

Pull-Type Moldboard Plow Converted To 3-Pt. Deep Ripper

Old moldboard plows can be converted to low-cost deep rippers, says Wally Smith, Crystal City, Manitoba, who turned an Oliver 5-bottom pull-type plow into a 3-pt. mounted, 12-ft. wide deep ripper equipped with five 30-in. long steel shanks spaced 30 in. apart.

Smith got the plow from a neighbor at no cost. It was equipped with trip standards that let the moldboards "kick back" whenever they hit a rock or other obstruction. Smith stripped the plow of everything but the main beam and trip standards. He salvaged a 4-in. sq. steel I-beam from an old Graham Hoeme deep ripper and welded it on behind the plow beam for extra strength, then bolted the trip standards on at right angles to the beams. He used scrap steel to build an A-shaped 3-pt. lift frame and welded it onto the front of the toolbar. He drilled holes into steel chisel shanks and bolted them onto the trip standards. He also welded a 4-in. long hard-surfaced point to the bottom of each shank.

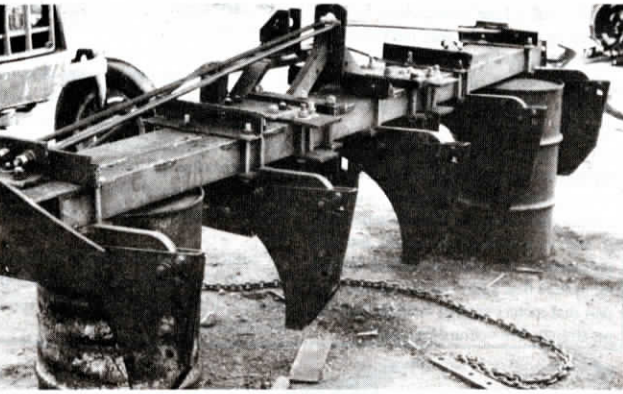
"It works as well as any conventional

deep ripper and cost only about \$350 to build," says Smith, who built the unit three years ago with the help of Stewart Sonley. "A comparable size chisel plow would cost at least \$8,000. I use an Allis-Chalmers 4494 4-WD 175 hp tractor to pull it. I think any moldboard plow would work as long as it has trip standards. Whenever my deep ripper hits a rock I stop and lift the shanks out of the ground, then let them fall back into place by gravity.

"I got the chisel shanks from a neighbor who had them custom built by a local blacksmith but never used them."

After welding the beams together Smith also bolted them together to help keep the welds from breaking. The shanks have a lot of suction force that could cause the ends of the beam to bend downward. To reinforce them, he ran a pair of steel rods from the center of the toolbar out to each end of the beam.

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Fan Sucks Chaff Off Radiator

"It works better than any commercial chaff screen on the market," says Ben Kambeitz, Richmond, Sask., about the chaff fan he mounted on front of his Case 2670 4-WD tractor.

Kambeitz got the idea because he mounts a dozer blade on the front of the tractor and the mounting brackets - which remain in place all the time - don't leave room for a conventional chaff screen.

Instead, he used a Ford starter motor fitted with a fan blade from a Chevy car. The starter (and solenoid) are wired to a switch inside the cab. If chaff builds up on the radiator, he simply slows the tractor motor down and presses the button. The fan quickly draws the chaff off.

"The starter motor turns between 4,000 and 6,000 rpm's so it has tremendous draw that overcomes the suction of the tractor's cooling fan. Cleans off the radiator completely. You could use the idea on any equipment," says Kambeitz.

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Spare Tire Carrier

"We use one tractor - a Deere 4450 - to haul all our corn and soybeans to town. I designed this spare tire carrier so we would always have a spare tire with us in case one of our wagons got a flat," says Eldon Gabel, Akron, Iowa.

The tire carrier is made out of angle iron and 1-in. sq. tubing. To remove the tire, you just loosen two wing nuts at the top

and hinge down the front brackets.

A small steel box that mounts on the right side of the tractor above the front axle carries wood blocks. The jack, handle and wheel wrench are carried inside the tractor.

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Low-Cost Way To Side-Dress Corn

"I was looking for a low-cost way to side-dress nitrogen on no-till corn but I didn't want to spend the \$5,000 to \$6,000 for a high-pressure unit or a knifing system so I came up with my own low-cost design that actually works as good or better than anything on the market," says Stewart Whitney, Pavilion, N.Y.

"I had the 3-pt. toolbar custom-built at a cost of \$268. It's fitted with 5 Deere single disc fertilizer openers taken off a Deere 7200 planter. Liquid nitrogen is metered to the openers by a low-pressure Demco squeeze pump direct-driven by a hydraulic motor.

"The discs cut through heavy residue, placing nitrogen beneath the soil surface for less volatilization and more efficient use of nutrients by plants. Using a low-pressure pump is safer than high-pressure systems and liquid nitrogen is safer and

easier to use and transport than anhydrous. I carry nitrogen tanks on either side of the tractor.

"There's minimum disturbance of surface residue, keeping erosion to a minimum.

"It cost about \$500 to build since I already had a hydraulic motor, tanks and Deere single disc openers, which I still use on the planter. Side dressing lets you reduce the total amount of nitrogen required by 25%. Thus, if you would normally apply 150 lbs. preplant or at planting, you would use only 110 lbs. by side-dressing yet still reach your yield goals. With nitrogen at 18 cents a pound, the savings would be \$7.20 per acre."

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