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Two-stage mast can be used to stack square bales up to 14 ft. high.

Swather Forklift Makes Great Bale Handling Rig

"I like the maneuverability and the up-front visibility," says Robert Sallee, Coffeyville, Kansas, who converted a Versatile 400 swather to handle both small square bales and big round bales.

Sallee mounted a forklift mast on the swather. He can fit it with either a 10-bale Farmhand bale grabber or a 48-in. long bale spear. He also bought a pair of used forks for the mast. "I can quickly convert from handling small square bales to big round bales, or just use the rig as a conventional forklift," he says.

He had to build a frame to mount the two-stage forklift on the swather. He also narrowed the front axle width from 10 1/2 ft. down to 7 ft., and replaced the single rear

wheel with a home-built 2-wheeled walking axle. He added 900 lbs. of weights inside the swather's rear bumper to counterbalance the weight of bales.

He made a bracket for the grabber to fit onto the mast just like the forks do. He also made a bracket to accept a 48-in. bale spear.

"I use the hay grabber to pick up 10 bales at a time and carry them into the barn. I had been using the grabber on a tractor front-end loader, but I didn't like it because I had to slip the clutch a lot in order to position the load. Also, the bales were too far out in front and I couldn't lift them as high as I wanted. The swather's hydrostatic drive eliminates the need to constantly shift gears and it'll turn around in its tracks. The machine is only 20

ft. long from the nose of grabber to the back end of the swather.

"I chose the Versatile swather because it seemed the simplest to convert. The hydraulic pump system on the machine proved adequate for all the added cylinders. All I had to furnish were control valves, hoses, and a cylinder to oscillate the bale grabber."

All hydraulic controls including the up and down tilt, movement of the bale hooks, and side movement are hand-controlled using four levers. All ground movement, including steering, is controlled by foot pedals.

"I made a pair of levers that can be inserted into sockets on the side of the foot pedals so that I can use my hands to control movement if I want," says Sallee. "This gives me more

precise control when loading the machine onto a trailer and also lets me rest my feet when going down the road.

"The bale grabber mounts on a 2-in. dia. pivot pin so it will swing to either side. That way I can drive up to a hay pile without being perfectly lined up and I can slam the bales over tight against the pile when unloading. I can store bales a lot tighter together than I could if I did the job by hand. The two-stage mast will stack square bales 14 ft. high and the spear will raise the center of a round bale 15 ft. high."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert D. Sallee, Rt. 1, Box 296A, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 (ph 316 251-3463).

Clear Film Kits Protect Paint On Cars, Pickups

Stick this clear film on your cars and trucks, and you won't have to worry about chips or nicks any more, says 3M about its "Scotchcal" transparent film.

In addition to rocks and other flying debris, the film also protects your finish against bugs, acids and normal weathering.

The film was originally designed by 3M engineers to protect the leading edges of aircraft propellers and rotor blades from rock chips. The material is about 99.5 percent clear so on any color darker than stark white, you can't see the film.

The film is applied like window tint, using a special wet solution that you apply to the vehicle and the film. Then you "squeegee" it into place.

Kits are cut to the dimensions of each vehicle. The film needs no special care, will not yellow, shrink or peel, and won't damage the paint if removed.

A wide variety of kits are available to cover hoods, fenders, mirrors, grilles, and bumpers. Each kit is guaranteed for four years and comes with a \$1,000 paint protection guarantee. A hood and fender kit for a 1999 to

2001 Ford Cobra, for example, sells for \$89.95. A bumper kit for the same car sells for \$149.95.

Headlight protection kits are also available. The headlight protection film is five times thicker than standard paint protection film. According to the company, headlights fitted with the protective covers will sustain impacts from stones up to 1 in. in dia. at speeds exceeding 120 mph with no damage. The company offers a \$1,000 headlight replacement guarantee. The headlight protection film sells for \$15 per foot.



Transparent protective film is virtually invisible once installed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reflex Enterprises, 10414 Gulfdale, San Antonio, Texas 78216 (ph 800 447-9928; Website: www.xpel.com).

Front-End Loaders For Garden Tractors, ATV's

"It's a material transport bucket for the common man with a common yard, a common tractor, and mostly a common wallet," says John Scheele, Milwaukee, Wis., about his company's new front-end loaders for Bolens and Simplicity garden tractors.

The Johnny Bucket comes in two versions, the Jr. and Sr. The Sr. is designed for Bolens large frame garden tractors with up to 23 hp and operates off the tractor hydraulics. It measures 48 in. wide and 11 in. deep and has a lift height of 10 in. Lift capacity is 400 to 500 lbs.

The Jr. is designed for Bolens and Simplicity garden tractors with 8 to 20 hp and is operated by pulling a dump trip cord. To reset the bucket, a second cord is pulled to relatch the bucket. The Jr. comes in 3 and 4-ft. widths depending on whether it's used on a garden tractor or ATV.

Both units pin onto the tractor or ATV frame using existing attachment mounts.

When in the dump position, the bucket has position limit locks to allow pushing, leveling, backfilling, and scraping.

"I call it a material transport bucket. It can't lift as high as a front-end loader, but most



Bucket pins onto tractor frame using existing attachment mounts.

homeowners don't need to load material into a truck or a trailer," says Scheele. "They usually just have the material dumped in their yard and then use their garden tractor or ATV to move it around. However, by driving up a ramp you can get high enough to dump the material into a garden cart. It works great for moving mulch, dirt, or gravel or for hauling sod or boulders or logs. It takes only a few minutes to install, so you can use your tractor to do other jobs such as mowing your lawn."

The Johnny Bucket comes painted in red, satin black, green, orange, or yellow. The Jr. model sells for \$439 and the Sr. model for



Johnny Bucket Jr. is designed for Simplicity and Bolens garden tractors with 8 to 20 hp. It's operated by pulling a dump trip cord.

\$1,000. Scheele says he also plans to soon offer models designed for other garden tractor brands, as well as a model for ATV's that will be raised or lowered by the ATV's electric winch.

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