

## Updated Farmall "M" "Runs Better Than Ever"

Farmall "M's" are now pretty much just a collector's item that sits in a shed. But for Robert Dunton, Topeka, Ill., his "M" is much more.

Over the years, he's made many modifications to his 1950 tractor to keep it modern so it would fit into his large farming operation.

"I use it on my farm almost every day to operate grain augers, move wagons, and do many other chores. It's a good little tractor and the changes I made make it work even better," says Dunton.

Dunton bought the tractor used in the early 1970's for \$1,000. He replaced the original narrow front axle with a wide front and mounted a homemade fold-up hitch on it. "The wide front axle allowed me to use the tractor with a grain drill to plant double crop 10-in. soybeans into wheat. The hitch also lets me tow the tractor behind my pickup between bin sites," says Dunton.

Another update was the addition of live hydraulics, consisting of a pump that's gear-driven off the tractor engine. The pump is used to raise or lower a commercial 3-pt. hitch that he added. "The tractor originally had one-way hydraulics. I needed two-way hydraulics in order to operate a cylinder that raises and lowers the drill," says Dunton. "We also use a 3-pt. mounted Bush Hog mower along irrigation lanes and roadways."

To make it easier to get on and off the tractor, he bolted an 18 by 24-in. steel grate platform above the axle on each side of the seat. "The platforms provide much safer footing than standing on the axle itself," notes Dunton.



Dunton added a hydraulic pump that's gear-driven off the tractor engine. Pump is used to raise or lower the commercial 3-pt. hitch, which he also added.

He also made an extension for the tractor's foot-operated clutch and extended the throttle lever. "It lets me operate the clutch and throttle without having to climb up onto the tractor," says Dunton.

An adapter on the pto spline allows him to push in the clutch and operate the mower even when the tractor has stopped.

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Schlegel used one 15-gal. plastic barrel and two 55-gal. barrels to make this sheep feeder.

He cut the bottom off one of the 55-gal. barrels to use for a lid.

## Do-It-Yourself Plastic Feeders

Plastic barrels can be used to make "almost free" feeders for all kinds of livestock.

"I used one 15-gal. plastic barrel and two 55-gal. barrels to make a sheep feeder. First I took the 15-gal. barrel and cut the top off. Then I cut V-shaped notches, spaced evenly around the bottom and also cut the top and bottom off one of the 55-gal. barrels. I put the barrel top facing the ground and put the bottom on top of it, which raised the feeder up a bit. The pieces of the feeder are attached

together with nuts and bolts.

"Then I cut the bottom off the other 55 gal. barrel and used it for the lid on top. I attached a 2 by 4 under the lid to hold it in place.

"This was a great way to use up old barrels and they really make good feeders that are virtually indestructible."

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"Woodie" panels are made from a special composite that has the look of real wood.

## Panel Kit Makes Pickup Look Like A "Woodie"

You can give your pickup the look of an old "Woodie" wagon with this new panel kit, says Blackhawk Mfg. Bloomington, Calif.

The kit consists of panels made from a special composite that has the look of real wood. The panels are sculpted to fit the body contour lines and install with 3-M acrylic foam tape.

"We're developing panel kits for a wide variety of vehicles including pickups, sports utility vehicles, the PT Cruiser, Volkswagen Bug, etc.," says Chuck Williams. "The

standard kit comes with light oak. A deluxe kit and optional two-piece hood trim kit are also available."

The cost to customize an entire vehicle with a standard kit and hood kit runs from \$950 to \$1,499, depending on the vehicle.

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John Hanson made his own scraper blades out of a plastic 55-gal. barrel and mounted them on both sides of the baler pickup.

## Baler-Mounted "Scraper Blades"

"My Deere 535 round baler has a narrow pickup which sometimes makes it hard to get the entire windrow. I solved the problem by making my own scraper blades out of a plastic 55-gal. barrel and mounting them on both sides of the pickup," says John Hanson, Kaycee, Wyoming.

Hanson cut a pair of 1 1/2 by 2-ft. curved sections out of the barrel. Carriage bolts were used to attach the sections to metal plates already on the baler. The scraper blades rub against the bottom part of the stubble, gathering any hay that would otherwise escape between the gathering wheels and the pickup and feeding it into the baler.

A 6-in. wide, 1-ft. long strip of plastic bolts to the bottom edge of each curved section. When it wears out, a new strip of plastic can be bolted onto it.

"The scraper blades work somewhat like road grader blades, windrowing hay back into the pickup," says Hanson. "The problem is that the Deere 535's pickup is so steep that in certain conditions the crop tends to just roll ahead of it. It's an especially bad problem with hay grown in high elevations, where the hay is often short. It tends to roll ahead of

the pickup for a while and then gets kicked off to the sides. The scraper blades bring that hay back in. They help even in heavy crops.

"The scraper blades also keep the wind from blowing hay away from the baler. As a result, I can now bale in higher winds than I could before."

When making the blades, Hanson heats up the plastic and then uses strap iron to shape the plastic to the desired form as it cools.

In addition to the scrapers, Hanson replaced the original pickup tines with longer ones and bent the tips slightly forward.

"The extra-long tines just touch the ground and catch more of the hay before it has a chance to start rolling ahead of the baler," he notes.

He also added Deere net wrap. "It keeps hay from falling under the baler as it ties the bales and also during the bale ejection process. It also reduces my baling time by half, and the bales keep much better," notes John.

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