



Air bag-cushioned bogie wheels provide a better ride and flotation, says company.

AIR CUSHIONS SOFTEN THE RIDE

"Air Bag" Tracks For Spreaders, Wagons

One of the latest new developments in rubber belted tracks is this new tracked undercarriage equipped with air bag-cushioned bogie wheels.

The "Track Star" non-driven running gear is designed to carry manure spreaders, spray tanks, or grain carts. The undercarriage and two bogie wheels on each side are suspended between 15 by 22.5 truck tires.

"The air bags provide a better ride and flotation than tracked undercarriages that

have bogie wheels mounted on a steel rail. They more evenly distribute the weight of the load over the ground," says Lauren Harder, owner, Minnesota Tool & Machine. "The undercarriage is designed to carry loads up to 60,000 lbs."

Sells for \$24,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Minnesota Tool & Machine, Rt. 1, Box 181, Mountain Lake, Minn. 56159 (ph 507 427-3843).



Rubber track kit mounts on pickup. Tandem axle sprayer also has tracks.

15-IN. RUBBER BELTS WRAP AROUND FLOTATION TIRES

New Rubber Track Kit For Pickups

One of the showstoppers at the recent Farm Progress Show was a Ford Ranger pickup equipped with big floater tires and 15-in. wide rubber tracks on the rear wheels. A tandem axle sprayer - also equipped with rubber tracks - carried a 200-gal. tank and a 60-ft. boom, pulled by a gooseneck hitch.

The tracks are part of a kit by Rawson Enterprises, Farwell, Mich., and is also sold by JM Innovations, Inc., Edwardsville, Ill.

"They combine the floatability of an ATV with the comfort of a pickup while taking advantage of the pickup's traction and weight carrying capabilities," says Jeff Mick, J M Innovations. "The tracks work great with either pull-type or truck-mounted sprayers and can be quickly removed to convert the pickup back to normal use."

The kit includes the tracks, four 31 by 11.50 flotation tires, an idler wheel axle, "lift

kit" suspension, and an idler arm that bolts onto the pickup frame. You remove the pickup's existing springs and shocks and replace them with bigger springs that provide more ground clearance.

The idler arm works as a torsion arm to keep the idler wheel axle in place," says Steve Rawson. "The arm bolts to the frame and stays with the pickup whenever you remove the tracks. There's no need to let air out of the tires. The continuous loop tracks have no seams to pull apart. Guide lugs keep the track running straight.

"The entire spray package was developed specifically for no-till and zone-till farming. It lets you get into even the wettest fields without compacting the soil, which makes it ideal for early pre-plant chemical applications. We tested it on our farm last spring and covered 300 acres per day with



System's four triangular, 16-in. wide tracks add 6 in. of clearance to vehicle.

"CONVERTING A VEHICLE IS AS SIMPLE AS CHANGING A TIRE"

Add-On Tracks Fit Any 4-WD

You can go places you never could before with a new track conversion system that'll fit nearly any 4-WD vehicle including pickups, swathers, cars and even school buses.

Called Mattracks, the system consists of four triangular, 16-in. wide tracks. They're made out of the same tough material as bullet-proof vests and weigh 250 lbs. apiece.

The tracks have 26 sq. ft. of surface in contact with the ground (applying just 1 1/2 psi), and they generally add 6 in. clearance to the vehicle. They do not affect turning radius despite adding 18 in. to the vehicle's regular wheel width. They can be driven short distances on hard surface roads. The tracks are self-cleaning so the vehicle won't bog down.

"Converting a vehicle is as simple as changing a tire," notes inventor Glen Brazier.

Two people can fit them on a 1/2 or 1-ton pickup in 30 minutes simply by removing the tires, slipping the tracks on, and tightening the lugnuts.

Mattracks have been gaining a lot of attention - including reports on CNN and the three major TV networks - for off-road rec-



The tracks fit nearly any 4-WD vehicle including school buses.

reational vehicle use but the system has many agricultural applications as well, notes Brazier.

"We've put them on swathers, pickup spray rigs and Spra Coupes," he says. "It's great for getting into wet fields where normal machinery can't."

A set of four tracks sells for \$14,995 (8,600 lb. gvw); \$15,449 (10,500 lb. gvw.)

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, National Transmission Track Division, 1436 Main Ave. N., Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701 (ph 800 508-8729 or 218 681-5840).



By fitting the tracks on swathers, etc., you can get into wet fields where normal machinery can't.

a 50-ft. boom with much less soil compaction."

The kit is offered on Ford Ranger and Chevrolet S-10 mid-size pickups. The kit for Fords sells for \$3,600; for Chevys, \$3,900.

The J M tandem axle sprayer can be equipped either with a 32 1/2 or 47 1/2-ft., 50-ft., or 60-ft. self-leveling boom, 150 to 200-gal. tank, a 5 1/2 hp Honda gas engine, axles that adjust from 80 to 120-in.

centers, 10 or 20-gal. foam markers, and a Micro-Trak MT-3000 spray controller. A sprayer equipped with a 50-ft. self-leveling boom sells for about \$8,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rawson Enterprises, 7413 N. Nottawa Rd., Farwell, Mich. 48622 (ph 517 588-2767) or JM Innovations, Inc., 9304 Hess Road, Edwardsville, Ill. 62025 (ph 618 667-6089).