Wheel-Mounted Tire Pressure Gauge

You can check the pressure in your tires any time you want if you install this new permanently mounted gauge right on the wheel.

The Tire Minder pressure gauge system is designed for big farm equipment such as tractors, air seeder carts, grain carts, floatation vehicles and self-propelled sprayers. It mounts permanently on the wheel and displays visual tire inflation pressure to anyone walking by. There are models for single, dual or triple tires.

The gauge block, which includes a pressure gauge and valve for each tire, bolts onto the wheel rim over the tire's original valve stem. A stainless steel hose connects the gauge block to the valve stem(s) on each tire. A patent pending valve prevents low pressure gauge damage from the incoming high pressure of an air compressor.

"It makes keeping the proper air pressure a far easier job. It also reduces tire servicing time by up to 90 percent because you can inflate from a single point," says Jon Casner, Inflation Solutions, New Carlisle, Ohio. "It really shines with dual or triple wheels because you're able to check multiple tires from one location."

Because you can see the pressure on any tire any time you're walking by, you're far more likely to check the pressure regularly, says Casner. "You can add or remove air on any tire and see the results instantly. And you can watch the rate of deflation on tires with slow leaks, instead of guessing when to add air by how the tire looks."

The system also makes it easier to avoid under or overinflating the tires, which maximizes the tire's life, he says. "Keeping the proper pressure decreases rolling resistance and results in decreased fuel consumption. A properly inflated tire will wear more evenly, have better flotation for less soil compaction, ride better, and develop the greatest drawbar pull/equipment weight."

He says overinflating a tractor's drive tires by 6 psi can cost $400 in wasted fuel across 1,000 acres of hard tillage, based on $2.50 per gal. diesel fuel. "That's because the tire has a smaller contact area with the ground, which results in more tire slip and higher fuel consumption," says Casner.

Underinflation is also a problem, says Casner. "Underinflation results in too much flexing of the tire, which will result in higher fuel consumption and tire casing damage that may take several years to show up."

Mounting brackets are available for many different applications, including large bore stems on flotation tires.

"If you're working in mud we've taken many steps to protect the Tire Minder, says Casner. "The brackets are bolted down front and back so they can't be torn off, and in the case of dual or triple wheels the hoses are routed close to the axle for increased mud clearance."

He says Tire Minders aren't designed for wheels using liquid ballast.

The Single Tire Minder sells for $90 plus S&H. The Dual Tire Minder sells for $150 plus S&H.

Tire Minders fit single, dual and triple wheels. Photo shows a 2-gauge unit for duals.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Inflation Solutions, 8730 Bellefontaine Rd., New Carlisle, Ohio 45344 (ph 740 407-3769; jc@inflationsolutions.com; www.inflationsolutions.com).

Service Restores Old Stave Silos

Falls Silo Service fixes stave silos better than new and guarantees its work for 10 years. The company does everything from relining silos with an air proof, acid resistant epoxy to rebuilding foundations and replacing staves. They also straighten leaning silos and replace doors, fill pipes, chutes and roofs - everything needed to renew an old silo. Though based in Wisconsin, the firm has done work all over the country.

"A silo is only as good as the footing it stands on," says Leroy McNamara, who owns the business with his father Glen. "I talk to farmers every month who tell me about silos in their area falling over. We dig around the old footing and take out corroded parts, knock out every other stave and pour a new footing and floor."

Inside the silo, McNamara and his crew set up a scaffold and do a complete retrofit. The first step is a high-pressure wash at 3,500 to 4,000 psi. This knocks loose any rotten feed, deteriorating plaster and other debris.

"All the joints that opened up during the pressure wash have to be filled with a cement mix," says McNamara. "An additive helps with acid resistance. The next day we hand roll epoxy the walls with a 1 1/4-in. nap roller. The epoxy soaks into the wall and rewelds all the cracks and joints. The silo is then acid resistant, and freezing to the walls will be eliminated."

If a silo owner suspects his silo needs work, McNamara suggests he line up a silo repair service like his to examine the silo in the spring when it's empty. If needed repairs are minor, the owner may be able to handle them on his own.

