

Model Plane Takes Aerial Photos

By Janis Schole

Now you can take your own aerial photographs without ever having to leave the ground with this new model airplane that's designed to carry a disposable 35mm camera.

The camera is made of styrofoam and plastic and requires some assembly, which takes about two hours. All that's needed is a couple of screwdrivers and epoxy glue.

The "Cox Recon" airplane is equipped with an internal combustion engine that burns model engine fuel, widely available at craft supply stores. Flying should be done in a large open area about the size of two football fields and there should be no more than a five-mile per hour wind where the plane will be flown. The plane is a "free flight" model, which means the flying controls are preset. The operator has no control over it once it's in the air.

The plane takes off straight and level and then gradually turns to the left while at the same time gaining altitude. This will last from one to two minutes and the plane may get as high as 100 to 150 feet. The transmitter range for the remote control camera is 500 to 1,000 feet. When the fuel runs out, the plane glides gently back to the ground for a landing. Total flight time could be as much as five minutes, depending upon the altitude of the flight. The camera takes clear pictures of ground and airborne subjects.

The operator may snap a photo at any time during the flight by simply pushing the but-



Hand-launched reconnaissance plane takes a single mid-air photograph and lands by itself.

ton on the transmitter. However, the manufacturer recommends it is best to wait until the motor has shut down.

"Once the engine is off, wait for the plane to position itself where you want to take the picture. Push the button on the transmitter and the picture is snapped. It may take multiple flights to get the exact picture you want.

Only one picture is possible per flight, since the plane must return to the ground so that the film may be advanced.

Price for the plane is \$119.95 plus shipping and handling..

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hammacher Schlemmer, Operations Centre, 9180 Le Saint Drive, Fairfield, Ohio 45014 (ph 800 233-4800 seven days a week, 8 a.m. to midnight E.S.T.); Website: <http://www.hammacher.com/main.htm>.



Auger step clamps onto auger, just above hopper tub.

Bolt-On Auger Step Makes Truck Clean-Out Easy

The "Auger Step" makes it a lot safer to step up onto an auger to reach inside a truck box. It's also a great time saver during harvest, says inventor Rene Page.

"It was designed to clean out truck box corners. You simply clamp the step onto your auger, just above the hopper tub," he explains.

"Frequently, people climb up and stand on the auger, or jump into the truck box when working with grain. Farming is such a hazardous occupation as it is, and grain augers are one of the more dangerous pieces of equipment. When people are using them, they are always in a panic," he says. "The Auger Step takes a little bit of the risk out of farming."

The Step fits on 6, 7, and 8-in. augers with a clamp and two bolts. It takes only about 5 minutes to set up and was designed to lie flat no matter what height of grain bin the auger has to reach. The device conveniently folds out of the way when not in use.

The perforated design of the step lets you stand on it with muddy or ice and snow-covered boots without the worry of slipping or sliding on a ladder or stool.

Page, who believes the unit is the only product of its kind in North America, says he saw the need for a more secure way of cleaning truck boxes, obtaining samples and checking grain levels when unloading.

The product has passed all Canadian and American safety standards and has been endorsed by "Ball Associate Engineering Ltd." in Edmonton, Alberta.

The auger step is a useful tool for your auger, but must not be used unless the auger is equipped with a safety shield, Page cautions.

The device can be purchased for \$65.00 (Canada) plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rene Page, New Concept Mfg. Ltd., Box 32, Vimy, Alberta, Canada T0G 2J0 (ph 780 961-3835 or 780-459-9788 (evenings); 780 460-7554).

High-Clearance, Lugged ATV Tires

If you use your ATV for work around the farm - and not just running errands - you might want to look into these high-clearance, lugged tires that give any 4-wheeler tractor-like traction.

Designed for wet farming conditions, the 4-ply tires have self-cleaning "super lugs" for slow speed usage.

Instead of floating on top like conventional ATV tires, the tires dig deep to find traction where other tires can't.

The tires are 27 in. tall, increasing ground clearance 2 in. in most cases. The tires mount on low-profile 14-in. steel wheels that reduce sidewall flex for more stability with 3-pt. implements. The company also offers a high-lift kit that can add an additional 2 in. of ground clearance to most ATV's.



Lugged tires are said to give any 4-wheeler tractor-like traction.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, ATV Parts Depot, 1803 Sherwick, Manchester, Mo. 63011 (ph 800 945-1850; Web site: www.ATVpartsdepot.com; E-mail: ATVpartsdepot@mindspring.com).

Handi-Arm Extends Your Reach At Harvest Time

Unloading grain is much easier and safer with "The Handi-Arm," produced by Calmar Industries Ltd. in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This locking device for truck end gates eliminates the need for stretching over the top of the auger to open the door or control grain flow.

Using it is also easier on the back and it keeps operators out of the dust. When the gate is closed, a flag on the handle is visible from the rear-view mirror, telling the driver at a glance that the end gate is closed.

The unit bolts onto any sized steel or wood truck box. It's made from welded steel. The hinged area of the unit is adjustable so it can be moved from side to side and centered over the end gate chute on any width of box. It has set screws, which allow the tension to be adjusted so the handle can be left at any setting from fully closed to fully open.

A Manitoba farmer invented the device. He sold the marketing rights to Calmar In-



Locking device eliminates the need to stretch over top of auger to open door or control grain flow.

dustries Ltd.

The unit sells for \$119 U.S. plus \$10 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Galenzoski, Calmar Industries Ltd, 602B - 51st Street East, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 7K3 (ph 800 561-7867 or 306 975-1999; fax 306 975-7175; E-mail: calmar@calmarindustries.com; Website: www.calmarindustries.com).



Camoplast demonstrated its new tracks on a Deere 8400 at the Farm Progress Show.

New Tracks For Cat, Deere Tractors

A new rubber track designed for Cat and Deere tractors was on display at the recent Farm Progress Show near Amana, Iowa.

The tracks are made by Camoplast Traction Group of Plattsburgh, N.Y. The company says it has solved to problems that have plagued other track makers, with better traction and less compaction. The tracks are designed to fit Cat Challenger 35, 45, and 55 row crop tractors and Deere 8400T tractors.

"They've been used for two years in California where they've proven themselves," says Arthur Norton, director of marketing and sales. "Compared to other tracks, the guide

lugs are deeper and closer together which helps keep them from breaking and also keeps the tracks in alignment. The combination of the guide lug design, as well as our unique lug design on the outside of the tracks, results in less vibration, greater stability on side hills, resistance to cuts and chips, greater pull, and extended tread wear."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Camoplast Traction Group, 1 Martina Circle, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901 (ph 518 561-7528; fax 7651; E-mail: mkt_traction@camoplast.com; site: Website: www.camoplast.com).