivot Kit** - Easy-to-install kit restores frame pivots to new condition on **Deere** 7000 & 7200 and **Kinze** planters. Pivot holes on **Deere** 7000 and **Kinze** frames must be enlarged.

Sells for \$18 per row.

**Closing Wheel Bearing Support** - A special collar clamps the support tube rigidly to the bearing shaft. Support tube must be cut longitudinally with a hacksaw to allow it to clamp tightly to the bearing shaft.

Once installed, the kit permits easy removal of wheel without special tools and lets you make minor lateral adjustment.

A torx T-30 bit is required as an installation tool. You can obtain one at most hardware and farm stores or RK will provide one for \$4.00 with kit. Please specify tube diameter when ordering (7/8, 1 or 1 1/16-in.) Sells for \$4.50 per collar.

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