



## “Do Everything” Air-Plate Planter

“I wanted a planter I could use for minimum, conventional and no-till, and one that would plant corn in 36-in. rows and beans in 18-in. rows,” says Illinois farmer Gene Kuttin, of New Douglas, who created what he needed with a combination air-plate planter.

Starting with an International 800 Series 12-row, 30-in. Cyclo air planter, he made it into an 8-row, 36-in. planter for corn. The 12-row and 8-row call for the same beam. Kuttin bought extra plate-type units to make it into a 16-row, 18-in. soybean planter. (The smaller boxes shown in the photo are for applying soil insecticide when planting corn.)

Kuttin equipped his “do everything” planter with horizontal rear folding, a rear lift assist wheel, and a Dicky-john

monitor which has a disconnect/reconnect circuit for monitoring whichever rows are planting.

Kuttin has used his hybrid planter two seasons. In that time he has planted conventionally, no-tilled full-season corn, and zero-tilled soybeans after wheat.

He notes that the Early Riser no-till units can be hand-tensioned as needed to make the coulters cut through heavy trash when planting zero till. “I like the accuracy I get with the planter for soybeans, over what I might expect with a drill. This rig gives me better depth control,” says Kuttin.

Kuttin does not cultivate his soybeans. “Previously, I did have a problem with cockleburrs but now I take care of it with an overspray of Basagran.”

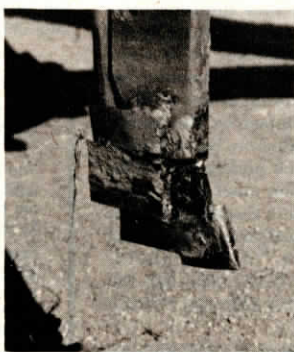
## Low-Wear Seed Tubes

Chrome-tipped seed shanks mounted on a sweep plow frame have provided Ethan Britten, Haswell, Colo. with a low maintenance seed rig for wheat and milo that has “more clearance than any hoe drill I’ve ever seen or heard of.”

The 1 by 3-in. seed tube shank is fitted with clamps to a 4-in. square toolbar. It can be quickly adjusted up and down for depth. “They’re solidly mounted and stay put where set. They don’t ride up over hard ground.”

Britten welds a piece of chrome alloy to the leading edge of the point for a hard-wearing surface. He says the points wear down evenly so that he can set them deeper as they wear. It costs only about \$1.00 in material to replace a point. He just cuts off the old point with a cut-off saw and welds on a new one.

“Because the point is so narrow (7/16-in. wide) the shanks throw almost no dirt at normal planting speeds of 4 to 6 mph. I



often run at 8 mph and I have traveled at speeds up to 10 mph without throwing dirt into the next row,” says Britten.

He mounts his homemade points on a Flex King sweep plow frame and follows the shanks up with Flex-King press wheels. “I’d be happy to help other farmers adapt this design to their equipment.”

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*Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director*



## Sprayer Made From 1949 IH Tractor

“Makes a good spray tractor,” says Ed Gallaher, Independence, Ore., who converted a 1949 International W-6. He built a new operator’s platform, raising it up and moving it forward, which made room for a rear-mounted spray tank and improved operator visibility. He had to reroute steering and foot controls to the new platform. He also installed a wide front-end and moved it out 3 ft. for better stability and to improve steering in soft fields. A pto-powered spray pump mounts on back.

Key to versatility of the tractor-sprayer are the rear tractor tires. Gallaher widened the tread of the tractor’s 11 by 38

tires by splicing an 8-in. wide piece of metal into the rims. When finished, the tires were 20.8 by 38.

“It’s not hard to do. I used 8 ga. metal and just beat it into a circle with a hammer and welded it into place,” says Gallaher, who’s made the modification on other equipment. He’s currently making a spray tractor out of a 1951 Farmall “M” which, he says, will be the “Cadillac” of farm tractor sprayers.

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