

## “Tyler The Plow Guy” Can Fix Your Old Moldboards

Ask Tyler Buchheit any question about a vintage Deere moldboard plow and chances are he'll have an answer. Even though Buchheit is only in his mid 30's, he knows exactly what he's talking about.

“I got started in the plow parts business a couple years ago because I couldn't find the parts I needed to restore an old moldboard plow,” says Tyler. “I'd gone to shows, friends, dealers, and the internet but there just didn't seem to be any one place that had what I needed.”

That seemed like an opportunity for the energetic Buchheit, who launched “The Plow Guy” website, aimed at providing assistance and parts for people restoring vintage Deere plows. His focus is on Deere plows mainly because he has become an expert on that brand, although he admits to learning new information every day. Tyler says it's possible to get some parts from Deere dealers, but finding a parts counter guy who knows vintage plows is rare. “I've had several people tell me they sought help from their dealer, only to get that ‘deer in the headlights’ look when asking about shares and landsides.

“This started as a hobby and has turned into something much larger. There's just a huge number of people who search to find parts on the internet.” Buchheit's site features a good assortment of original and reproduction parts, along with a large collection of vintage pictures to help people identify the plow they own.

Buchheit launched the website initially by

offering a 17-in. notched couler blade that fits nearly every Deere plow made from 1936 through the 1970's. His reproduction blade will fit a 3 or 6-hole bolt pattern and sells for \$35. Other items include a notched trash board, moldboard extensions that fit most Deere plows from the mid-1930's through the 1970's, and conventional plow bottom parts, commonly known as Blacksmith Bottoms.

“I get requests for new moldboards and shares for conventional plows very often,” Tyler says. “I have some new old stock and some reproduction parts, but mostly I suggest that people switch their plow over to newer style HS or NU series plow bottoms if function is their main priority. That way they'll always be able to find replacement parts.” A few other products he lists include an optional landside root cutter for \$30; reproduction cast “tear drop” landsides; a rolling landside mudscraper that fits a 52 series, a 4 through 4A and 4B series, and the M/MT plows with a small rear wheel; 15-in. plain edge blades and transport pins for hydraulic lift trailer plows. Shares, trash/weed hooks, clutch assemblies and some operator's manuals are also available.

“From the calls I get it seems like people have restored one or two tractors and now they want something else to do with them besides drive in fairs and shows,” Tyler says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tyler Buchheit, The Plow Guy, Ellis Grove, Ill. (ph 573 768-4092; tyler@mrtractors.com; www.mrtractors.com).

## “Rubber Paint” Seals, Repairs And Protects

Paul Citoli likes to think of RubberizeIt™ as duct tape in a can. There seems to be no end to the uses customers come up with for the coating that repairs leaks, prevents rotting and corrosion, and adheres to most construction materials. It's durable enough to prevent leaking in the cooling towers of Japanese nuclear power plants, yet non-toxic for use on fish ponds and horse tanks.

It's unlike other coatings on the market because of two characteristics.

“It has an emulsion base and neoprene that makes it highly elastic,” Citoli says. “It's also UV-stable and will hold up for 20 years.”

He initially worked with the Canadian company that developed and manufactured RubberizeIt for industrial uses to protect steel from corrosion. Citoli recognized broader applications and started RubberizeIt LLC, in Hood River, Ore., to sell it in 1 and 5-gal. containers.

“It's a product that is especially useful on a farm,” he says. “I have a 55-gal. drum in the barn and have used it to fix a metal roof and duck pond liner. I used it to patch an old steel water tank to make a raised bed veggie garden. And I used it to coat the inside of a horse stall.”

The black coating is the consistency of yogurt and can be painted on with a brush or roller to about the thickness of a credit card. It dries enough in about half an hour to be protected from rain and takes about 4 days to vulcanize. For some uses 2 or 3 coats build up a membrane.

“The key is to make sure the surface is clean and to let it dry,” Citoli says.



RubberizeIt works great to coat the bottom of fence posts to protect the wood from rotting.

Use it to coat the bottom of fence posts and on raised garden beds to protect the wood from rotting. Patch small to large holes in water troughs by painting RubberizeIt over reinforced fabric or galvanized steel mesh. Apply it to metal joints on tractors and equipment to protect them from corrosion if the paint chips off.

Including shipping, the cost of RubberizeIt is \$75 for a 1-gal. can and \$250 for a 5-gal. can (up to 140 sq. ft. coverage on a smooth surface).

