



Workman installed a Sound Gard from a Deere 4230 on his 4020.

Old Deere Tractors Sport New "Sound Gard" Cabs

Used John Deere Sound Gard cabs can be installed onto older Deere tractors, according to FARM SHOW readers who have done it.

Richard Workman, Keosauqua, Ia., bought a partially-damaged Sound Gard cab from a salvage yard, repaired it, then installed it on his 1968 Deere 4020, made long before Deere came out with the Sound Gard in 1973. Workman's total out-of-pocket cost was \$550. A new cab, not including installation, would have cost over \$5,000, says Workman.

"Finding damaged or burned-out Sound Gard cabs isn't easy, but there are a few around," says the Iowan. "I'm on the lookout for another one myself." He'd like to try installing one on a different make of tractor than a Deere, and believes it could be done, "although the width of the hood might be a problem".

The used cab he bought cost \$400. It had been damaged when the tractor it was on tipped over. A new window was purchased, the top re-fiberglassed, and the entire cab sandblasted and repainted. "It looks just like a new factory-built job," says Workman.

He notes that fitting the cab to his 1968 4020 was relatively easy. He bought new Deere rubber mounts, and altered the right brake pedal and clutch a bit. "Most farmer-mechanics can do it," he comments. "I believe a Sound Gard cab could be put onto about any old Deere tractor. But the older the tractor, the more work it would take."

Another farmer he knows didn't come out well cost-wise on a similar

project, says Workman: "He bought a totally-burned out cab and spent a lot of money refurbishing it. The finished and installed cab cost almost as much as a brand new one would have."

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"We're real happy with it," says Canadian farmer Lorne Glanville, of Walton, Ont., who with his brother Les equipped their older model Deere 5020 with a new Generation II Sound Gard cab. The steering column is completely enclosed inside the cab, as it is in factory-mounted Generation II cabs. All oil lines were changed to rubber. We moved the hydraulic outlets to the outside of the right fender to get rid of hydraulic noise. The hydraulic control levers are in the same place as on new tractors.

"We made new battery boxes, patterned after the new tractors. We cut the hood off in front of the cab, then welded on a piece of sheet steel over the hole in the cab. The electrical wiring and air conditioning were re-connected the same as with the old cab."

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Schmeising is able to reach further and higher on many jobs with his modified bucket.

SLIDES OUT FOR EXTRA 20 IN. REACH

Extendable Bucket For Tractor Loaders

When it's down, Gregory Schmeising's loader looks like any other tractor loader. But, once it's in the air, it will reach out an extra 20-in., thanks to a sliding carriage that's not available on conventional tractor loaders, according to Schmeising, of New Bremen, Ohio.

"When retracted, the loader bucket is the same distance from the front of the tractor as a conventional bucket. When you're ready to dump and you need to reach higher or farther, you simply extend it hydraulically. The tractor should not be moving while the carriage and loaded bucket are extended. The bucket may be dumped in either a retracted or extended position, or anywhere in between," Schmeising told FARM SHOW.

Beside reaching up and out farther, Schmeising says the extending bucket is also useful for reaching downward for cleaning out gutters in barns.

Schmeising, who has tested his unique loader for two years, says it "works great" for a number of chores impossible with a conventional loader: "For example, we can dump manure over a fence so the tractor and

spreader don't have to enter the feedlot. This keeps the equipment cleaner and saves you from continually having to open and close gates.

"We've found that, with the loader's extra reach, we can also reach over fences to feed big round hay bales into bunks. When handling manure, we can reach higher and farther.

"When the bucket is equipped with a pallet fork, you can extend the carriage to reach farther when loading or unloading a truck.

"With a hydraulic post-hole digger on the bucket, you can move the auger back and forth up to 20 in. to position the hole, rather than having to move the entire tractor."

Schmeising is looking for a manufacturer for the extending bucket, which he says should fit most any loader on the market.

The extending bucket consists of the extending carriage itself, a hydraulic cylinder and an extra hydraulic valve.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gregory Schmeising, Rt. 1, Box 23, New Bremen, Ohio 45869 (ph 419 629-2029).



Photos show bucket reaching over a feedlot fence. Bucket will dump in extended position, retracted, or in between.