



“Super Boom” Skid Steer Loader

“I’ve built several homebuilt tractors over the years. I decided to build a “super boom” articulated skid steer loader modeled after a New Holland machine because I knew it would be a handy machine to own,” says Rich Gasper, Orchard Park, N.Y.

“I used two 3/4-ton Chevrolet pickup rear ends with identical gear ratios for the drive axles. The engine is a 4-cyl. Chevy Monza with an automatic transmission. The tractor is driven by no. 60 and no. 80 roller chain with a jackshaft to provide further reduction from transmission to driveline.

“The articulating action of the tractor is powered by two GM power steering units, with a pump for each unit. The spools on the power units are connected with cables running through pulleys to a pulley on the steering column. The steering column tilts sideways in the cab to

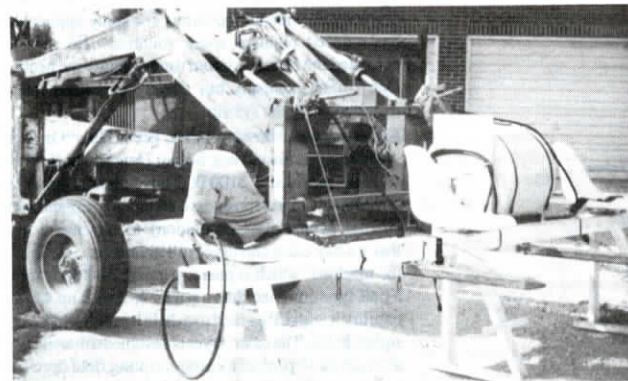
make it easy to get in and out of the cab.

“One lever operates two vacuum booster brake master cylinders that brake either side of the machine for skid steering.

“The loader has all-new components. The pump is chain-driven off the torque converter. It will lift approximately 2,000 lbs. to 10 ft., 2 in. It has a quick-attach mount and safety boom lockout pins. Steel for the boom was sheared and bent by a local fabricating shop.

“Since building it in 1989, I’ve used it for all kinds of chores. Works especially well for snow removal. I have a total of about \$2,100 invested in it. I display the loader at local antique engine and tractor shows.”

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Front-End Loader “Bean Bar”

“It’s easy to hook up and the tractor driver can easily adjust height and speed. It’s also a lot less expensive than anything on the market,” says Maynard L. Hampton, Litchfield, Ill., about his front-end loader “bean bar”.

It consists of three seats mounted on a length of heavy box beam. Beneath each seat is a triangular frame made out of channel iron that provides a footrest for each rider. They also serve as support legs for the “bean bar” when it’s not being used and is in storage. Each operator has a hand-operated spray wand, fed by a 25-gal. tank with an electric pump that mounts at the center of the bar.

“When we were looking at commercial rigs all we could find were built for 8-rows. Because we operate 6-row equipment, we built our bean rig so that each of the three riders sprays 2 rows.

Height is easily adjustable by the tractor operator to keep the sprayers’ feet out of chemical. We have even sprayed 5-ft. tall “horse weeds” with it,” says Hampton.

The “bean bar” simply slides on over bale forks and is chained on the ends to hold it down. The spray pump works off the battery and has a remote on-off switch. Hampton uses it with a Deere 4020 that doesn’t have to be modified in any way to carry the sprayer. “Because it mounts on the bale forks, the operator can always keep the riders level even on uneven ground.”

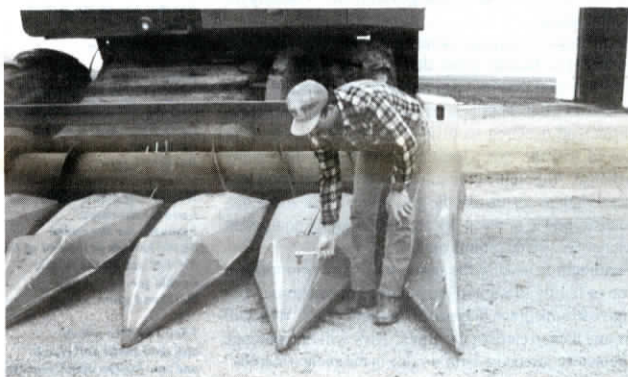
Total cost was less than \$300.

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“Made It Myself”

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Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Soybean Head “Snout Adjuster”

“It saves time by allowing me to raise or lower each snout without having to crawl on the ground under it,” says Wayne Whitman, Grand Mound, Iowa, who came up with “snout adjusters” for his Deere 7720 combine equipped with a 653A soybean head.

To raise or lower the end of each snout, Whitman simply uses a 9/16-in. socket wrench to adjust a bolthead on top of each snout.

“When soybean leaves are damp they catch on the snouts and ball up ahead of them. The only solution is to raise the snouts,” says Whitman. “In the past I had to crawl under each snout, loosen one nut and turn another nut clockwise or counterclockwise. I was under the snout so I didn’t know how much I was moving it. Now I can adjust the snouts without crawling under them. In the past, adjusting all of the snouts took a half hour. It’s now a two minute job.”

Whitman drilled a 1-in. dia. hole through the top of each snout and bolted an 18-in. long, 4-in. wide piece of channel iron under it. He drilled a 3/8-in. dia. hole through the channel iron and inserted a 5-in. long bolt through the holes.

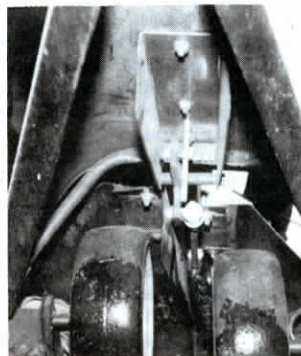


Photo shows how bolt coming down through top of snout pulls on “L”-shaped lever that connects to height adjustment bolt.

An L-shaped lever connects the bolt to another bolt that pulls on the height adjustment chain. Whitman raises the snout by turning the bolthead on top of the snout clockwise. Turning the bolthead counterclockwise lowers the snout.

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