"Look for deteriorated concrete around the foundation," he advises. "The condition of the staves is critical to the structure. Bottom deteriorating staves are often the culprits in silo tipping."

After checking the foundation and lower staves, McNamara suggests examining the silo unloader cable and winch. Check the outside ladder to be sure it's not loose or shaky. He recommends adding a safety cage around outside ladders if one was not installed originally.

"Check doors and latches as well as the chute," he says. "Are the steps loose, latches missing or bolts pulling through the old doors?"

"The average silo repair runs $4,000 to $5,000," he says. "Once it's epoxy-sealed, you eliminate spoilage and freezing and improve feed quality."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Falls Silo Service, 12964 E. Mail Rd., Gordon, Wis. 54838 (ph 715 376-4436).

Jason Tobin designed this skid loader-mounted blade for pushing, dragging, cutting and leveling work. "The blade can be tilted and rotated to any angle you want," he says.

Tobin Flip Blade Grades, Digs, Maintains

The Tobin Skidsteer Flip Blade flips 180 degrees so it can push, drag, cut and level like nothing else on the market.

"You can tilt and rotate it to any angle you want," says Jason Tobin, inventor of the skidsteer blade. "It does anything a maintainer does, but you can also dig out a 4 1/2-ft. ditch with it."

The Maryville, Mo., contractor came up with the design for snow removal. He wanted a blade that he could push forward and drag backward on driveways. After making careful measurements for pivot points and building a working model, he built his first prototype. The blade worked so well, he decided to build a heavier version for terrace and ditch work. He recently started having his patented blade manufactured.

The 1,200-lb. blade is made to quickly attach to skidsteers and comes complete with hydraulic hoses and wiring.

"It's heavily built and set up for skidsteers," he explains. "It works nice on track machines, but also works with tire machines."

Customers like it because the Tobin Blade works well in tight areas. It's a flexible machine that gets into many more positions than 6-way blades.

"I encourage people to check out the video on my website to see just how versatile the blade is," Tobin says. One of its unique features is that it can run flat on the ground.

Landscapers like the blade because they can get right up to a building and drag or push. It can compact the ground, and has a 1-ft. bolt pattern to attach any maintainer cutting edge.

"One guy is using the blade to set up a laser system and drag backwards. It gives him good visibility," Tobin says.

He sells blades through his website. Prices start at $5,850, set up for the customer's machine. The Tobin Blade comes in 7 and 8-ft. models.

Tobin notes he uses his blade around the farm for everything from cleaning terraces to clearing brush to separating debris from dirt. He is willing to work with customers who want to set it up on tractor loaders and 3 pt. hitches.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tobin Blade, 504 S. Fillmore, Maryville, Mo. 64468 (ph 660 582-5115; www.tobinblade.embarqspace.com).

Hydrogen Heater "Burns" Water

A new space heater generates hydrogen gas and then burns it to provide heat. Our question when we saw it: Can volatile hydrogen gas actually be used inside a home?

"This thing can't start a fire," says Arthur Gertken, inventor and marketer of the "Heat Your Home With Water" unit. "It only holds a gallon of water and burns gas as produced."

Gertken makes the units out of aluminum, but claims to have initially made them safely out of wood. It uses off-the-shelf components that can easily be replaced.

The heater consists of the electrolysis unit, a burner, and a fan for heat distribution. Gertken says it can produce 135° heat using 600 watts of electricity and distribute it at 125 cu. ft. per min. He has used two of the units to replace three 4,000-watt standard electric heaters in his 1,700 sq. ft. home.

To start the unit, Gertken switches on the electricity, opens the top of the 8 in. wide, 21 in. tall and 22 in. long box, and lights the pilot light. As hydrogen is generated, heat is produced and a thermostat starts the fan. It's a process that needs to be carefully monitored.

Gertken admits that if the pilot light wasn't lit after the electrolysis started, gas could accumulate in the box. If it was accidentally ignited, the gas would go whoosh, and you might have singed eyebrows," says Gertken. "But it would be hard to do this."

Gertken hydrogen heater generates hydrogen gas and then burns it to provide heat.

In development for years, the basic 600-watt heater is priced at $1,495 and is available in aluminum, white and wood grain. He also sells a book describing how to build a heater.

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