Boat Seat Improves Ride On Old Tractor

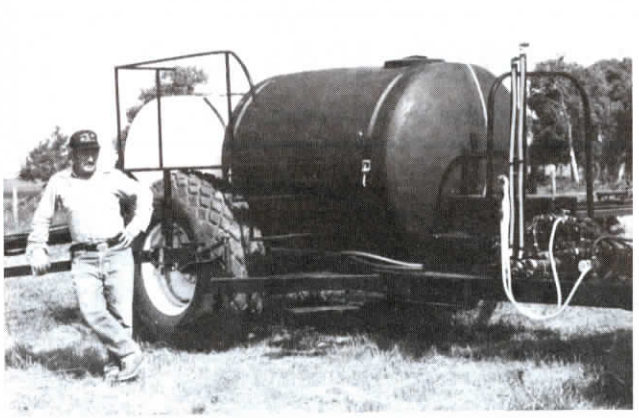
Foam padded fishing boat seats make comfortable, cheap replacements for almost any older model tractor seat, says Harold Klug, Blairstown, Iowa, who mounted a boat seat on his 1958 IH 400 tractor after his back started giving him problems.

Klug also mounted a boat seat on his riding lawn mower (his dog chewed up the original seat) and plans to mount one on his 1950 Allis-Chalmers WD tractor. "The original seat on my IH tractor didn't have a backrest. I started looking for a replacement seat and soon discovered that conventional replacement seats for older tractors don't have backrests and sell for up to $50. I bought my fishing boat seat at K-Mart for $23. It's made from vinyl and foam rubber. The backrest can be folded down when not in use.

"The seat has a swivel plate on the bottom. I bolted the swivel plate to a 5-in. sq. adapter plate that I made from 1/8-in. thick steel, then bolted the adapter plate to the tractor's seat mounting bracket. I drilled holes in the swivel plate and adapter plate to match holes in the mounting bracket.

"International Harvester tractors weren't offered with seat backrests until sometime in the 1960's. Deere tractors already had seats equipped with backrests in the 1950's," notes Klug.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Klug, 1871 75th St., Blairstown, IA 52209 (ph 319 454-6544).



Sprayer Fitted With Double Booms, Tanks

Saskatchewan farmer Garry Nerbas had a problem with wild oats in his grain fields, but he didn't want to spray a wild oats herbicide across the entire field because of the expense. He solved the problem by building a sprayer that has two tanks, two pumps, and two sets of 88-ft. booms, allowing him to broadcast herbicides with one boom and spot spray with the other.

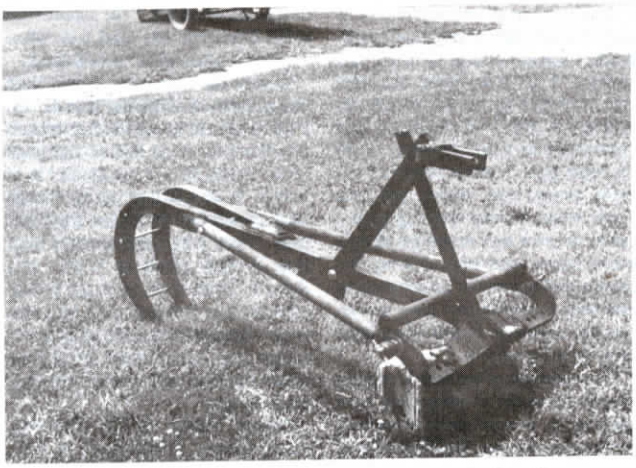
The sprayer has an 850-gal. tank mounted in front and a 400-gal. tank, carried by 18 by 24 combine tires salvaged from an old International 914 pull-type combine.

"When I get to a patch of wild oats, I shut off the broadcast boom and turn on the spot spray boom," says Nerbas. "I can spray with both booms at the same time, but most of the time I don't carry herbicides that are compatible with each other. Each tank is operated by a centrifugal pump, one hydraulic driven and one pto driven. The booms are equipped with hydraulically activated disc markers connected by cables to a cylinder mounted on the sprayer frame. I built the markers by mounting disc blades on a spindle. The spray booms automatically fold back.

"I pull the sprayer with a dual-wheel tractor. With big combine tires on the sprayer and duals on the tractor there's very little soil compaction, even though I'm hauling 1,250 gal. The combine tires follow directly behind the outside tires. The booms are supported by four car tires."

Nerbas used 2 by 6-in. steel tubing to build a frame for the spray tanks and put a stairway on the side for access to the back tank. He spent a total of $9,000 to put the sprayer together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garry Nerbas, Box 426, Langenburg, Sask. Canada S0A 2A0 (ph 306 743-2836).



"Moldboard Plow" 3-Pt. Rock Puller

"I've used it to pull out rocks weighing up to 500 lbs.," says Ron Stadler, Monroe, Mich., about the 3-pt. rock puller he built from an old IH 2-bottom moldboard plow.

Stadler mounts the rock puller on the back of his Oliver 65 hp tractor and uses it to extract rocks that he runs into with his deep ripper. It consists of two steel hooks (moldboards removed) that are welded together and spaced about 8 in. apart at the rear with lengths of steel rod. He uses his deep ripper to slightly dislodge the rock, then uses the rock puller to yank it out.

Stadler used the rock puller last year to extract more than 20 rocks in a 100-acre field. "My deep ripper can loosen up rocks, but it can't lift them out because the single shank allows the rock to roll off to the side. Another problem is that it's hard to center a single shank on the rock because I can't see it. The puller's two hooks make it easy.

"My Oliver tractor doesn't have down pressure on the hydraulics so there's no downpressure on the 3-pt. hitch. I pull forward and the tool sinks down and catches the rock. Then I pull forward in low gear and raise the rock puller at the same time to yank the rock out."

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Self-Propelled Shelterbelt Tree Trimmer

You've never seen anything like this shelterbelt tree trimmer built by North Dakota farmer Marlo Sondral of Buxton to clean up the many rows of trees separating fields on his flat farmland.

The big boom, fitted with a 30-in. dia. circle saw blade, reaches up as high as 20 ft. and about 20 ft. out in front of the self-propelled machine that carries it.

"In our area we have half mile rows of trees planted every 40 acres to stop wind erosion. The trees are generally spaced 10 to 12 ft. apart and grow to 25-30 ft. high. Branches often hang out 8 to 10 ft. on either side of the shelterbelt. Keeping them trimmed improves the crops right alongside the trees, makes it easier for machinery to pass, and allows snow to pass through in winter to spread evenly across fields, providing needed moisture.

"In the past I used a chain saw to trim them. It was slow, difficult work, and I could only reach up 6 to 7 ft., which wasn't high enough to allow machinery to pass. I tried standing on a truck box and driving alongside and cutting but this was dangerous so I decided to build a specialty machine.

"With this machine I can trim a half-mile of trees on both sides, 20 ft. high, in 6 hrs. or less.

"To make the machine, I stripped down an old Massey Harris combine and made a 3-sided boom which I raise up and down hydraulically. Then I installed a hydraulic pump and motor to run the 30-in. circle saw blade on the end of the boom. The main part of the machine is 9 ft. high, 13 ft. long and 8 ft. wide.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marlo Sondral, Rt. 1, Box 113, Buxton, N.Dak. 58218 (ph 701 856-3383).