

Where To Buy New Or Used Tracks, Parts

Bryan Haugen, Larry Roed, and Nick Harker have more than 30 years experience supplying tracks, replacement parts for track systems, and track conversion systems direct to farmers. Their business is called TrackFarmer.com.

“Our main concern is meeting our customers’ needs, and we do that face-to-face, on the phone or talking with many of them at farm shows throughout the U.S. and Canada,” Haugen says. “In some cases we even help with installation if needed.”

Over the past 10 years the trio has built a strong following and now gains many new customers through referrals as well as from the internet. In early 2020 they sold 4 sets of tracks to a farmer in Peru who’d found their website. Haugen says farmers from around the country, even in other countries, use their site as a central point of contact for excellent products and knowledgeable service.

“In addition to selling new tracks for

tractors, combines or grain carts, we often take used ones in trade,” says Haugen. “Some of those we can refurbish, and those can be sold as a set or even individually if a farmer needs just one because of damage. We also sell undercarriage wheel parts, midrollers and track systems for planters, fertilizer carts and grain carts.

“A few years ago we began improving the products that we sell the most of. Track tractors create a lot of heat if they’re on narrow tracks and wheels, especially when they travel long distances with added weight. We improved the compounds of polyurethane used to make the midrollers and manufactured a spacer which nearly ends heat-related failures.

“We’ve also received hundreds of calls over the years from farmers who can’t get their seals to hold oil on certain 4 track articulating machines. We took the highest quality Hi-Speed oil bath truck seal and



TrackFarmer.com sells replacement parts for track systems, including remanufactured idler wheels (left) and midwheels for Case-IH Quad series tractors.

engineered a way to use them on these tractors with great success. We found that if we can help solve a frustrating and costly problem, then we earn the business of people who appreciate results,” Haugen says.

In the past few years they’ve seen a growing interest in tracks for larger planters. “I’ve seen different studies that show tracks can make a 60 to 70 percent improvement

on emergence in the wheel track compared to dual wheels that pinch and compact seed rows,” says Haugen. “Tracks reduce compaction and seedlings emerge and grow better.”

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Metal Pegboards Built To Hold Heavier Tools

“Our new heavy-duty galvanized steel pegboards are designed for unfinished shed and garage walls. They work great to hold everything from cordless power tools to small pliers,” says Tag Saunders, Raytec Mfg., Ephrata, Penn.

The steel pegboards measure 48 in. long by 16 in. high, and are notched on back to fit over studs 16 in. on center. As a result, multiple boards fit perfectly both horizontally and vertically. The pegboards come with dual hole sizes in alternating rows to fit 1/4-in. and 1/8-in. pegboard accessories. They have pre-drilled holes on all 4 sides, making them easy to mount.

The pegboards are sold in sets of 4, for less than \$100.

“These pegboards are much sturdier than flakeboard or pressed wood pegboards, so you can hang heavier tools and other objects on them,” says Saunders. “We sell a lot to shed builders, who install them above their built-in workbenches.”

The company also sells an alternative pegboard design for finished and semi-finished walls. Those pegboards come with a lip on the edges that provides about 1/4 in. of space behind the board to make room for pegs.

Raytec does not sell directly to customers,



Designed for unfinished shed and garage walls, galvanized steel pegboard is sturdy enough to hang heavy tools.

but says they can direct farmers to a local store or distributor that sells their products.

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Mfg., 544 Gristmill Road, Ephrata, Penn. 17522 (ph 877 800-2500; sales@raytecllc.com).

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Rolling Work Bench Lifted By Foot-Operated Jack

“I made it to fit into the tight space my small shop office, but I can also quickly move it around wherever I want. Also, I can quickly lengthen it by 3 ft. to work on longer objects,” says Rick Young, Darlington, S.C., about his portable work bench.

The work bench rides on 4 caster wheels and measures 5 ft. long by 30 in. wide by 3 ft. high. A foot-operated bottle jack is used to lower the wheels onto the floor for rolling the bench around.

“We use this table all the time. It’s really handy to repair equipment on our poultry farm,” says Young, who notes that employees Robert Dedrick and William Warden did most of the construction work.

He started with a table equipped with an attached vise that he bought at an auction for \$100. “The table came with a 1/2-in. thick steel top supported by four 3-in. dia. pipes and weighed 300 lbs., making it too heavy to easily move around,” says Young.

He slid short lengths of 3 1/2-in. dia. pipe onto each leg to form sleeves, and then connected each pipe to an X-shaped frame made from 5-in. channel iron. “A major consideration was to shim each sleeve so that it was centered around the pipe before welding the X-frame in place. Afterward, the shims were removed. This idea allowed the X-frame to slide freely up or down the legs

without binding,” says Young.

A small steel plate was placed on the X-frame as a platform to support the bottle jack. A 2-ft. long pipe with a small plate on one end was welded under the center of the table, allowing the bottle jack to lift the table from the X-frame on the floor.

Swivel caster wheels were then attached to brackets at the ends of the X-frame.

A homemade foot pedal made from 1/2-in. dia. pipe is used to operate the jack. Young welded a short pipe into the jack’s socket, and it attaches to a 2-ft. long pipe that has a metal foot peg at the bottom. “Pushing down on the foot peg raises the jack up against the center-mounted pipe, which pushes the caster wheels down and raises the table. Releasing the jack lowers the table back down to the floor,” says Young.

One end of the table can be lengthened by pulling a pair of telescoping steel tubes out from under the table. “The extension leaves that end of the table open so we can weld from underneath,” says Young.

Both sides of the table have an angle iron lip to keep tools from falling off, he adds.

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Rolling work bench rides on 4 caster wheels that are lowered to the floor with a foot-operated jack. The table can be quickly lengthened to work on longer objects by pulling out an extension at one end.