

Hinge Kit Hangs Heavy Gates Fast

The E-Z Hinge is just that when it comes to hanging heavy farm gates. Forget about drilling holes and leveling awkward gates. Just attach the E-Z Hinge brackets to the post, slip the gate's J-bolt into the bracket, level and tighten. The design grew out of frustration with traditional methods.

"I watched a neighbor try to hang a steel gate on an old oil well pipe post," recalls Wayne Tegtmeier. "It was a mess as they torched holes in the pipe, only to discover it was corroded inside. Later while hanging one myself on a pipe post, I realized that after drilling holes in the schedule 80 pipe, there wasn't much left of the post."

Believing there had to be a better way, Tegtmeier figured one out. He eliminated drilling and welding by using brackets instead. Brackets are made out of heavy, 1/2-in. thick steel plate and schedule 40 steel pipe.

All that is needed to mount a gate is a tape measure, a 9/16-in. socket wrench, and a crescent wrench. A marker for hinge locations helps. A ribbed steel bar inside the bracket bites into the J-bolt.

"It's completely adjustable when putting it together, but once I've installed one, I've



E-Z Hinge brackets come in 6 different sizes.

never had to adjust it again," he says. "I can hang a 16-ft. gate by myself in just 7 or 8 min."

The idea was so simple and prototypes worked so well that Tegtmeier got it patented. He is now selling the E-Z Hinges in regional farm stores, on eBay and from his website. Currently, they are not shipped outside the U.S.

"It comes in 6 different sizes and sells for



E-Z Hinge lets you hang heavy farm gates without drilling holes. Just attach brackets to the post, slip the gate's J-bolt into the bracket, level, and tighten.

\$28 to \$32 per pair including shipping," says Tegtmeier.

The brackets are sized by the outside diameter of the post the gate will hang from. They are sized for 2, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, 4 and 4 1/2-in. outside diameter steel pipe posts.

Check out a video of the E-Z at FARM-SHOW.com.

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Conversion Hitch For Large Row Crop Planters

Row crop farmers operating Deere or Case IH planters now have a single point hookup option for their equipment. Schnell Industries of Canada has developed a hitch adapter that converts a 2-pt. mount to a drawbar mount. The device works with 2-pt. mounted Deere 1770 and 1790 planters and doesn't require any modification on the machine. It also works on Case IH 1250 and 1255 planters. A Cat. 4 pintle hitch is standard on all hitches with a Cat. 5 version available as an option.

Jeremy Matuszewski of Thunderstruck Sales and Marketing says the conversion hitch meets a unique need. "The majority of those planters were built for 2-pt. hookup. As the planters got larger a farmer had to either purchase a larger tractor with a 3-pt. hitch or install a 3-pt. hitch on his larger tractor. Both of those options are far more pricey than this conversion hitch.

"When conditions are wet for planting, more flotation is needed, which means the farmer needs to use his 4-WD for flotation and traction. This simple pin-on hitch is less expensive than any other alternative and can be easily taken off and converted back to a 2-pt. hookup on the planter if so desired."

Hitch adapter is designed for large Deere or Case IH row crop planters. It converts their 2-pt. mount to a drawbar mount.



The conversion hitch was invented and patented by Fred Dueck of Schnell Industries. Matuszewski says 90 percent of the parts are laser cut with tab and notch for precision and strength. A single cylinder on the hitch raises and lowers the parallel arm, which takes the place of the 3-pt. hitch lift arms on the tractor. He adds that because the hitch is always attached to a drawbar, a planter is pulled from a low point on the tractor for more stability in the transport

position. The hitch fits 12, 16 and 24-row planters. A jack stand on each side of the back of the hitch holds the planter secure when it's unhooked from the tractor. The hitch weighs 850 lbs, providing plenty of bulk for strength and stability. Retail price is \$6,000.

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