Made It Myself

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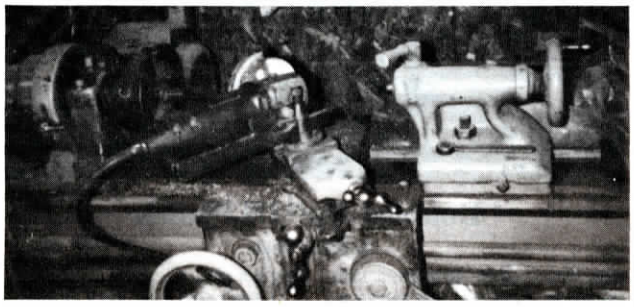


Hand Grinder Used On Metal Lathe

"It's a great way to rebuild worn shafts," says Clifford LaGesse, Bloomer, Wis., who rigged up a jig to mount his hand-held grinder on his metal lathe in place of a conventional die.

"We got the idea as a way to repair shafts that have worn down due to a failed bearing. It seems like we're always repairing shafts on augers, blowers and other equipment. In the past we built the worn area back up by brazing it and then used the lathe to smooth out the worn spot. By using the grinder in place of a conventional die, we can weld up the worn areas and grind them back down smooth making a repair that lasts much longer," explains LaGesse.

To mount the grinder on the lathe, LaGesse bolted it to a 5/16 by 1 1/2-in. wide steel bar which simply mounts in place of the die on the machine. He says he can control the grinder with as much accuracy as a die and it can be quickly removed for other use. He completes each shaft repair job with a hand-held file.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clifford LaGesse, Rt. 1, Box 104, Bloomer, Wis. 54724 (ph 715 237-2224).

"Clear View" Deere Cab

"I made it using metal from the shipping crates the tractor was shipped in," says retired farmer Louis Kadlec, Pisek, N.D., who made a cab for his snowblower-equipped Deere 314 garden tractor.

He welded the metal strips together to form the frame. The frame was then covered with sheets of clear plastic, fastened to the frame with large washers and screws. The roof is made from 1/2-in. external plywood. Canvas covers the hand controls and foot pedals.

"The cab, which fastens to the tractor with three bolts and two quick clips, swings up out of the way to service the engine by simply removing one bolt, the two quick clips, and a spring that holds the canvas in place. One man can easily tip the cab up on the two rear hinges that

attach to the rear support bracket," says Kadlec.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Louis J. Kadlec, Box 7, Pisek, N. Dak. 58273.

Press Wheel Bearing Repair Kit

"When a press wheel bearing fails on a Deere or Kinze planter, the press wheel stops turning, tearing open the seed slot and throwing out the seed making immediate replacement necessary," says David Bishop, Atlanta, Ill., who's come up with a repair kit that makes bearing replacement a simple task that takes 2 to 3 min. in the field.

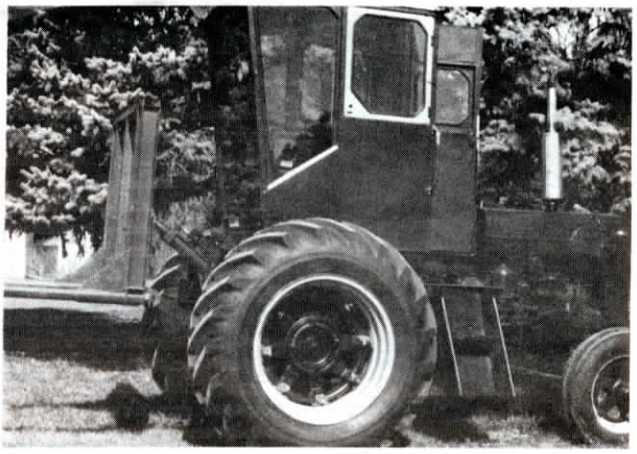
Bishop says he used to spend more time finding the tools he needed when a bearing went out than he did replacing it. Then, as often as not, the press wheel would break when he tried to take it off with a hammer.

The kit consists of four pieces: a hammer, removing wedge, combination tool (roll-pin punch, 3/8-in. socket, and pry tool), and a retaining strap that holds the four pieces, which fit together as a single

unit for storage. The biggest piece of the kit, the removing wedge, is 15 in. long.

Bishop is considering manufacturing the kit if there's enough interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David A. Bishop, Rt. 2, Box 160, Atlanta, Ill. 61723 (ph 217 648-2915 or 648-5027).



"Reversed Tractor" Great For Heavy 3-Pt. Work

"I used a junked 1956 International 450 diesel tractor and the cab, platform and controls from a 1960's International 181 combine to make a great 'reverse' tractor," says John Wythe, Miniota, Manitoba.

Wythe built his own 3-pt. hitch for the tractor which he uses to blow snow and haul big round bales. He also built a 3-pt. lift boom which he uses to hoist engines, tractor tires, and other heavy loads. He paid $300 for the tractor and $400 for the combine.

"I built this tractor because I was getting a bad neck from always looking back at the 3-pt. hitch on my conventional tractor," says Wythe. "This tractor's 3-pt. hitch is right in front of me, and the combine cab's full-length windshield gives me a perfect view of it. Another problem with my conventional tractor was that backward travel speed was restricted to the reverse speed of the tractor. In most cases, I had only one speed to work in. I rebuilt the transmission on this tractor so I have ten gears in the reverse direction.

"The big rear tires don't sink into soft ground like small front tires do when using a front-end loader. And it's easier to steer because the weight's over the drive wheels. I selected the International 450 tractor because it has live pto to operate the snowblower and a torque amplifier to provide a gear reduction in every gear."

Wythe dismantled the tractor and turned the crown gear over to the opposite side to provide five forward gears in reverse (10 with the torque amplifier).

Next, he installed the combine's cab, mounting it at three points to allow quick removal for repair of the rear end and transmission. Controls that came with the cab included the clutch, brake pedals, power steering, steering wheel, seat, instruments, wiring harness, and two hydraulic control valves, one double-acting, one single-acting. Wythe uses the single-acting control valve to operate the 3-pt. hitch and the double-acting valve to operate the bale fork and lift boom attachments. Wythe removed the combine's header lift to build the tractor's 3-pt. hitch, using the original jackshaft, arms and linkage, and hydraulic cylinders. He used the tractor's drawbar to build the 3-pt. hitch draft arms, welding socket balls purchased at a tractor supply store onto the ends of the arms. Two single-acting cylinders lift the 3-pt. hitch. A double-acting cylinder replaces the top link on the 3-pt. hitch and lets Wythe tilt the bale fork or snowblower.

"The 3-pt. hitch is designed to raise round bales 30 in. high so I can lift bales onto my trailer. The hydraulic cylinder which replaces the 3-pt. hitch's top link lets me tip the points on the bale fork up or down. It also gives the snowblower more bite and is useful for the boom lift," says Wythe, who uses the electric header lift from an old Massey combine to turn the snowblower spout left or right.

Wythe replaced the cab's side door with a steel panel and added a rear door. He plans to add a windshield wiper and a heater to the cab.

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Fold-Up Sprayer "Stepladder"

A sprayer "stepladder" made from 2 by 2-in. box tubing and expanded metal lets Dean Scheel, Dysart, Iowa, fill the 400-gal. tank on his sprayer easily and safely.

The top step of the 3-ft. long ladder is welded to the sprayer's rear frame. To fold the ladder, Scheel simply lifts the ladder for transport and a spring-loaded pin snaps into place. To lower the ladder, he pulls the pin out and the steps drop down automatically.

The stepladder was built by neighbor Mike Grace of Elberon, Iowa.

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