

“Skins” Customize Satellite Dish

Now there's a way to turn your satellite dish into a conversation piece. The product is called “DishSkinz.”

The covers fit snugly over small satellite dishes. Whether it's your favorite NFL team logo, a “smiley face,” a U.S. or Canadian flag, a golf ball on a tee, or the illusion of a colorful ball of rubber bands, the covers brighten up and add interest to your otherwise mundane dish.

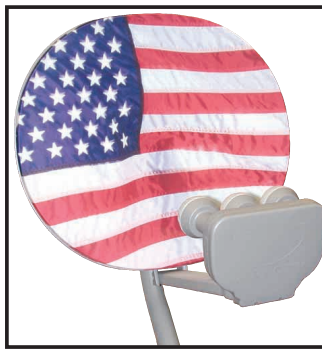
They consist of a thin piece of clear pvc plastic, with the image embedded in the backside so it never deteriorates from weather because it's protected by the pvc,” says Del Jose of Skyvision, the exclusive national distributor of DishSkinz products.

There are more than 40 designs. Some are available in three different sizes: 18-in. round, 20-in. elliptical and 23-in. round, while others are available only in the smallest size.

“The covers are easy to install, and because they're molded to fit the size of the dish, condensation won't build up to impact the signal,” Jose says. “We use a special foam adhesive to hold the covers on securely.”

DishSkinz are the only hard shell covers on the market, and are made in Canada.

Retail price for all models is \$39.95 (S&H included for the 48 continental U.S. states.



“DishSkinz” covers fit snugly over small satellite dishes. They're made from clear plastic, with an embedded image.

The company also offers custom designs for fund-raisers or company promotions (minimum order of 250 required).

Skyvision welcomes dealer inquiries. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DishSkinz Sales and Distribution, 1010 Frontier Drive, Fergus Falls, Minn. 56537 (ph 800 500-9275 or 218 739-5231; fax 218 739-4879; sales@skyvision.com; www.dishskinz.com).



Mike Hermanson says his 12-row strip-till machine produces beautiful 10-in. deep by 10-in. wide zones, and also applies fertilizer in a single pass.

Strip-Till Machine Made From Grain Cart and Planter Bar

After searching for three years at trade shows, on implement dealer lots and over the internet for usable parts, Mike Hermanson found the components he needed to build a rugged, high performing strip-till machine. The Story City, Iowa farmer used tool bars from a corn planter, the frame from a grain cart, custom built Soil Warrior™ row units from Environmental Tillage Systems and fertilizer components from Montag Manufacturing.

The result is a slick and sturdy ‘made-it-myself’ machine that breezes through 20-in. rows of standing cornstalks or bean stubble at 7 to 8 mph. His 12-row machine produces beautiful 10-in. deep by 10-in. wide zones and applies fertilizer in a single pass. Even more impressive to Hermanson is the fact that his homemade rig worked in all types of soil and weather conditions during the fall of 2006.

“I've been wanting to use strip tillage for several years,” says Hermanson, “but I was never satisfied that the machines out there would work in tough conditions. Last summer I watched the Soil Warrior row units with 28-in. deep tillage coulters work on a demo machine in standing corn stalks and heavy sod and figured they would work for me.”

Hermanson ordered 12 Soil Warrior row units for early fall delivery. His idea for a caddy started with an old grain cart. With the tank, hydraulics and pto mechanism removed, the 4 by 8-in. box beam frame with 30.5 by 32 tires provided a strong foundation. He added an 8-in. I beam on each side and across the center for additional support. The 20-ft. wide bar to hold the row units was made from two 7-in. sq. tool bars from an old planter that were welded together with 9 inch spacers. About 3,000 pounds of angle iron were put inside the bars for extra ballast. This double strength bar was mated into

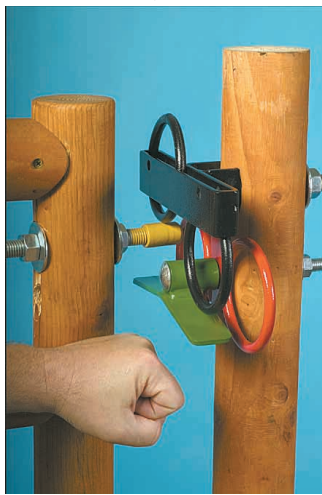
two sets of lift arms with four 4 inch and two 5 inch cylinders for raising and lowering.

