



Twist and Seal cord protector has a UV-protected outer shell and softer interior to protect a variety of cord sizes from the elements.

## Twist & Seal Protects Electric Connections

A biology teacher turned builder and tinkerer came up with the Twist and Seal™ Cord Protector.

Bryan Nooner developed the Cord Protect for 12 to 16-ga. cords. It worked so well he also came up with a mini version and also a Cord Dome to accommodate multiple cord ends.

"It took a long time figure out how to get a good seal. It's highly engineered with 35 patents," Nooner says. Made with proprietary blends of resin, it has a hard UV-protected outer shell and a softer, pliable interior. Certified testing involved blasting it with water at 30 degrees F and 130 degrees F to ensure the case doesn't pop open at extreme temperatures.

Twist and Seal protectors are not meant to be used underwater, but they hold up in all types of weather from rain and snow to hot

sun and irrigation.

Construction workers, farmers and ranchers often choose the Twist and Seal Maxx, a heavy-duty, orange-colored protector that accommodates cords from 16 to 10-ga.

Twist and Seal can be found in many home improvement and hardware stores or purchased through the website. Prices range from \$5 to \$13 for the cord protectors and \$30 for the Cord Dome.

Nooner notes that 20 million of the U.S.-made cord protectors have been sold to customers including the U.S. military, NASA, Hollywood studios and television networks covering sporting events.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Twist and Seal, Midwest Innovative Products LLC., 3225 Corporate Dr., Unit C, Joliet, Ill. 60431 (ph 888-945-4545, customerservice@twistandseal.com; www.twistandseal.com).

## Big Forage Baler Makes Compact Bales For Export

The first Kadant Paal HTR 625 baler made especially for the export of products such as corn, alfalfa, ryegrass and straw has been used in Europe since 1992. These 2-ram stationary machines were designed to handle wet, unique or difficult products plus much of the European alfalfa crops destined for export to China and the Middle East.

Kadant Paal's factory in the northwest of Germany has manufactured more than 40 units scattered around the world, with most placed in Europe and a single machine in the U.S.

Balers are normally situated in export facilities and represent the last stop before forage or straw is loaded into shipping containers and exported abroad.

Agricultural forages are brought to the baler by large farmers or commercial exporters.

Models offered are electrically run and sport either a 2 by 73 hp. or 3 by 73 hp. power pack system.

"The hay or straw comes in big trucks, or in round bales, but we always have to open everything and check the humidity," says Oriol Juvanet, Export Area Manager for South America and the Middle East. "If the moisture is good, we can bale. If not, we must wait for it to dry in the field or mechanically dry it at the factory. It never goes directly from the field to the baler because the humidity is too high."

Once the forage material is determined to be between 11 and 12 percent humidity, it's fed into the high-capacity, high-density baler.

Juvanet outlines three reasons why the HTR 625 is superior to competitive models.

First, the compacting and tying is a continuous system. "The tying is outside the chamber, so we can compact a bale at the same time the previous one is tying. This is the opposite of our competitors, and we do it with the same power. Plus, our throughput is higher than other companies," Juvanet



Kadant Paal balers are used for making large bales for shipment or export after hay or straw moisture has been verified.

explains.

Next, the baler uses plastic straps to tie which are lower cost and safer for the animals eating the feed.

Lastly, the design, technology and conception are high flow, high performance at a low energy cost. For example, a blade system reduces cutting forces against the material, and the hydraulic block for compaction is mounted directly on the cylinder avoiding heat-producing pipes that reduce pump productivity.

Kadant Paal is interested in expanding further into the U.S. claiming they offer the cheapest solutions with the best results. They believe the proof of this is that many of their customers buy more than one unit.

The standard 3 by 73 hp. model price is approximately \$950,000.

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Components Plus now makes spacers for skid steer tracks.

## Spacers Keep Skid Steers On Track

Components Plus built a business making tracks for skid steers. Then, the pandemic hit and limited the import of spacer rings they need to install their tracks.

"About half the tracks we sell require spacers for clearance," says Rick Wilkey, Components Plus. "Putting tracks on a skid steer requires at least 3 in. of clearance between the machine and the tire."

The company had been buying spacers from a supplier who sourced them overseas. When the source dried up, Components Plus went looking for an alternative.

"Foundries were busier than ever since COVID hit, but we finally found one in Minn.," says Wilkey. "They pour the blank ring castings, and we machine them. Now we have plenty of product."

The company puts the same care and detail into their 6 and 8-lug spacers as they do into their tracks. Wilkey's father started out making lawn mower blades using a slow heat-treating process. He transferred the technique

to making steel pads for Components Plus track pads and custom heat treating.

"We use a hot salt bath process with austempering salts to get away from quenching cracks that are too small to be seen easily, but fail under stress," says Wilkey.

He explains that the process allows their tracks to be half the weight and half the price of competitor tracks. Other track pads are cast or poured steel with a 1/16-in. hardened area on the outside. The larger pads add weight to the tracks, and when the hardened layer wears off, they have to be replaced.

"Ours are thin 1/4-in. plates hardened throughout to last longer," says Wilkey.

Components Plus spacer sets of four range in price from \$369.39 to \$711.14, depending on wheel size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Components Plus, 202 Industrial Dr., Columbus, Wis. 53925 (ph 920 350-0301; www.tracksplus.com).



Metalcraft signs are made from 14 or 16-ga. steel and move with the help of a stainless steel drive with steel bearings.



## Metalcraft Signs Spin With Designs

It's easy to find the Kratzke family's Metalcraft booth at the many state and county fairs and other events they attend. Just look up to find animated, colorful metal signs. We first introduced the Purham, Minn., family business to FARM SHOW readers about 14 years ago when it had about 60 designs (Vol. 31, No. 6).

"Now we have over 1,000," says Cathy Kratzke who owns the business with her husband, Jim, who came up with the sign concept about 25 years ago.

The 24-in. diameter signs include a themed design on top with a written sign and a personalized football shape at the bottom. With the help of the wind, a propeller on a stainless-steel drive with steel bearings moves an element of the design - such as making a fish wiggle or a butterfly fly.

With two quick links online the "football" content can be easily changed. Customers can email Metalcraft a family photo or other art to update their signs.

The other components are bolted in, so the Kratzkes can take orders at fairs, cut out the

words and assemble signs so they are ready to pick up that day.

"They are never the same," Cathy says. "We have all kinds of themes- farm, hunting, fishing, birds, tractor and grain bins. We do holiday themes."

With laser and plasma cutters, the Kratzkes and three other family members stay busy year-round, continually coming up with new ideas.

But some things haven't changed since they started the business. "They are all 14 and 16-ga. steel. Jim's biggest thing is that it is a quality product that is at a reasonable price families can afford," Cathy says. All signs are powder-coated and painted to last through all seasons. They sell for \$150 each.

Sign options and designs can be seen on the website.

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