

# Made It Myself

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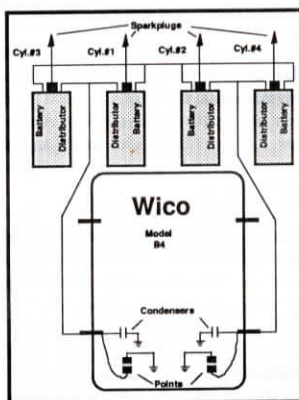


## Four Junked Car Coils Replace Expensive Part On Deere Tractor

"The engine runs and starts much better than it ever did before," says Richard Nelson, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., who replaced the original coil on the 4-cyl. "pony motor" on his 1953 Deere 70 diesel tractor with four coils from junked Chrysler automobiles. The pony motor is a small V-4 gas engine used to start the tractor's 2-cyl. diesel engine.

"My Deere dealer wanted \$226 for a new coil. I picked up the old car coils from my local junkyard for \$5 apiece," says Nelson, who simply wired the four coils to the existing Wico "distributor", using existing points and condensers. "The only modification I made to the Chrysler coils was to remove the dropping resistors. (Chrysler used 6-volt coils on its cars until it switched to electronic ignition, so dropping resistors were fitted to the coils to drop voltage from 12 volts to 6. Since the Deere tractor has a 6-volt system, the resistors weren't needed for the conversion.)"

"Two coils fire together, one on the compression stroke on one cylinder and one on the exhaust stroke on the other cylinder. When the opposite cylinder comes up on compression, the process is the opposite," explains Nelson, who's an aircraft mechanic and a part time farmer. He simply mounted the 4 coils on a strip of 3/16-in. thick, 1-in. wide flat stock. Then he wired the coils to the points, battery and spark plugs. "The original Wico coil is a double wound coil that fires off each end so it's like 4 coils in one. So



I really didn't modify the system. It still works the same except that I'm using 4 separate coils. The benefit is that these four coils have a lot more power so the engine starts and runs better. That's because each of these coils originally ran an 8 or 6 cylinder engine but now each coil fires just one cylinder."

Nelson says the idea would also probably work on Deere 720 diesels because they're also fitted with the gas powered starting motor. "Parts are getting harder and harder to find for these older tractors so everyone's looking for ways to make do with other parts."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard F. Nelson, 4985 West Pickard Rd., Mt. Pleasant, Mich. 48858 (ph 517 773-2369).

## Slick Way To Sort Hogs

"I operate a hog and grain operation by myself and needed a way to sort hogs that wouldn't take up a lot of my time," says Kirk Deardorff, Hale, Mo., who came up with a simple one-way gate that lets hogs sort themselves while he's off doing other chores.

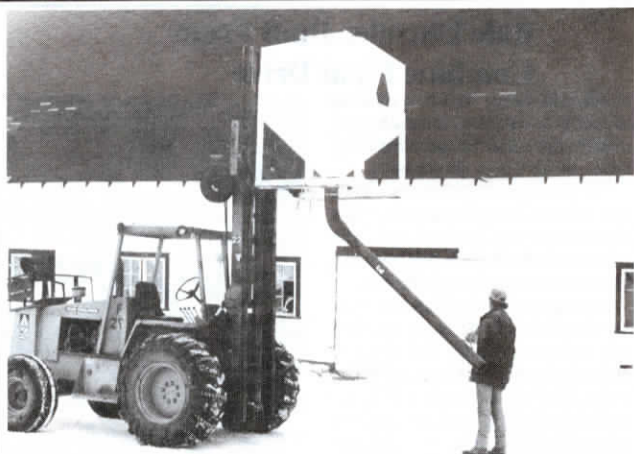
Hogs are sorted by shoulder width. They're given the run of two pens with the sorter installed between. The 10-in. space between the two uprights is sized so that hogs over 235 lbs. can't fit through.

"It took a lot of trial and error to come up with a design that would eliminate the problem of catching heads as hogs passed through and that would keep small hogs from figuring out how to get back through. Hogs quickly find the sorter when it's installed in the divider wall or gate between two pens. In due time, only hogs 230 lbs. and up will be left in the first pen," says Deardorff, who made the sorter out of angle iron, pipe, angled sheet metal



and two large metal hinges. He notes that you could size the uprights to sort hogs of any size. He's willing to sell plans for the sorter if there's enough interest.

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## Bulk Tank Makes Filling Planter Easy

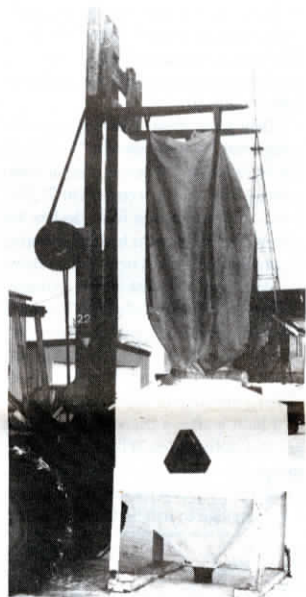
Minnesota farmer Harlan Anderson says his bulk seed hopper makes filling planters and drills easy and fast.

"We've used 50 cu. ft. bulk seed bags for about 10 years but we could never find a good way to get seed from the bags to the planter. Most of the gadgets we came up with resulted in lost time and seed on the ground.

"Finally, we came up with the idea of making a metal hopper that we could load direct from seed bags. We fitted the hopper with 34 by 8-in. pieces of sq. tubing so we can handle it with our forklift (we bought our forklift 14 years ago and wouldn't farm without it). You could also mount the tank on a front end loader.

"A slide gate at the bottom of the hopper controls flow of seed. A flexible funnel attaches beneath the slide gate and feeds into a 'trombone style' PVC pipe that loads seed into planter hoppers. The operator starts and stops the flow of seed by pulling on ropes attached to either side of the slide gate at the bottom of the hopper.

"This system requires no augers or motors to handle seed, all the way from the seed plant to the planter. Bulk bags are cheap and reusable and the savings of bulk seed compared to bagged seed is considerable. Our hopper holds about 50 cu. ft. Once a day we fill the hopper from a gravity box or seed bag. We can carry more than one hopper to the field at a time since they'll stand side by side on a truck or trailer bed. We sell the hoppers for \$795 each.



"These hoppers have worked so well for us we intend to make similar units to handle dry fertilizer. In the off season, we use them to fill livestock feeders and to handle minor ingredients that we mix into our TMR mixer for our dairy herd."

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## Dual Wheeled Wheelbarrow

Wheelbarrows don't get much safer or easier to handle than the modified one put together by Don Vandermeer, Lake Odessa, Mich.

Vandermeer fitted his standard single-wheeled wheelbarrow with dual wheels off an old feed cart by bolting the front frame to the top of a gearbox housing between the wheels. The two large wheels are fitted with good bearings so they roll easily and they give the wheelbarrow much more stability which is helpful when Vandermeer's young son Paul hauls silage to heifers. Lets him easily handle a much heavier load than he would otherwise.

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