

## Ho-Bits Rebuild Rotary Hoe To “Better Than New”

Way back in 1980 FARM SHOW ran a story about a Canadian company that made replacement tips for rotary hoes. We recently saw a new ad for the product and decided to check back in with the company.

“We’re still making Ho-Bits,” says an enthusiastic Jim Tulen of Manufarm Specialties, “and we have been since 1980. It’s interesting that you called because just recently I had a farmer order from us who said he’d found our phone number in a really old issue of FARM SHOW. Farmers apparently keep their magazines around for a long time!”

Tulen says recently there has been a growth in interest from organic farmers and also conventional farmers who are using rotary hoes to deal with herbicide resistant weeds. The price listed in the 1980 FARM SHOW story was 43 cents apiece. The price in early 2017 is now 85 cents.

Manufarm uses a progressive die to form and punch the patented spoons. The steel is similar to that used on ice skate blades and was originally purchased from Sweden, but now it’s acquired from a supplier in Chicago. Tulen says “After the bits are punched out they’re heat-treated and annealed to a Rockwell hardness of 45 to 47. The bits are aggressive and hold an edge even in

extremely tough conditions. Our salesman from Kansas, Anthony Feldt, used to display wheels with spoons from a 30-ft. hoe that had covered 7,000 acres, and the bits were still in good shape.”

Tulen adds that “farmers who buy Ho-Bits are buying an economical replacement that may last twice as long as the originals. They can completely rebuild 16 fingers on a wheel for about \$14 and are saving a lot of money, because an entirely new wheel may be \$50 to \$60.”

Ho-Bits fit over the teeth on a wheel and are welded in place. The company supplies a production jig with each order that positions the replacement spoons so they can be welded precisely in place. The jig has 5 adjustments for different wheel diameters. Using the jig assures that the outside radius of a hoe wheel remains uniform and that the pitch of the bit is proper after all the spoons are welded on. The Ho-Bits work on any model rotary hoe.

Tulen says “Welding our bits on a used hoe is a good winter project. When you’re done, your hoe will be longer wearing than a new one.”

Manufarm, started by Jim and his brother Jack, has been in business more than 40 years. They employ 2 young millrights who



**Ho-Bits fit over the teeth on a rotary hoe wheel and are welded in place with a jig the company provides.**

help them produce Ho-Bits, land levelers, and other specialized farm implements. They also repair and modify implements and produce first-of-a-kind prototypes. The company doesn’t advertise much or even have a website. “We rely on our good name, good repeat customers, and referrals to keep us going.”

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**Reader Inquiry No. 147**

## “Foolproof” Live Catch Mousetrap

“You can catch mice like crazy with very little expense and no poison,” says Dave Cassens, Grafton, Ill., about his new live mousetrap. “This trap is practically foolproof. You can catch one mouse after another in it.”

The “Best Mouse Trap Ever” consists of an 11-in. long, 8-in. dia. cone made from ABS plastic covered by mesh screen. The top of the trap is solid plastic with an entrance hole in the middle. The rest of the trap is all wire mesh, which allows mice to smell and see the bait. A removable plastic tray at the bottom has a divided bait cup for feed and water.

The mouse climbs up the mesh and jumps through the hole. To release the mouse you simply remove the bottom tray.

“There’s no doubt that this trap will catch lots of mice. One farmer put 3 of my traps in his barn a few weeks ago and has already caught 126 mice,” says Cassens. “The hole

is big enough for young rats, and we’ve even caught a chipmunk in it. You can dunk the mice in a bucket of water and kill them in seconds.

“There are no moving parts so there’s nothing to break on it, and there’s no poison. The built-in food and water system allows mice to live for weeks in the trap, so if you’re not home for several days you don’t have to worry about the odor from dead mice. Every so often you can just hose off the trap, or put it in a deep sink with bleach and it will clean up like new.”

According to Cassens, the plastic at the top of the trap is so smooth that once mice get in they can’t crawl back out. It’s also hard enough that they can’t chew through it.

The trap sells online for \$19.99, 2 for \$35.99, or 4 for \$64.99 including S&H and is also available in some stores.

You can watch mice getting caught in the trap on youtube by going to [www.best-](http://www.best-mousetrap-ever.com)



**Mouse climbs up trap’s mesh sides and jumps through an entrance hole at top. To release the mouse you remove a plastic tray at bottom.**

[mousetrap-ever.com](http://mousetrap-ever.com).

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