

Made It Myself

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Saw Invention Makes Accurate Fence Joints

Robin Humphries is a perfectionist when it comes to building fences, but he found out cutting mortis slots for rails in upright posts is anything but easy.

So the Bramshill, Hants, U.K., sheep and cattle farmer designed and built an add-on device for his Husqvarna 45 chainsaw that allows him to cut the slots quickly and with pinpoint accuracy so his rails are exactly parallel to the ground.

The saw fits into a frame that chains to the side of a post. A sliding subframe moves the saw into the post and a screw-type handle moves it back and forth to cut a slot. Turning a handle moves the saw sideways. Adjustable stops limit its travel to ensure uniform slot width and depth.

A single folding leg sets slot height at a uniform 3 ft. off the ground.



It takes about 8 cuts and about 57 seconds to make a clean-cut slot.

He built the guide for about \$35 and has used it to cut 100 to 120 mortises. (Photos and story courtesy *Farmers Weekly*)



Home-Built 28-Ft. Folding Rotary Hoe

David Buss used 2 rotary hoes and a grain drill frame to build one big 28-ft. folding rotary hoe that he uses on 400 acres of narrow row soybeans at least once a season.

The Clayton, Ill., farmer started with a retired 20-ft. Crust Buster drill with 6 1/2-ft. folding wings. He removed the seed boxes and disc openers and simply extended each wing 4 ft. using sq. tubing for an overall unfolded width of 28 ft.

He mounted two pivoting strap iron brackets to hook the 4-row, 14-ft. international rotary hoe sections up to the toolbar on the frame of the drill. For transport, the

gang sections are lifted by arch-type hangers that extend back over the hoe sections. Lengths of chain hook to the top of each gang.

He makes the hoe more aggressive by adding 100-lb. international suitcase weights to each section.

He pulls the hoe with an International 856 100 hp tractor, about the minimum hp requirement for a hoe its size, Buss says.

Out-of-pocket expense was about \$300.

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Self-Propelled 42-Ft. Hydrostatic Swather

Randy Muhs, Langdon, N. Dak., traded his 25-ft. pull-type swather for a 42-ft. used header, then built his own hydrostatic "tractor" for it. It's powered by a Deutz 5-cyl. air-cooled diesel engine.

Muhs built a frame from rectangular steel tubing and fitted it with a hydrostatic drive, radiator, oil cooler, and operator platform from the Versatile 5000 combine. The 20.8 by 38 front tires are off an old Case tractor and the 11.25 by 24 caster rear tires are off a Deere 65 pull-type combine. The swather has two hydrostatic pumps - one to power the hydraulic lift and the other to operate four hydraulic motors. The motors are used to drive the sickle, reel, and both canvases. A 30-gal. hydraulic reservoir is mounted on the side of the swather.

"I had been using a 25-ft. pull-type swather that made a swath that matched my Deere 7700 combine. Then I traded the 7700 combine for a bigger 8820 model so I needed a bigger swather. At the time I built it a new 42-ft. Coop 742 hydrostatic self-propelled swather listed for \$75,000. I paid only about one fourth that much for the header and traction unit. I bought two junked-out 5000 Versatile combines for parts.

"I started out using the combine's Ford 360 gas engine, but it used too much fuel so I replaced it two years ago with the Deutz diesel engine which came out of a 1-ton Duallly pickup. It's fuel efficient but pulls pretty hard when going up hills or on soft ground. Since I installed it we've had two very wet



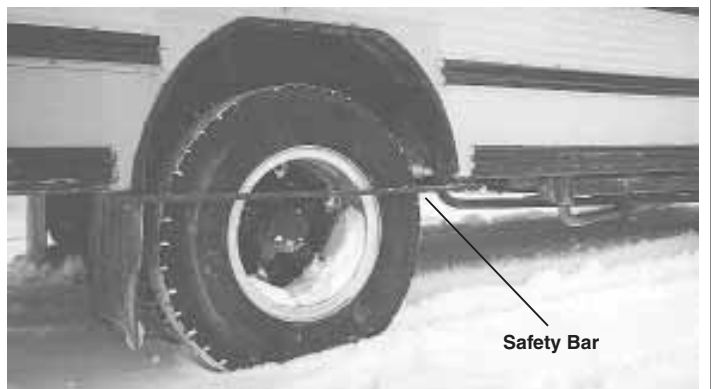
years with hard pulling conditions, yet it has used only about 3 gallons of diesel per hour compared to almost 12 gallons of gas per hour used by the Ford engine.

"I mounted a 100-lb. propane bottle on back to boost the power. A draft tube sucks a small amount of propane into the air stream going into the cylinders, making the engine burn the diesel fuel more completely and therefore boosting power. It also reduces oil contamination. I don't know how much power it adds, but it's enough that I can tell when it's not on. I wanted to buy a 6-cyl. diesel turbocharged engine with 125 to 150 horsepower, but it would have been too expensive.

"I mounted a 60-gal. gas tank on each side of the swather which allows me to cut for a long time without stopping. Using 3 gallons of fuel per hour and cutting 20 acres per hour I can cut up to 600 acres before I have to refuel."

He used sheet metal to build the 30-gal. hydraulic oil reservoir.

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"Loose Wheel" Safety Alarm

"It lets you know when a truck wheel is about to come off the axle, allowing you to safely stop the vehicle before the wheel can fly off," says Robert DeBrabandere of St. Marys, Ontario.

The patent pending invention consists of a bar mounted alongside the wheel. When the wheel wobbles or moves outward it hits the bar, which in turn triggers a spring-loaded microswitch that sets off an alarm in the cab. The bar also physically prevents the wheel from going farther.

DeBrabandere first tested the safety fea-

ture on a retired school bus that he uses to transport hogs to market. He progressively loosened the wheel on the bus and drove until the device was triggered, which he says happens well before the wheel would disconnect from the axle.

DeBrabandere is looking for a manufacturer.

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