



"It lets me adjust the angle of disk's rear gangs automatically on-the-go," says Glenn Buck about the hydraulic-powered conversion he made on his 14 1/2-ft. disk.

## Hydraulic-Operated "Adjuster" Changes Angle Of Rear Disk Gangs On-The-Go

Glenn Buck of Vanceboro, N.C., owns a Taylor Way 14 1/2-ft. disk originally equipped with a manually-operated slide, designed to adjust the angle of the disk's two rear gangs. To make the job easier, he replaced the manually-operated slide with a home-built one powered by tractor hydraulics.

"It lets me adjust the angle of the rear gangs automatically on-the-go according to field conditions so we're able to do a better job with less effort," says Buck.

The disk's two rear gangs are each supported by a separate toolbar. The manually-operated slide was mounted on a length of steel beam that ran down the center of the disk. Buck removed the slide and made a new one out of two 3/4-in. thick, 16-in. sq. steel plates that bolt above and below the beam and attach to the end of each toolbar. A hydraulic cylinder anchored to the top of the beam moves the gangs back and forth as needed.

"It's a neat setup that really works well," says Glenn. "I use two remote valves on my tractor to operate the disk - one to raise or



**Hydraulic cylinder, attached to sliding bracket and anchored to top of beam, moves disk's two rear gangs back and forth as needed.**

lower it and the other to adjust the angle of the rear disk gangs. The bolts act like bearings and allow the gangs to slide forward or backward on the tubing. I've also made brackets for other farmers who have other disk brands."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glenn Buck, 405 Gray Rd., Vanceboro, N.C. 28586 (ph 252 244-2938).



**Molt builds his own low-cost fish traps by converting 5-gal. plastic buckets into pointed traps that direct fish into larger wooden traps.**

## Low-Cost Fish Trap Made From 5-Gal. Plastic Bucket

Lowell Molt, Mt. Pulaski, Ill., is a part-time commercial fisherman who does his fishing in the Mississippi River. He builds his own low-cost fish traps by converting 5-gal. plastic buckets into pointed traps that hook onto wooden traps.

Molt first cuts the plastic to create what looks like a large king's crown. Then he threads a cord through the points about half way up, allowing him to gather the points into a cone with a 2-in. dia. opening for the fish

to swim into. The trap is then attached to a larger opening on the wooden trap. The river current keeps the trap open. Fish then swim into the trap but can't get out because of the points. Sometimes the traps are baited.

The wooden traps are anchored to hold them in position.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lowell Molt, 704 S. Marion, Mt. Pulaski, Ill. 62548 (ph 217 792-5256).

## "Try Plastic Twine Before Paying Big Baler Repair Bill"

The above statement is just one of the suggestions you'll get from the "Knotter Resurrector," one of the most knowledgeable baler knotter repair experts you'll ever find.

The Knotter Resurrector, based in Prairie Farm, Wis., has spent the past 20 summers doing hardly anything else but repairing and rebuilding knotters on all makes of square balers, from the oldest to the newest. (For personal reasons, he prefers to keep his real name out of this story).

"Knotters on different brands of balers work differently but the first thing to look at when they fail is the twine," he says. "If people would switch to plastic twine instead of sisal, their knotters, no matter how old or worn, will work better."

The reason is that plastic is more uniform in size and strength and, it's not as abrasive as natural fibers. Also, it doesn't shed little fibers that can get into the working mechanisms and clog them or prevent them from operating properly.

"It doesn't matter what make or model of baler you're using, plastic twine seems to make the knotters on them all work better," says the Knotter Resurrector.

If changing to plastic twine doesn't sufficiently improve knotter performance, then you have two choices. The first is to tear the tying mechanisms apart and repair them yourself. The second is to call in an expert.

The Knotter Resurrector didn't set out to become a knotter expert. But he had an old baler he wanted to use, and couldn't get it to tie. "I called in the dealer and his knotter repair man. They worked and worked at it, but didn't really seem to know what needed to be done. All they were doing was reading a repair manual and guessing at what to do. I could have read the same manual and had about the same odds of fixing the problem.

It was like a shot in the dark, and I had to pay for the ammunition."

So he started reading manuals and tearing apart both working and non-working knotters, measuring them with precision tools, making comparisons, and writing down his findings. Then he started rebuilding non-working knotters to dimensions and tolerances he found on new parts. In most cases, he was able to make worn-out knotters work like new again. In some cases, after welding and resizing shafts or gears, he was able to make them work better than new.

Now after more than 20 years of repairing knotters, the Knotter Resurrector has begun putting his acquired knowledge on paper. He plans to have a book printed later this year. He'll include pictures and drawings showing what perfect knotters look like for most brands of balers, where to look for wear, and how to rebuild worn parts. If there's enough interest, he'll publish periodic updates as he learns more about new styles of knotters being used on small and large square balers.

"I've limited my service area to Wisconsin and a little bit of Minnesota. But over the years, I've gotten calls — pleas — from frustrated baler operators all around the U.S. and even some in Canada. The geography of the problem is far bigger than I can cover. I get calls from 4 to 5 times as many people as I can get to just in this area alone. So I've decided to spend some time putting this book together in the hope that people in other areas will learn enough to do what I've been doing," he says.

Write or call if you're interested in his book or need help in repairing your baler knotters.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Baler Knotter Resurrections, P.O. Box 77, Prairie Farm, Wis. 54762 (ph 715 455-1399).



**Jim Cook, Zearing, Iowa, used the frame and axles off an old mobile home to build his high-capacity hay hauler. He uses a Chevy 1-ton dually pickup to pull it.**

## 300-Bale Over-The-Road Trailer Made Out Of Mobile Home Chassis

"It makes a low-cost, high-capacity hay hauler that runs good on the highway," says Jim Cook, Zearing, Iowa, who used the frame and axles off an old mobile home to build a pickup-pulled trailer that can haul up to 300 small square bales at highway speeds.

Cook bought the mobile home frame and axles at a consignment sale for \$100. The original frame was only 6 ft. wide. He welded channel iron cross members onto the frame and welded heavy angle irons onto both sides of the cross members to make the rig 8 ft.

wide. He then mounted wooden planks across the cross members to make the floor. A bumper hitch mounts on front.

"We sell hay and straw as far as 40 miles away so it has saved us a lot of time and money by reducing the number of trips we make," says Cook. "We use a Chevy 1-ton dually pickup to pull it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Cook, 10201 710<sup>th</sup> Ave., Zearing, Iowa 50278 (ph 641 487-7505).