

Add-On Rubber Tracks Catching On Fast

Kelderman Tracks For 4-WD Tractors

Kelderman's "high drive" row crop rubber tracks are now available for big 4-WD tractors. The company introduced its new rubber track system at farm shows this fall mounted on a Deere 8640 4-WD tractor.

The same tracks can also be used on a combine.

The add-on assemblies mount in place of both front and rear wheels. The track assembly's large dia. drive wheel bolts onto the hub. A new "dual mount" hub allows the tracks to be switched from a tractor axle to a combine's 10-bolt wheel hub. A specially designed spindle bolts onto the combine's final drive.

The "high drive" row crop rubber tracks use a large diameter drive wheel that allows operation of the tractor at near-normal speeds," says Gary Kelderman. "An air ride suspension system improves the ride. The tracks are cost efficient because you can use them on your existing equipment without having to spend \$150,000 for a specially designed tractor, and because you can use them on your combine at harvest.

The track assembly fits most 4-WD tractors as well as most combines."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kelderman Mfg. Inc., 2686 Hwy. 92, Okaloosa, Iowa 52577 (ph 515 673-0468).



Drive sprocket on Gilbert & Riplo's 4-WD track assembly bolts onto planetary drive or wheel hub, and undercarriage fastens to tractor with bracket.

Gilbert & Riplo Tracks For 4-WD Tractors

Rubber tracks designed specifically for big 4-WD tractors are new from Gilbert & Riplo, Ravenna, Mich.

The drive sprocket on the 4-WD track assembly bolts onto the planetary drive or wheel hub, and the undercarriage fastens to the tractor with a bracket. A rubber-mount suspension system improves the ride.

Rubber tracks are a natural for articulated 4-WD tractors. The two sets of tracks turn independently so they don't mound up dirt on headlands," says Fred Riplo. "Ground speed is limited to 10 to 12 mph because the drive sprocket on the tracks isn't as big as the drive sprocket on the tractor wheels. These tracks can't be used on combines because they're too small to provide adequate flotation (Gilbert & Riplo has other tracks for combines). We custom manufacture the tracks for different tractor makes and models due to differences in wheel hubs, planetary drives, and axles.

A set of four tracks sells for \$45,000 to

\$55,000. That sounds like a lot until you consider that when you order a new tractor with duals, the wheels, tires, and adapters can cost \$25,000."

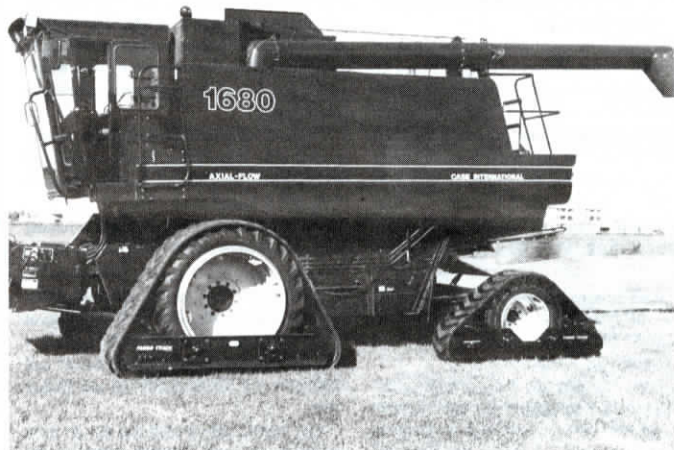
The company also offers a new non-driven rubber-belted running gear designed to mount on manure spreaders, spray tanks, grain carts, etc. The pull-behind undercarriages are designed to carry equipment weighing up to 90,000 lbs. The Goodyear tracks are available in sizes up to 36 in. wide and 126 in. long and are equipped with "positive drive" center guide lugs. "A 1,000 bu. grain cart or 4,500 to 5,000-gal. liquid manure tank can be mounted on our largest tracked running gear," notes Riplo.

A 16-in. wide, 75-in. long set of tracks sells for \$17,500; a 36-in. wide, 126-in. long set of tracks sells for \$28,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gilbert & Riplo Co., 4865 South Ravenna Road, Ravenna, Mich. 49451 (ph 616 853-2284).



Kelderman showed new rubber track system at farm shows this fall mounted on a Deere 8640 4-WD tractor. The same tracks can also be used on a combine.



Christianson tracks fit over standard combine or tractor tires.

Rubber Tracks Fit Front And Rear Combine Wheels

A rubber track system designed to fit front combine drive wheels and rear wheels was shown for the first time at the recent Farm Progress Show in Illinois.

The retrofit rubber track system, designed by Peter and Earl Christianson, Fargo, N. Dak., was shown on a Case-IH 1666 combine. The same drive wheel tracks can also be mounted on tractors.

Fargo tracks fit over dual 12.4 by 42 tractor tires and are held in place by side plates fitted with rollers that ride against the wheel rim.

"The tracks mount right on the combine or tractor without modifications. They fit right over the air-filled rubber tires so the system has an air suspension. You get the benefits of both tracks and tires and you can operate at normal speeds," says Peter.

We recommend using the tracks all the time, even under normal field conditions because they reduce compaction and virtually

eliminate slippage. Working in wet field conditions is really only a side benefit. They work especially well in no-till where it's very important to limit soil compaction because the compacted soil doesn't get ripped up. We figure the tracks reduce field traffic by at least 50% by eliminating the need for dual and triple wheels and there's less compaction where you do drive - up to four times less."

Each track has four contact points - the top and bottom of the tire and the idler wheels, one located at each lower corner of the track. There are two friction or drive points - one on top of the tire and one at the bottom.

Track widths range from 15 to 36 in.

Estimated retail price for the rear tracks is \$7,900, and \$22,500 for the front ones.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fargo Track, Inc., Fargo, N. Dak. (ph 701 241-6908).