

Home-Built Grapple Fits Payloader Bucket

A pair of South Dakota farmers came up with their own inexpensive, heavy duty grapple fork that mounts on the bucket of their Michigan payloader.

Steve Peters and his brother Joe, who farm near Clark, bolted the grapple fork to the 8-ft. wide bucket on their Michigan 125A payloader. They used 3-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick steel tubing to make a rectangular frame that supports four forks made from 4-in. wide, 3/4-in. thick flat iron. The frame swivels up and down on a 4-in. dia. pipe that rides on top of four "stands" that bolt to the top of the bucket. The stands are made from 4-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick steel tubing and have 6-in. wide loops on top of them made from 4 1/2-in. dia., 1/2-

in. thick wall pipe. A 4-in. dia., 30-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder is used to swivel the forks up or down. The forks bolt onto a steel bracket that's welded to the frame. If the load ever gets too heavy the bolts will shear off without bending the frame.

"We spent only about \$250 to build it," says Steve. "We use the loader for digging and loading big rocks in fields, loading manure into spreaders, loading round bales onto semi trucks, etc. It'll easily handle two round bales at a time which really speeds up the job of unloading a semi load of bales."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Peters, Rt. 2, Box 88, Clark, S. Dak. 57225 (ph 605 886-7442 or 605 882-5284, ext. 211).



Rectangular frame supports four forks made of 4-in. wide, 3/4-in. thick flat iron.



Home-built pit holds 500 bu. and is covered by 10-ft. long railroad rails.

Dump Pit Covered By Railroad Rails

Larry and Richard Martin of Lincoln, Ill., used 10-ft. long railroad rails to cover their home-built, drive-over grain pit.

The pit is 10 ft. sq. at the top and 9 ft. deep and holds 500 bu. of grain. They put a hopper bottom bin in the pit and then poured cement around the top edges of the bin walls. Large pieces of angle iron run across the top of the bin to hold the rails. A steel I-beam runs crosswise under the center of the rails to help support the weight of tractors, semi-tractors, and wagons that pass over the pit.

"It's a low-cost way to build a dump pit," says Larry. "The rails are plenty strong to

handle any size load. To get into the pit to clean it out I can lift out a couple rails and climb in."

An auger that comes up out of the pit leads to a grain leg. To set up the auger the Martins ran a 12-in. dia. tube from an old auger down to the bottom of the pit and then slid a new 8-in. dia. auger into the larger tube. "That way, if there's ever a problem with the auger we can just slide it out," says Larry.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Martin, 1882 700 Ave., Lincoln, Ill. 62656 (ph 217 732-3349).



Steel I-beam (not visible) runs crosswise under rails to help support weight of tractors and wagons.

Boom Designed For Skid Steer Loaders

This new boom for skid steer loaders makes construction projects easier and saves you the cost of renting a commercial crane for many jobs, says inventor Arnold Longely, who claims there isn't another piece of equipment like it on the market.

Longely's "Boom It" consists of a 20-ft. boom built of sq. tubing fitted with an 8,000-lb. winch with 5/16-in. dia. cable. The boom pins to virtually any skid steer loader with universal mounting brackets.

It operates hydraulically off the loader and offers a maximum reach of 32 ft. by simply raising the loader arms.

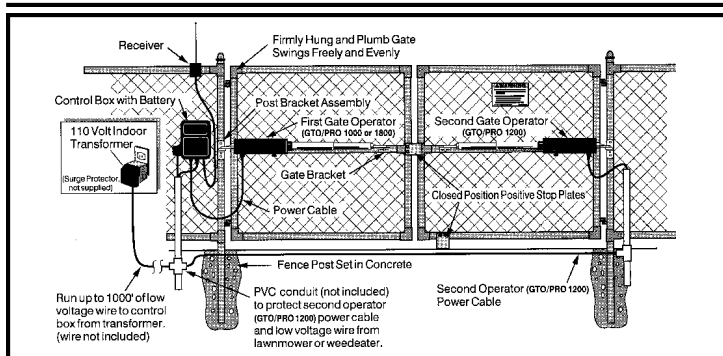
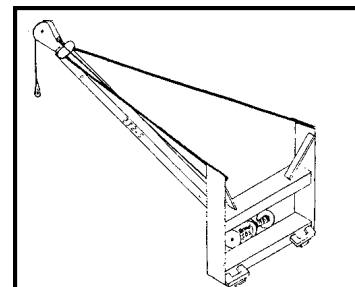
"It's ideal for lifting a variety of materials for farming and construction projects, such as pole barn and home-building," Longely says. "It sells for only \$3,400. You can spend that much pretty quickly if you ever have to rent a crane at \$150 per hour or more."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, "Boom It", 3850 County Rd. 5 NE, Isanti, Minn. 55040 (ph 612 444-0138; fax 0227).

Boom is equipped with 8,000-lb. winch and 5/16-in. cable.



Boom operates hydraulically and offers a maximum reach of 32 ft.



Gate is operated by a remote controlled opener. Single and dual gate systems are available.

Automatic Gate Opener

Automatic gate openers are nice to have but good ones are pricey, selling for up to \$12,000. A Missouri distributor says his GTO automatic gate opener doesn't have all the bells and whistles that the top models have but it does cost a lot less.

"You can buy a pretty sophisticated system for less than \$1,150," says Craig Pierce, Fencing Center, Hawk Point, Mo.

The GTO gate openers operate off a 12-volt battery that can be charged by a solar unit or by a low voltage trickle converter that works off 110 volt electricity. It opens just like a remote control garage door opener. Single and dual gate systems are available,

in either push-to-open or pull-to-open styles.

"The 12-volt battery allows you to open the gate up to 20 times before it has to be recharged," says Pierce. "Other companies offer gate openers that work off direct 110 or 220-volt electricity. If the power goes out you can't operate the gate."

Options include a video camera and intercom, card readers, key pad with code, automatic gate locks, etc. Can be fitted to any kind of gate up to 30 ft. long and 500 lbs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fencing Center, 277 S. Highway 47, Hawk Point, Mo. 63349 (ph 888 288-1346 or 314 338-4644; fax 9335).