



Photo shows monitor mounted inside a Deere 9500 combine.

“Reverse Image” Video Camera Makes It Easy To Back Up

“What makes our new video system unique is that it reverses the image so things look the way they really are. That makes it a lot more useful, especially when backing up,” says Tom Smith, A&T Enterprises, Sherwood, Mich.

The camera comes with a 5-in. black and white monitor and a wide variety of brackets and harnesses that allow it to be mounted on back of combines, tractors, grain carts, bale wagons, etc. A switch on the monitor reverses the image. Another unique feature is that the monitor can be used with two different cameras, allowing views of two different areas. The operator simply pushes a button to select the camera he wants to look at.

“It solves the problem of blind spots on tractors, combines, and other farm equipment,” says Smith. “A conventional monitor projects the object on the wrong side of the monitor which makes it difficult for the driver, particularly when backing up. We came up with the idea after we bought a Deere 9500 combine. We had a lot of problems backing it up because there’s a huge blind spot. Our Deere dealer said he had to replace the straw choppers on 10 different combines in just one year due to problems backing up.

Cut-Down Van Makes Great “Extended Cab” Pickup

The challenge of building something “different” led 18-year-old Sam Wilbert of Romulus, N.Y., to convert a 1983 Dodge Ram van into an extended cab pickup with a 6 1/2-ft. long bed and double doors out the back of the cab.

“It’s a real workhorse on the farm and is also fun to drive,” says Wilbert. “It has comfortable bucket seats in front and room for a bench seat behind them.”

Wilbert bought the 1/2-ton, rear wheel drive van from a neighbor for \$600. The van originally had been used by a phone company and had 87,000 miles on it. He cut off the back of the van, leaving 2-ft. high sides for the bed, and moved the rear doors for-

ward. He used part of the cut-off body tin to fill in the cab on the sides of the doors. He also welded some of the left-over material into the bed sides to reinforce them.

“It’s fun to drive and gets a lot of looks wherever I go,” says Wilbert. “When I drive it to my high school it definitely doesn’t look like all the other cars there. I’ve used it to haul feed and seed and even my brother’s garden tractor.

“The rig now weighs much less so it’s more fuel efficient than it was. The 6-cyl. gas engine has a lot of power and gets 18 to 20 mpg,” says Wilbert, who notes that he plans to add a tailgate onto the bed.

One camera and monitor sells for \$549. The second camera sells for \$199.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, A&T Enterprises, 733 Athens Rd., Sherwood, Mich. 49089 (ph 517 741-3208; fax 5051).

“Either camera can be switched to a normal or reverse image. There’s also a switch for ‘day or night’ contrast which makes headlights behind you show up better at night. An optional light kit can be used to illuminate an area behind the combine or wagon, etc., so that the camera can pick it up better at night.”

“Wiring two cameras into the same monitor can often be helpful. For example, one camera can be mounted on back of the combine to make it easier to back up, and the other on the combine’s unloading auger so that you can see how full the truck is. One farmer mounts a camera on each end of his 24-row corn planter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sam



Mower-mounted fan allows Hunsberger to clear a 20-ft. swath of leaves.

“Lazy Man’s” Way To Rake Leaves

“It rolls leaves up just like a carpet,” says Donald Hunsberger of Ulster, Pa., who mounted a big blower on an old mower deck to blow leaves into piles. No raking required.

“It covers a 20-ft. wide swath. You simply tip it forward to force the air down, then zig-zag to blow leaves,” says Hunsberger.

The blower is a 27-in. dia. wooden propeller off an old air boat. It’s driven by the air boat’s original 3 1/2 hp, 2-cycle gas engine

off a small air boat he had.

Hunsberger mounted the propeller on a 21-in. push mower deck he had around.

“The wheels on the mower deck make it easy to zigzag to clear leaves,” he says. “The only thing to remember is that you really have to hold on tight or it’ll take off on you.”

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Imhoff’s 45-ft. gate is powered by a 1/2 hp Craftsman garage door opener.

Garage Door Opener Used To Power Gate

When John Imhoff put a 45-ft. gate across a driveway at his bin site, he also decided to install an automatic gate opener that allows him to open and close the gate from his tractor or pickup cab.

The Roanoke, Ill., farmer, with the help of Dave and Ivan Kindig, used a 1/2 hp Craftsman garage door opener to power the gate.

The opener and other components are housed in a section of culvert about 5 ft. from the gate post. The culvert section bolts to concrete and is fitted with a lid to protect the components from the elements.

“We had to use a series of reduction gears and a gearbox to get everything operating at the proper speed,” says Imhoff.

The garage door opener and gear reductions operate a hinged, 12-ft. long arm built out of angle iron that attaches at one end to the opening mechanism and at the other to the gate itself.

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Wilbert’s pickup was converted from a 1983 Dodge Ram van. He cut off the back of the van and left 2-ft. high sides for the bed. He reinforced the bed sides and filled in the back of the cab with left over material.

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