



Heavy-duty log grapple quick-tatches to any skid loader and can be swiveled a little more than 180 degrees.

Farmer-Built Heavy-Duty, Rotating Log Grapple

A Pennsylvania farmer designed and built this inexpensive, heavy-duty log grapple that quick-tatches to any skid loader.

"It's designed to pick up rocks, big logs, and other awkward loads. It's built strong so it'll stand up to a lot of tough use," says Lamar Reiff.

The log grapple has a single 30-in. long curved jaw which passes between 2 fixed shanks, spaced about 12 in. apart. A single 3-in. dia., 12-in. long hydraulic cylinder is used to raise or lower the jaw, which swivels up and down on a 1 1/2-in. hardened keyed shaft. It can pick up a 33-in. dia. log, or up to three 10-in. dia. logs at a time.

The grapple can be swiveled a little more than 180 degrees. The swivel is a 5-in. dia. pipe inside a 6-in. schedule 80 pipe, with a taper that returns the swivel by gravity to the sender position. "The swivel feature is handy when working in close quarters because I can easily pick up one end of a tree and then drag it out of the woods," says Reiff. "The swivel also makes it perfect for pulling, or setting, fencepost and picking up large rocks."

He uses the grapple to stockpile logs for firewood and also to cut the logs to size. "I'm



Grapple is equipped with a single 30-in. long curved jaw.

amazed at how well it works," says Reiff. "I cut my firewood to 16 in. long and the jaw assembly is only 12 in. wide, so I can use the grapple to hold the log up in the air while cutting. It keeps my saw's chain off the ground and also saves on my back."

Reiff says he may manufacture the grapple if there's enough interest. Expected price is about \$1,750.

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Add-On Gauge For Spray Tanks

While spraying 30,000 acres of cropland a year, Steve Simon knows exactly how much solution is in the tank thanks to the Accu-Volume system he developed.

"Farmers are still buying expensive sprayers that use the same sight gauge that has been used for the past 50 years or more," says Simon. "I wanted something more accurate. My system is accurate to plus or minus one gallon."

The Accu-Volume System measures solution in any size or shape tank by measuring the weight of liquid in a column inside the tank. It calibrates for different density products and is unaffected by foam. "The kit takes about 1 1/2 hrs. to install and calibration of the unit 40 to 45 min.," says Simon. "Many tanks require no modification to install the sensor. We include bulkhead fittings for those tanks that require drilling a hole for installation."

According to Simon's customers, even the new float-based systems used in Deere sprayers can be off by up to 50 gal. A 1,000-gal. spray tank will actually hold up to 1,050 gal., but the float system on the Deere sprayers only measures up to 1,000. As solution is sprayed out, the readout counts down from 1,000. When it gets to zero, there may actually be 40 to 50 gallons left, and the operator has to guess when they will run out.

Simon notes that it is vital to know when the tank is ready to run out. If it runs out of solution before shutting off the pressure, air can get into the plumbing. The air has to be purged before starting to spray again.

Simon designed his system to solve both problems. It counts every gallon, not just the listed capacity of the tank.

"When the tank is getting close to running out, we have an alert on the display," he says. "It counts down the remaining gallons, 3, 2, 1...0. The operator can shut off the pressure anytime they want before it hits 0."

Counting every gallon going in means that it is simple to add a specific volume, perhaps for treating a specific area.

"If you want to spray 830 gal. of solution, the display will tell you when you've put 830 gal. in the tank," says Simon, noting that



Electronic sight gauge lets you know when your spray tank is ready to run out, counting down the remaining gallons. There's a digital display in the cab and also at the load station on the sprayer.

Simon points out that knowing the correct volume in the tank lets you pull off the right amount from the fresh water tank to rinse the tank and the boom. This ensures an adequate rinse while maximizing the number of rinses before needing to refill the fresh water tank.

The Accu-Volume System costs \$1,695 (U.S.) and can be expanded beyond measuring spray solutions. Additional sensors can be added to other on-board tanks, including the fresh water tank, or induction tanks, and for a low hydraulic oil alert.

"Additional uses are preprogrammed and wired to plug and play on our control box," says Simon. "We can also display volumes in dual tank Hagie sprayers, and in the future, displays will include data from a weather station."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Simon Innovations, 23676 Talbot Line, Rodney, Ont. Canada (ph 519 671-7394; toll free 855 246-6688; steve@simoninnovations.com; www.simoninnovations.com).



"Hertz meter" plugs into any generator-powered electrical outlet to help protect electrical equipment when running a pto-powered generator.

Meter Protects Electric Motors

Martin's Repair makes an unusual "hertz meter" that will protect electrical equipment when running a pto-powered generator. You can plug the meter into any generator-powered electrical outlet to check for the industry standard 60 Hz output.

"When you start up a pto-powered generator, the hertz output can put out the right voltage, but not the right hertz frequency," says Nelson Martin. "Before you connect the generator's output to an electric motor, you should check the hertz level. If it is too low or too high, you can adjust the throttle."

Martin notes that many of their hertz meter

customers are dairy farmers. If the hertz level is off, it can damage the delicate electronics in modern dairies.

"Once our customers are confident the generator is producing 60 Hz, they often move the meter to a milking parlor outlet," says Martin. "That lets them keep an eye on the meter to ensure the hertz level doesn't drop if the tractor throttles down."

Martin's Repair prices their plug-in hertz meter at \$99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Martin's Repair, 25720 County Road 38, Goshen, Ind. 46526 (ph 574 862-3910).



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