The products can be purchased through the website and dealers. Check out the user-friendly website, Citoli says, to find the wide variety of uses.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, RubberizeIt LLC, P.O. Box 642, Mosier, Ore. 97040 (ph 855 782-2374; www.rubberizeit.com).

## “Do Everything” Welding Helmet

Michael Buckman's WindMaker is a welding helmet that keeps you cool, lights up your work area, and even blows away dust and smoke. It may look like something out of a Star Wars movie, but Buckman says it would also be at home in a hog barn, grain bin or woodworking shop.

“I had a lot of jobs welding in very contaminated, enclosed areas like the holds of ships,” recalls Buckman. “Sometimes I would have to have someone holding a flashlight so I could see to weld.”

Buckman designed the WindMaker to make welding and other dirty jobs safer and easier. The concept is simple. The WindMaker pulls air from the rear through a HEPA-rated (high-efficiency particulate air) filter and directs it forward for breathing. As it moves, it cools the skin and prevents the breath from fogging the faceplate. A second fan near the chin pushes out stale air.

He teamed up with Salient Technologies, a product design firm, to make a prototype from his plans. Salient helps companies and inventors with concept development, prototypes, and production design.

The team engineered a virtual prototype using computer imaging and design. Using what they learned, they constructed a fully functional proof-of-concept prototype, complete with battery-powered filtered ventilation, auto-dimming screen, LED illumination and an exhaust system that the user can direct at the workspace, keeping fumes and smoke out of their field of view.

Buckman says the WindMaker is very adaptable. “We have designed it to use interchangeable lenses so it could be used when mowing lawns, working in a wood shop or cleaning out a grain bin or silo,” he says. “We can use Bluetooth to connect with your cell phone. Just open the cell phone to activate and talk. It's also video camera



WindMaker welding helmet pulls air from the rear through a filter and directs it forward for breathing. A second fan near the chin pushes out stale air.

capable with its own data storage.”

Buckman says the U.S. Navy is interested in the WindMaker for the ability to capture video of welds for later reference. He suggests that future adaptations could include computer screen-like lenses that let the welder see the plans for the weld on his lens as he works. Other plans include using photovoltaic cells to capture light from welding flashes to increase battery life.

The helmet is now in prototype stage and Buckman is deciding whether to license the WindMaker or sell the patent outright to a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Michael Buckman, Universal Healthier Helmets (buckmanresearch49@yahoo.com); or Salient Technologies, Inc., 3701 Trakker Trail, Unit 2A, Bozeman, Mont. 59718 (ph 406 585-7275; www.salient-tech.com).

## Underpowered Bobcat Powered Up With Honda

Leonard Wulf's 1973 Model 371 Bobcat looks like new and runs better than new since he converted it to a 20 hp Honda V-Twin engine. The old 13 hp Kohler engine was underpowered to begin with and about shot by the time Wulf bought it. More than 30 years old, the Bobcat looked pretty rough, too.

“I know I paid too much for it when I bought it about 5 years ago,” says Wulf. “The carburetor was shot. It had a burned piston, and the valve case fuel pump was going out.”

With parts for old Kohlers difficult – if not impossible – to find, a new motor seemed like a good investment. Wulf uses the little skid steer on a daily basis since he swapped out engines.

“I use it in the woods, to haul rock and when I built a new building,” says Wulf. “It works well with the new engine. With the Honda in there, you can't stop it.”

Converting was relatively easy, he says. The V-Twin fit well, though Wulf did have to raise it up about an inch and a half so the belly of the engine had clearance. Unlike the Kohler, the Honda has its fuel tank under the belly of the engine. He also had to modify the 3 drive pulleys needed to match the 2-speed drive on the Bobcat.

The Honda driveshaft required narrower hubs than were commonly available on drive pulleys. Wulf had to find pulley blanks and hubs he could modify. They were hard to find.

“Everybody had cast iron pulleys, but I finally found some blanks that I could weld at Tractor Supply,” recalls Wulf. “I narrowed the hubs and welded the pulleys on. The hubs fit perfectly and matched up with the Bobcat drive pulleys.”



Leonard Wulf replaced the 13 hp Kohler engine on his 1973 Bobcat 371 skid loader with a 20 hp Honda V-Twin engine.

While he had the Bobcat apart, Wulf made some other changes. “I stripped it down completely, sandblasted it and repainted,” he says. “It was so old that it had no safety features. The first thing I did was add seat belts.”

The Honda required that he mount the key/start module in the operator compartment. He also connected the throttle linkage and choke levers, both off the shelf parts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Wulf, 53 E. Big Rock Rd., Waterloo, Iowa 50703 (ph 319 232-3919).