

DIY Hood Remover/Installer Allows For Solo Work

Tony Bunniss has developed an easier way to take the hood off his John Deere 3010 tractor. “Removing the hood was not a problem 60 years ago when I was working at an ag dealership,” says Bunniss. “But alone at 81 years old, it’s daunting.”

It typically takes two people to remove the hood on this type of tractor because the hood must be lifted high enough to clear the muffler. When working at the dealership, Bunniss could always rely on a helping hand from other employees. But alone at home, the task is significantly more difficult.

“Today, I would need the help of two friends because I can no more raise my arms that high than I can fly,” he explains. “So, I came up with a cradle that I attached to the hoist on my lift table (featured in Vol. 46, No. 2).”

The end product is articulated in four directions, swivels, and will stay where he sets it, making it possible to place the hood back on the tractor, level on all planes. It’s fully adjustable and can be used for large and small tractors. The clamps that hold the cradle in place hold onto the metal flange under the hood and are padded to avoid scratching the paint. That’s not a concern for Bunniss now, but it will be once he restores



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his tractor. Suction cups are included to keep the hood from tipping; they do not attach to the hood.

Overall, the hood remover makes it possible for Bunniss to perform maintenance on his equipment without inconveniencing his friends and neighbors.

“This worked perfectly,” he says. “I painted it after I was done just to make it look pretty.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Bunniss, Webster Minn. (glennlee1964@gofast.am).

“Best Buy” Backhoe Attachment

“My 2002 Amulet HoeClamp is one of my best buys ever,” says John Lund, Rhinelander, Wis., who uses the unit on his Ford 4500 loader/backhoe (ph 800-526-8538; www.amulet.com).

The HoeClamp is a pin-on, full motion thumb that fits most standard and extendable dipper backhoe loaders, with no additional hydraulics needed. Utilizing unique linkage, it’s operated by the backhoe’s bucket curl. Most models feature digging, grasping and also a stored position.

“It’s a mechanical clamp that mounts on a backhoe, replacing some of the linkage and pins,” says Lund. “The HoeClamp moves as the bucket moves. It can be pinned in 2 different locations, depending on the type of work you’re doing. I usually use it in a position where I can still dig. It’s extremely useful in building rock walls, and

is easier to use than a hydraulic thumb.”

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