

# Handy Attachments For Skid Steers & Backhoes

## Barrel Handler Attachment

John Imhoft, Roanoke, Ill., needed a way to dump waste oil into his waste oil furnace out of 55-gal. barrels. He bought a commercial barrel handler and welded it onto a steel frame that slides onto his forklift.

"It allows us to put barrels exactly where we want them," says Imhoft.

The barrel pivots. By pulling a pin and grabbing a handle, the barrel can be locked into the desired position. When the barrel is lifted up, you pull the pin and turn the barrel to dump.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John



**Skid loader-mounted barrel is free to pivot.**

Imhoft, Rt. 2, Box 52, Roanoke, Ill. 61561 (ph 309 923-7345).

## Bulk Bean Bag Handler

John Imhoft wanted to use his forklift to lift big bags of beans high enough to clear the wagon he uses to fill his planter. He also wanted a scaffold that he could use to do work around his farm. He solved both problems by building a bean bag handler.

"It's a multiple purpose unit that comes in handy for various jobs," says Imhoft.

The 10-ft. long, 4-ft. wide handler has four hooks welded onto the bottom side of it that lift bags into wagons.

"I used 1-in. sq. tubing to make the frame and plywood to make the scaffold floor. A guard rail around the top is made from pipe," says Imhoft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John



**Bean bag handler has four hooks welded onto bottom side to lift bags into wagons. It also doubles as a scaffold.**

Imhoft, Rt. 2, Box 52, Roanoke, Ill. 61561 (ph 309 923-7345).

## Backhoe Bucket Cleans Itself

Buckets on conventional backhoes can easily get clogged up with mud or clay that sticks to the inside of the bucket. A new skid loader-mounted bucket continually cleans itself to solve the problem, says inventor Owen Vaaler, Spring Grove, Minn.

Vaaler's new "Skidigger" bucket is hinged to a boom that extends inside the bucket. When the bucket cylinder rotates the bucket 180 degrees to dump, a paddle at the end of the boom scrapes out the inside of the bucket.

"It's a handy, inexpensive backhoe that works great for small jobs such as making trenches for pipes and lines, digging footings and small drainage ditches, planting trees, etc.," says Vaaler, noting that you can drop down a hinged plate on the bucket to turn it into a mini-dozer for backfilling.

Two bucket sizes are available - 8-in. for trenches and 16-in. for larger excavations.



**Boom extends inside bucket and has a paddle at the end of it that scrapes out inside of bucket.**

The buckets are interchangeable.

A Skidigger with an 8-in. bucket sells for \$1,100 F.O.B.; with a 16-in. bucket, \$1,250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vaaler Co., Box 117, Spring Grove, Minn. 55974 (ph 507 498-5577).

## "Forklift Cage" Carries Compressor

When Art Leefer, Carlinville, Ill., bought a big 8 hp, electric start air compressor last year, he needed a way to move it with his forklift so he could operate air tools outside his shop. So he mounted the compressor, and the battery that's used to start it, inside a big, homemade steel cage equipped with slots for forklift tines.

"It makes it easy to haul the compressor directly to other buildings on my farm, or I can slide it on back of my pickup and take it out to the field," says Leefer. "I bought the compressor from a tire company that went out of business. The compressor had originally been mounted on a truck and bolted to a 3/8-in. thick steel plate. I used light gauge, 1 3/4-in. dia. pipe that I already had to build the cage. It measures 3 ft. wide, 5 ft. long, and 4 ft. high. A pair of channel irons mount lengthwise under the floor for the forklift tines.

"The compressor and cage together weigh about 600 lbs., but, if necessary, two men can move it around by hand for short distances on the shop's concrete floor."



**Big compressor and battery mount inside homemade steel cage that's equipped with slots for forklift tines.**

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Art Leefer, 21490 Cascade Rd., Carlinville, Ill. 62626 (ph 217 854-3720).

## Pivoting Backhoe Boom

This new skid loader-mounted backhoe has a boom equipped with an adjustable pivot point, allowing you to dig right alongside foundations and then dump dirt several feet off to the side.

The Boomer Hydra-Swing is equipped with two cylinders - one that operates the bucket and the other that swings the pivoting boom up to 45 degrees to the side. By changing the position of a pin, the boom can be attached to one side of the mounting plate or in the middle.

"It allows you to set in one spot and work without having to skid the loader over to the side all the time to dump," says inventor Randy Lackender. "The boom is equipped with electric-over-hydraulic controls, which allows the use of both cylinders from one auxiliary valve on the skid loader."

The boom is available with 8, 12, 16 and 20-in. buckets. A boom equipped with a 12-in. bucket sells for \$2,650.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lackender Fabrications, 4661 Dane Rd. SW, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (ph 800 498-8032 or



**You can dig right alongside foundations with this new skid loader-mounted backhoe, which has a unique pivoting boom.**

319 338-4114; E-mail: lackfab@msn.com; Website: www.lackender-fab.com).

## "Made It Myself" Electric Tractor

Steve Heckerth believes we need to change our ideas on what a tractor should look like. And how it should be powered.

What Heckerth believes should power most tractors, especially utility and small field tractors, is electricity.

Heckerth, of Albion, California, has been making and testing electric tractors for more than a decade. Much of his work is posted at his Website: [www.renewables.com](http://www.renewables.com).

His latest tractor has two 5 hp electric wheel motors, which gives the tractor the same tractive power as a 30 hp tractor. A separate electric motor for the pto can be added. It also has front and rear Cat. I three-point hitches. Each hitch is raised by two 750-lb. capacity linear actuators, giving it a maximum lift of 1,500 lbs.

It has 11 by 24-in. traction wheels and 5 1/2

by 16-in. steering wheels. Wheelbase is adjustable, from 110 in. to 128 in., and track width can be adjusted from 48 to 72 in. Even when fully extended and widened, the electric power steering gives the tractor a zero turning radius. Ground clearance is 20 in.

The seat can be faced forward or turned to the rear. The seat can also be positioned close to the ground.

The tractor's electric motors and actuators are powered by an on-board 10-kilowatt/hour-battery pack, which Heckerth says is sufficient for all-day light-duty applications such as planting and harvesting. A full charge will power the tractor and pto driven 48-in. mower for about two hours, or a loader or forklift for about three hours. He recommends an additional exchangeable 10 kWh battery pack mounted on the front 3-pt. hitch for field

operations like four hours of plowing (with a single-bottom plow) or two hours of operating a 48-in. roto-tiller. It will pull a 2-row cultivator for about 4 hours.

Heckerth has developed a photovoltaic shade canopy to help keep the batteries charged while shading the operator. His electric tractor can be made from modular components and many parts are readily available from the electric forklift industry.

Heckerth is not able to answer individual requests for information or plans for his tractor, but he'd like to hear from companies interested in his design.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Heckerth, Homestead Enterprises, Box 151, Albion, Calif. 65410 (E-mail: [tractor@renewables.com](mailto:tractor@renewables.com); Website: [www.renewables.com](http://www.renewables.com)).



**Photovoltaic shade canopy keeps the batteries charged and the operator cool.**