

McCormick Binders Repaired/Rebuilt

Whether you need a part or a total rebuild of a McCormick binder, General Repair is the place to go. John Fischer says the company has been repairing the old binders since it started as a farm repair shop in 1964.

"Back then, a local International implement dealer still carried most, if not all, parts for the McCormick binder," says Fischer. "At the time you could still get binders in good shape. Over the years as parts were discontinued, we began making them or finding those who could."

Today, General Repair has a complete list of parts available for the McCormick pto version, and most parts for the ground drive version. If they don't have a part, Fischer knows where to get them.

Some parts are used, but most of the more than 100 new parts are made by General Repair. That includes the entire knotter assembly with knotter frame, drive clutch for the ground drive, cutting knives, needle pitman and more.

"The knotter is probably the piece we work on the most," says Fischer. "We also make all the shields and binder boards."

In addition to making and selling parts, Fischer repairs binders. Increasingly, he gets asked to do a complete restoration. Pricing either a repair or a restoration is tricky without seeing the shape it is in, he says.

"Photos help along with the history of the binder," says Fischer. "If you find one that sat in a fence row for 25 years and the board is rotted off, very likely the gear parts will still be solid. Restoring it will take a lot of elbow grease and new boards."

Fischer has shipped parts as far south as Texas. While he doesn't advertise much beyond the state of Pennsylvania, customers are spreading the word on the internet and person to person. FARM SHOW reader LeRoy Baumgardner wanted other readers to know about the service provided.

"They completely rebuilt my binder with



Knottter frame and components are just some of the many replacement parts General Repair makes for McCormick binders.

new sprockets, chains, cutter sections and other parts that were worn out," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, General Repair Shop, 63 Old Leacock Rd., Ronks, Penn. 17572 (ph 717 768-3902).

Reader Inquiry No. 07

Carbide-Tipped Chain Saw Chains

Equip your chain saw with a carbide-tipped chain and it'll stay sharp up to 15 to 25 times longer than a conventional chain in tough cutting conditions, says Rick Fowler, Rapco Industries, Inc., Vancouver, Wash.

Rapco is a leading manufacturer and supplier of carbide chainsaw chains for specialty cutting applications.

The carbide-tipped chains are available in nearly all pitches and gauges to fit most chain saws, and can be customized to specific cutting requirements.

"Carbide-tipped chains aren't new - we've been selling them for more than 31 years. Our main customers are fire departments, construction crews, and anyone who does demolition work," says Fowler. "However, farmers and ranchers can benefit from them, too. They work great for cutting abrasive wood such as fallen trees, removing tree stumps and roots, railroad ties, and so forth. They also work great for cutting firewood. When a conventional chain accidentally contacts the ground, you'll get a dull chain right away. That won't happen with a carbide



Carbide-tipped saw chains stay sharp much longer than conventional chains, and don't have to be replaced as often.

chain. They also work great when cutting along fence rows, where trees have grown into the fences and you might run into nails or wire.

"One customer told us he uses his carbide-tipped chain to cut cedar trees growing out of rocks, where it was impossible for him to keep from catching the chain on a rock now and then. They also work great for cutting

through plastics, fiber and railroad ties."

Carbide-tipped chains cost about six times more than standard steel chains, says Fowler. "We sell the chains for \$2.00 per drive link, which typically works out to about \$144.00 per chain. A conventional chain sells for about 35 cents per drive link, which works out to about \$20 to \$25 per chain. However, to many people the labor saved in not having to sharpen chains all the time and not having to replace them as often is worth the extra cost."

The company offers two types of carbide-tipped chains. Fowler recommends either the Camfer or Chisel style for farmers and ranchers.

The chains are resharpenable, but you have to use a diamond sharpener which the company sells for \$5.45 plus S&H.

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Reader Inquiry No. 08


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