

## Broadcast Seeder Made From Scrap

Jeff Hoard needed a broadcast seeder so he made a spinner/seeder from salvaged material and strapped it to the front bumper of his pickup truck. He uses it to overseed a 30-acre pasture with camelina seed, all from the comfort of his truck.

"The only time I had problems with it plugging up was when I was seeding in a snowstorm, and the seed got wet," says Hoard. "Now I only seed in dry weather. The spinner/seeder puts out a nice spray of seed about 10 ft. wide."

Hoard literally made the entire device from scrap, including the frame from which everything hangs, the seed bag, and the spinner/propeller.

The frame was fabricated from various pieces of 1/2-in. steel pipe and a piece of angle iron. The angle iron bolts to the front bumper of the truck. The pipe extends out and up from the angle iron and has assorted stubs for anchoring seeder components.

The seed bag is a vinyl-coated, nylon weave material that Hoard's wife sewed to a point. It hangs from a flange at the top of the pipe frame. A 2-in. piece of copper tubing extends out of the bottom of the bag and is secured to it with a small hose clamp. The copper tubing is also anchored to the pipe frame for added stability.

Clear poly hose runs from the copper tubing to the spinner, which is a plastic propeller mounted in the bottom of a coffee can and powered by an old 12-volt fan motor. The fan motor, which was salvaged from an old car heater, mounts below the coffee can and, like the coffee can, is anchored to the pipe frame.

"The seed bag is thin enough and marked so I can see how many acres worth of seed are in the bag when I drive into the sun," says Hoard. "The clear plastic tubing lets me see if the seed is flowing to the spinner."

The tubing end is anchored to a stub of the frame that extends out and just above the coffee can. A small flap just below the end of the poly tubing is hinged to the pipe stub. When tipped upward, it blocks the flow of seed from the tube into a hole in the lid of the coffee can. A small steel cable salvaged from a bike brake runs to the hood where it attaches to the end of a screen door spring. The spring is in turn attached to a length of poly twine that runs back to the driver's side door and ends in an S-hook.

"I operate the flap by pulling on the wire and hooking it to the bottom arm of the mirror," says Hoard. "The spring gives enough added tension that I can open my door enough to get out when I need to refill the seed bag without releasing seed from the tube. To start the flow of seed again, I just reposition the S-hook to release the flap and the seed."

The coffee can has a hole cut in one side to ensure seeds are only flung to the front and not back into the radiator. The spinner is cut out of heavy plastic (about the thickness of a bucket lid).

"I curved the blades of the spinner to keep seed impact to a minimum," says Hoard. "The spinner is just a smidgeon out of balance, which provides a minute vibration and keeps the seed flowing."

Hoard used a length of extension cord to provide power to the fan motor. It runs under



Jeff Hoard made a broadcast spinner/seeder from a large coffee can and other scrap materials and then strapped it on front of his pickup.

the hood to the cab ending in a couple of quick connects. To turn on the spinner for seeding, Hoard disconnects the truck's heater fan and connects the spinner motor. This allows him to control the seeder using heater controls in the cab.

"The seeder works great and didn't cost me anything," says Hoard.

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Plastic propeller mounts at bottom of coffee can and is powered by a 12-volt fan motor mounted below.

## Tree Puller Also Removes Roots And Stumps

You can remove trees, roots, and stumps with this new tree puller from Precision Mfg., Sedalia, Mo.

The tree puller is equipped with double rows of teeth that form jaws. When both rows of teeth are closed they form spade points that can be used to dig out roots and loosen the soil, allowing you to remove the entire tree. A "root ripper" located on top of the blade can also be used to cut roots when digging.

"Using two rows of teeth results in increased pulling power compared to other brands with just a single row of teeth. As a result, the tree is far less likely to slip through," says owner Bill Reed. "The unit can also be used to remove posts and stakes or even to move large rocks and boulders."

Two models are available: Model 515 has a 12-in. opening between the jaws and retails for \$2,695; model 525 has a 14-in. opening and retails for \$3,295. Hydraulic hoses are included in the price; quick-tach mounting brackets are sold separately.

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**Tree puller is equipped with double rows of teeth that form jaws. When both rows of teeth are closed they form spade points that can be used to dig out roots.**



## Loader-Mounted 3-Pt. Hitch

"I use my Kubota loader tractor a lot to load 3-pt. implements onto my gooseneck trailer by myself. The tractor is equipped with a skid steer-style loader attachment. However, I got tired of having to get on and off the tractor all the time to hook chains onto the equipment. So I bought a Cat. I, 3-pt. quick hitch from Harbor Freight and converted it into a skid steer-style attachment. Now I can hook up an implement and load it without ever having to get off the tractor," says Steven Rios, Corpus Christi, Texas.

He welded two lengths of 4-in. wide, 3/8-in. thick steel plate on back of the Harbor Freight quick hitch to form mounting brackets. He also added a 2 5/16-in. ball on top of the hitch so he can move the gooseneck trailer around with his loader.

"It works great and was well worth the money," says Rios. "I pre-cut the steel plate myself and took everything else to a local welder."

"I looked into buying a 3-pt. quick-connect attachment that I could connect to the tractor's skid steer-style loader attachment, but they cost \$600 to \$1,000 depending on the size and brand. I spent a total of less than \$200. I bought the Harbor Freight quick hitch on sale for \$89. I paid about \$50 for the steel plate, \$10 for the 2 5/16-in. ball. The welder charged me \$50."

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Steven Rios converted a Cat. I, 3-pt. quick hitch into this skid steer-style attachment. "It lets me hook up an implement and load it without having to get off the tractor," he says.