



“Plug-Proof” MudSmith Gauge Wheels

The open design of MudSmith replacement gauge wheels keeps planters and air drills going in conditions where the original wheels would likely plug up with wet soil. South Dakota farmers Duane Smith, his brother Roger, and nephew Jacob came up with the original design and tested it out for several years before selling some to neighbors. Now they're marketing them for practically every brand in the field.

“We were under our corn planters and drills hundreds of times taking gauge wheels off and cleaning them out when we needed to be planting,” recalls Duane Smith. “When conditions are bad, you have to do it again and again.”

Smith points out that earlier planting dates and reduced tillage have added to the



Open spoke design of new replacement gauge wheels keeps them free of mud.

problem. Their new design with its open spokes dramatically reduces the problem. It also opens up both access and visibility to

disc opener hubs and scrapers.

“We’ve been running them on our own equipment for a few years,” he says. “We were surprised how well they worked. We’ve had no more issues with plugging. They’re a huge improvement over the original equipment. We designed them so you can use standard bearings and tires from your dealer.”

The MudSmith units feature a cast iron hub and simplified bearing replacement. Smith notes that original equipment gauge wheels require removing the tires, splitting the rim, and removing bolts to get at the bearing.

“With the MudSmith, you just remove the snap ring and replace the bearing,” says Smith. “We didn’t intend to sell them when we first made them for ourselves, but the response has been terrific.”

MudSmith gauge wheels are available in 3-spoke/4-in. tire, 3-spoke/2 1/2-in. tire, and 4-spoke/4-in. tire. Prices start at \$125 for the hub and rim assembly. The completely assembled wheel ready to bolt on the planter is priced at \$165. Special through Dec. 31, 2010, 3 percent cash discount.

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Reader Inquiry No. 73



He Makes Money Selling Wood Processor Plans On eBay

High school ag teacher Daniel Miller built a firewood processor that loads, cuts and splits firewood and then started selling do-it-yourself plans for the machine on eBay. So far he’s sent plans to people in 48 states and 11 countries.

“The idea was to build it out of basic parts that can be purchased anywhere,” Miller explains. He kept notes and took photos to record the building process and even incorporated it into a lesson for his students.

He sells his plans, which include 70 photos, for \$24.95 for a downloadable PDF file or \$32 for a CD. A sample of the plans is on Miller’s website. People who buy his plans often have their own ideas,

Miller notes, and use his plans as a base or comparison. He doubts that any two machines built from the plan are alike.

“It’s not a complicated machine at all,” he says, and he includes a “this is a homemade machine” disclaimer so people understand it won’t work like an expensive factory-made unit. The plans come with digital photos and step-by-step instructions.

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Reader Inquiry No. 74

“Winchless” Log Arch Uses Tongue To Lift



Innovative log arch pins to tractor drawbar and uses its own tongue to lift front end of log off the ground.

Miller built the arch out of 2-in. sq. tubing, 2-in. flat iron and wheels from an old baler.



Plans for Miller’s “no hydraulics”, “non-electric” log arch sell for \$9.50 for a downloadable pdf or \$16.95 for a mailed out CD at www.millerswoodcutting.com.

Reader Inquiry No. 75