



Old Oliver Combine Makes Low-Cost Crop Sprayer

Roland Beckmeyer, Hoyleton, Ill., turned an old 1954 Oliver 40 combine into a self-propelled sprayer equipped with a 38-ft. boom that offers great visibility and didn't cost much to build.

Beckmeyer stripped away everything but the 49 hp 6-cyl. gas engine, frame, and axles. The combine didn't have a cab. He mounted a 400-gal. fiberglass tank on the frame and replaced the header with a 3-section boom.

"I use it for preemergence application of herbicides. It works great," says Beckmeyer, who built his combine sprayer about 20 years ago. "The transmission has six speeds in forward and two in reverse. I usually spray in fifth gear at about 5 mph. On a good day I can spray 18 acres an hour. The 400-gal. fiberglass tank is mounted on the chassis which gives me a smooth, stable ride. It was relatively easy to convert the combine into a sprayer because I didn't have to

move the engine and only had to modify the spray boom slightly so it attached to the combine."

The tank rests in a cradle that's bolted onto the frame. Beckmeyer built a wooden platform to stand on while filling the tank. The centrifugal sprayer pump is mounted on the frame in front and powered by a drive pulley off the threshing mechanism. The boom is raised and lowered from the cab by the feederhouse hydraulic cylinders. It's hinged in two places and can be manually folded against the sides of the combine. Nozzles are spaced 20 in. apart and mounted on a hose running the length of the boom and 2 in. under it. Beckmeyer folds the two outside boom sections back and pins them. Tire chains mounted on the ends of the boom serve as markers.

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Nifty Land Leveler

After clearing trees and brush off some newly purchased land with a bulldozer, Arkansas farmer Jerry Spears had to come up with a way to level off the ground to get it ready for planting. He came up with a nifty land leveler made out of an old disk dragging three large combine drive tires.

"We were having trouble leveling the land with conventional tillage equipment but didn't want to spend a lot of money on a new piece of equipment. I came up with the idea of cutting the gangs off an old 14-ft. disk and modifying the lift mechanism so the frame of the implement would drag

along the ground yet raise up out of the way when tree limbs or stumps got caught in it, or to move dirt from one spot to another. Tractor hydraulics raise the rig off the ground as needed," says Spears.

He drags three old combine tires behind the rig to help level. "They do a great job. We went over the new ground twice and it did an outstanding job getting it ready for planting."

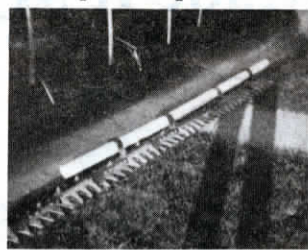
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PVC "Bean Catcher" Stops Crop Loss

"Works good and it's cheap," says Paul Pence, Columbus, Ohio, about the "bean catcher" he mounted on his Deere 6620 combine's header platform.

Pence wanted to stop soybeans from rolling off the front of the 16-ft. wide platform during harvest. He noticed that most beans were lost at the center of the header where auger fingers feed crop material into combine. So he attached a 6-ft. length of 1 1/2-in. dia. PVC pipe to the platform, positioned just behind the cutterbar.

"I used round plastic pipe because it was easy to install, with a few metal brackets, and cost very little. It blocks beans that roll forward, holding them there until they're pulled back into the



combine or until the header is raised and they roll back," says Pence. "I think it saves as much as 2 percent of the total crop under some conditions."

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"Easy Rider" Motorcycle Chore Cart

A Nebraska farmer who got tired of climbing on and off his tractor to do chores built his own "easy rider" motorcycle chore cart for less than \$100.

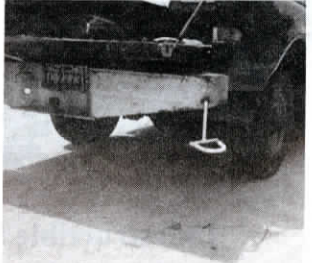
Dallas Gutzmann, Pierce, Neb., welded the front wheel and forks off an old Honda motorcycle to the rear axle and tires from a junked Chevrolet Vega car, then mounted a 4-ft. sq., 1-ft. high wooden dump box on back. The cart is powered by a 10 hp Tecumseh electric start engine salvaged from an old lawn mower.

"It's easy to get on and off because the cart's steel mesh platform is only 8 in. off the ground," says Gutzmann. "I use it to haul fencing tools as well as leaves and trash. It drives like a golf cart, with forward and reverse on the same pedal. I push the pedal down to go forward and take my foot off to stop. The more I push

down the faster I go. I can also speed it up or slow it down by using the motorcycle's spring-loaded hand throttle. The variable speed hydrostatic transmission has three speed ranges. The engine drives a hydrostatic pump that powers the car's 3-speed transmission. Top speed is about 10 mph. The box, which is equipped with a removable endgate, can be manually tilted to dump materials out."

Gutzmann mounted the engine under the seat which he salvaged from an old school bus. A 2-in. sq. steel tube serves as a frame and is welded between the front wheel forks and car axle. He paid \$20 for the motorcycle.

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Simple Pickup "Accessories"

Here are two simple ideas that make life easier for Georgia farmer Robert Hood.

Boot Puller - "It was such a strain on my back to pull off my overboots that I came up with this idea," says Hood, who simply bent a length of steel rod into a "U" shape and welded it to the back of a short piece of angle iron. He tack-welded the puller to the running board of his pickup so he could easily slip his boots off before climbing inside. "You could mount it anywhere around the farm," he notes.

Bumper Step-Up - "My Ford F-250/3

4 ton 4-WD pickup is quite a bit higher off the ground than a regular pickup so it's hard to step up onto the tailgate from the ground. This step makes it easy," says Hood. He made the rounded step out of steel rod and welded it to the end of a rod that hangs from a hole in the bumper. When not in use, the step slides back into the bumper out of the way.

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