

They Specialize In Combine Auger Tube Liners

When Mike and Brian Ihle needed new auger tube liners for their combines, they couldn't find what they wanted on the market. So they decided to make their own liners out of 10-ga. steel. The liners generated so much interest that they decided to form a company to market them.

IHLE Fabrications, LLC, Polk City, Iowa, offers steel vertical unload auger liners and bubble-up auger tube liners, and stainless steel clean grain and return liners. They fit a wide variety of combine models from Case IH, New Holland, Deere, Cat Lexion, Claas, and Gleaner, with more being added all the time.

"We've always farmed with Case IH combines, so we began with liners for combines that we're familiar with," says Mike. "We've since expanded to a variety of combine brands, and are now selling to dealers with the intent to save farmers money in labor and parts."

The vertical unloading auger tube liner is a pre-fit tube that lines the combine's existing tube before it wears thin and the grain

tank has to be replaced. The kit includes a top repair ring and a 4-piece sump kit that you weld into the grain tank, due to holes in the grain tank and in the vertical tube. The clean grain and return auger liner kit consists of 2 weld-in stainless steel liners that are pre-rolled, pre-cut, and pre-fit for easy installation.

All liners are made of 10 to 12-gauge steel and are fabricated on the Ihle's farm. "Our liners can save farmers thousands of dollars compared to buying new OEM parts," says Mike. "An example is our bubble-up auger tube liner for Case IH combines. A new OEM auger tube from Case IH sells for \$2,800 and takes 1 1/2 to 2 days to install, which comes to about \$2,000 in labor. That's a total cost of about \$5,000, whereas our bubble-up auger liner sells for \$620 plus shipping and requires far less time to install. Another example is our vertical unload liner for Case IH combines. It sells for \$670 plus shipping, whereas a new grain tank, including the cost of labor to install it, costs about \$20,000."

Mike says plastic auger liners on the market

work fine if they're installed when the combine is new. "However, if your combine's auger tube is already worn out we think steel is the only way to go, because it will last much longer and is easier to install. Also, a steel tube will provide the strength needed to push grain through your combine."

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IHLE Fabrications says farmers can save money repairing worn combine augers by using the company's tube liners, which fit a wide variety of combine models.



MoJack Simplifies Mower Maintenance

Ten years ago Dan Drake saw a jack for riding mowers built in a southeast Kansas welding shop. He saw its potential right away and purchased the rights to commercialize production. Now, MoJack® can be found all over the country in large farm supply and home improvement stores as well as smaller businesses.

Some report they sell more jacks than mowers, Drake notes.

"The patented design is the first of its kind," he explains. "MoJack lifts the mower by the wheels so it gets high enough to get your whole body under it."

That makes it safer and easier to remove and replace blades and do other maintenance under the deck. MoJack cranks up easily so anyone can use it, from consumers to businesses with fleets of mowers.

"It's adjustable for everything from small

garden tractors to giant zero-turn mowers," Drake says.

Built with sturdy steel, MoJack holds the mower on a solid metal base and has an automatic locking pin to prevent the lift from coming down. When not needed it folds up and rolls on wheels to store under a bench, on a shelf, or against a wall.

MoJack is available in six sizes from the base model that lifts 300 lbs. (\$179 retail) to the PRO model for ZTR mowers with decks 65-in. and bigger (\$499 retail).

The company also private labels the jacks for Cub Cadet, Troy-Bilt and Craftsman.

The website provides dealer locations. The lifts are also available on Amazon.

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The MoJack lifts a riding mower or garden tractor by the wheels, high enough to get your whole body under it.

Overhead Crane Pivots 360 Degrees

"I recently built an overhead crane that's one of the handiest tools in my 30 by 60-ft. home-built shop," says Gordon Mariner, Goodlettsville, Tenn. "An electric trolley and electric hoist run on a track made from a 15-ft. long, 4-in. I-beam, which pivots 360 degrees."

The crane is located in the center of Mariner's shop, which has a pair of big doors spaced 30 ft. apart on one side and overhead storage shelves on the other side. Mariner can pivot the crane out to the center of both doors to unload trailers or trucks parked inside.

"To move the crane around I just pull on the electric hoist cable and swing it in either direction. It rotates very easily with a big load. Even my 8-year-old granddaughter can handle it," says Mariner. "It can lift up to 1,600 lbs."

"I didn't want a single I-beam equipped with manual chain hoists, because I didn't want any limitations when creative lifting problems arose. So when I decided to build a new shop, I built the lift system first and then built the shop around it."

The crane is supported by a 5-in. dia. steel

pipe, with its bottom welded shut, that goes 4 ft. deep into the ground and is encased in cement. Mariner put nine 1 1/4-in. dia. steel balls inside the pipe and also a half gal. of 90-weight used transmission oil. He then dropped a 4-in. dia. steel pipe, with its bottom welded shut, inside the 5-in. pipe. The last step was to pour in the concrete.

"The steel balls act like bearings, and the transmission oil keeps them lubricated," says Mariner.

"It really comes in handy. I often use it to lift my zero-turn riding mower so I can change the blades or the oil. When I'm done I lift the mower up out of the way onto one of the overhead shelves. I also use the crane to pick up stuff and set it on an overhead loft," says Mariner.

He notes that he installed a cable connected to a turnbuckle on top of the track to help keep it level.

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Overhead crane is located in center of Mariner's 30 by 60-ft. shop and can pivot 360 degrees to reach a pair of big doors spaced 30 ft. apart, as well as overhead storage shelves. Electric trolley and hoist run on a track made from a 15-ft. long beam.