

Foot Pedal Steering Wheel Release

Myron Sorensen, Harlan, Iowa, converted the hand-release tilt steering wheel on his Deere 4240 and 4640 tractors to a foot-pedal release.

"It frees up my hands while I'm starting the tractor and makes it easier to move the steering wheel out of my way when I'm climbing in and out of the cab," says Sorensen. "It takes both hands to adjust the steering wheel with the hand-release lever. The foot-pedal lets me do it with one hand, leaving my other hand free for the controls. The foot-pedal release is offered as a standard feature on many combine models. I don't know why it's not offered on tractors."

Sorensen bolted a 4 1/2 by 2 1/2-in. wide steel plate to the floor and welded a short length of pipe horizontally to the top of the plate. He installed a 4-in. long rod through a pipe. He welded a foot pedal on one end of the rod and a short length of flat iron, laid on its edge, onto the other end. An 11-in. long rod connects this flat iron to the hand-release lever.

Sorensen also installed a remote-control hydraulic lever on the back of his



tractor. It allows him to operate the tractor's hydraulic controls from outside the cab. "It lets me raise a hydraulically-controlled implement without having to climb back inside," notes Sorensen.

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Radio-Controlled "Hay Lift" Retrieves Round Bales

"It takes the work out of handling round bales," says James Rohr, North Lawrence, Ohio, who uses a radio transmitter similar to the ones used on ordinary garage door openers to build a radio-controlled round bale "hay lift" inside his barn.

Rohr's hay lift consists of a single phase, 2-way, 1/2-hp electric motor mounted on a worm drive gearbox that's bolted to a hoist, a radio control box also bolted to the hoist, a winch, and a 3-ft. long, two-pronged bale hook that looks like ice block tongs. The hay lift winch rides on a home-built trolley system along a track in the peak of his 80 by 36 ft. barn. Rohr wears a radio transmitter around his neck. He pushes a button on the transmitter to activate relays inside the control box which power the electric motor. The motor operates the gearbox which causes the hoist to raise or lower the cable on the winch. Rohr pulls the bale lift trolleys back and forth along the track using a rope pull system.

"I built this bale lift when I switched from small bales to round bales," says Rohr. "I didn't want to store round bales outside or have to use a tractor every time I handled them." Rohr uses a skid steer loader to stack round bales three high on their ends. The hay lift can then be used to finish stacking the bales, six high up to the barn peak. The stacking process is a two-man job. One man hooks bales loaded on a wagon at the center of the barn floor. Another man working in the mow then uses the radio transmitter to raise the bale



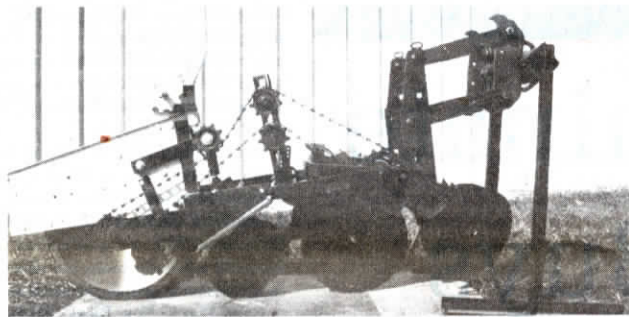
to the top of the stack. "I've never had a bale come loose from the hay lift. The prongs are hinged in the middle, so the heavier the bale, the tighter the hooks pull together."

Rohr feeds bales by lowering them to the barn floor, then rolling them by hand on top of sloping planks through the barn door and onto a catwalk leading to a round bale feeder. The bales drop right into the feeder.

Rohr bought the motor, radio control box, and radio transmitter from a local electrical supply shop. He bought the gear reduction hoist, which was equipped with the gearbox and a 3-phase electric motor, from a feed mill that used it to lift a railroad bridge. He removed the 3-phase motor and replaced it with the single-phase motor. The motor is bolted to the gearbox and the gearbox is bolted to the hoist frame. A safety light mounted onto the hoist improves visibility in the mow. The electric motor is powered by a 70-ft. long extension cord. A counter-weight keeps tension on the cord. Excess cord is dropped next to a post in the center of the barn.

Rohr spent \$250 to build the hay lift - \$150 for the electric motor and radio control transmitter, and \$100 for the gear reduction hoist.

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Rebuilt Planter "Works Like New"

"I bought my 8-row Allis Chalmers 72 plate planter new in 1975 and have planted from 1,000 to 1,500 acres every year with it. It worked okay at first but needed improvements. After I rebuilt it, the planter works as well as the best new planters on the market," says Earnest Rumbaugh, Morrill, Kan.

Rumbaugh says the original design was "a mickey mouse set-up. The little spring they had at the front of covering disc arm wouldn't last long. The disc covers were too wide over the row and when they wore down up front you would be anywhere from 10 to 12 in. over the row. I installed new covers that are only 5 in. wide to start with over the row."

Here's changes he made to planter:

- Put sealed bearings on the rear wheels and on all sprockets.
- Equipped it with a new set of Case/IH disc covering assemblies.
- Installed an adjustable spring tightener on the drive chain.
- Built a new rear axle.
- Built a filler plate for the seed box.

- Replaced the seed boxes (using boxes from later model AC planters that have stainless steel liners to keep the bottom from wearing out).

- Put rubber tie-down straps on lids to keep them from blowing away.

- Put a sealed bearing on the end of the shaft under the planter box, eliminating the pin on the shaft under the box that you had to replace every year to check the bronze bushings. Rumbaugh says it's snow trouble-free.

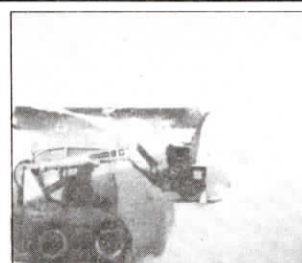
"Several dealers have seen my conversion and they all say it looks like a factory job. The planter works better than new. I've used it on over 1,000 acres of soybeans and milo and everything works great. I had perfect stands on all types of ground. The Case/IH discs cover assemblies I used would work on later model AC 73 and 74 planters, too. I converted a Yetter planter for a neighboring farmer using the same covering discs," says Rumbaugh.

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Skid Steer Snowblower

"It lets me blow snow from ground level up to 8 ft. off the ground. That's important up here because we get drifts even deeper than that," says Roland Beaulieu, Vonda, Sask., who mounted a snowblower on the loader arms of his Hydra-Mac skid steer loader.

Beaulieu adapted the mounting brackets to fit the loader and mounted a 16-hp. Kohler electric start gas engine on the top of the blower to drive it. He can tilt the blower back and forth like a loader bucket and he rigged up the blower spout so he can blow snow in different directions,



remote-controlled from the seat of the loader. The snowblower is 5 ft. wide.

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