The Soil Warrior row units easily mounted on the back bar and the entire mechanism can be tilted forward or back to create greater down pressure, or raised 4 ft. in the air for lubrication and maintenance. Pneumatic springs on each row unit are pressurized by an air compressor that's powered by a hydraulic motor. Pressure can be regulated from 0 to 60 lbs. at the tractor to maintain a constant depth on the row units.

Hermanson purchased a 6-ton dry fertilizer tank from Montag Manufacturing and mounted it on the main cart frame. The tank has a fan-powered distribution system that blows fertilizer behind the deep tillage coulters on each of the 12 row units. The entire rig weighs about 10 tons empty and carries 6 tons of fertilizer.

“I was real pleased with the results on stalks and stubble this fall,” says Hermanson. Even with the 28-in. Soil Warrior coulters penetrating 10 in., his 9400T Deere with Auto Steer was pulling the machine between 7 and 8 mph. In the spring, Hermanson will make a shallow tillage pass over the same zones with a triple coulters system and plant. “I don't see any reason why this won't work,” says Hermanson, “and the best part yet is that fuel and time costs are less than stalk chopping and chisel plowing in the fall, followed by field cultivating in the spring.”

For more information: Mike Hermanson, 12342 Hillcrest Drive, Story City, Iowa (ph 515 733-4582); Soil Warrior Environmental Tillage Systems, 16936 Cannon City Blvd., Faribault, Minn. 55021 (ph 507 332-2231; www.soilwarrior.com); or Montag Manufacturing, 4335 56th Ave., West Bend, Iowa 50597 (ph 515 887-6723; www.montagmfg.com).



When lever is pressed down (left), one ring is lifted out of the way. When lever is released, gate begins to open.

User-Friendly Gate Latch Offers Easier Access

A new gate latch that was designed for people with disabilities will be appreciated by anyone who frequently goes in and out of gates.

Scott Groenier of the Missoula Technology and Development Center in Montana, and Loyd Beaver from Hamilton Hinge Company in Corvallis, Montana, say their “Accessible Ring Latch” will also be particularly useful to recreationists, including anyone mounted on horseback.

Groenier's position with the federal government meant he was called upon to try and develop a mechanism to meet accessibility requirements on public lands.

The resulting latch can be opened or closed with one fist or even an elbow, needs less than 5 lbs. of force to work, and doesn't require the operator to twist the wrist or pinch or grasp the controls.

A key feature of the latch is its metal “guard rings,” which discourage horses from playing with the device. It's stock-resistant, but not completely stock-proof. The latch must be mounted between 15 and 48 in. above the ground and the reach cannot be obstructed.

This mechanism is a modified version of one that Hamilton Hinge Company was already manufacturing. It now allows one-hand

operation.

There are two different models of the modified latch. One of them has one set of ring guards to prevent injury from the sharper-edged lever. The other has two sets of guard rings, so a horse's nose can't get through and open the gate. Both latches have a hole above the ring that allows a pin or lock to be inserted that will make the latch stock-proof.

Horseback riders with pointed cowboy boots can fit their toe between the rings and push down to open the gate. The stirrup and latch are approximately the same height. To close the gate latch, you can just kick the gate shut and it's self-latching.

The special latches sell wholesale for \$55 and \$65, respectively. The company's standard Ring Latch, which is not quite as accessible to those with disabilities, retail for \$25, and a load-bearing version of it is \$34.

Useful for all types of fencing Photos and a video of latch operation can be viewed at Missoula Technology and Development Center's website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hamilton Hinge Company, 486 Hamilton Heights Rd., Corvallis, Montana 59828 (ph 406 961-4086; www.fs.fed.us/eng/t-d.php).



A 6-ton dry fertilizer tank from Montag Mfg. mounts on cart frame. Tank's fan-powered distribution system blows fertilizer behind deep till coulters on row units.