

## Simple Stands Speed Loader Detach

Dan Erdman can drop his older Deere loader in a heartbeat. He just slips a 4-in. by 4-in. square sleeve with an attached screw jack over a 6-in. long, 3 1/2 by 3 1/2-in. square tube welded to his loader frame. Once he has removed a few bolts and unhooked the hoses, the job is done.

"The loader companies have all these different tricks on newer loaders, like turning the bucket just so, so they don't need stands," says Erdman. "I wanted something simple that anyone can understand and do."

His loader stand works great with his Deere 58 loader and the 4430 he mounts it to. "The key is to make the outer tube long enough to clear the front tires when you back the tractor away," says Erdman. "Measure the distance from the loader frame to the outside of your front tires plus a little for easy clearance."

He has 10.00-16s on the 4430. "If I put on a wider tire like a flotation tire, I would have to have a longer outer tube," he adds. "Check also to be sure your front wheels can go underneath the loader stands. If you have front-wheel assist, you might need a different mounting bracket."

Erdman notes that he kept the steel tube welded to the loader frame short enough that it's not in the way. He does allow that it would be easy to slip an upright tool holder over it and pin it in place.

"You could mount anything to it," he says. "Just pin it in place."

Initially, Erdman drilled a hole in the two tubes for a pin. However, he found it wasn't needed.

"The friction provided by the weight of the loader holds the jacks in place," says Erdman.



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The screw jack is welded to a base plate made from a short length of channel iron. Erdman used pieces he had laying around; however, he advises they be large enough to prevent the jack from sinking into the ground.

"If I'm not going to use the loader for a longer length of time, like the summer, I'll place lengths of 2-in. by 12-in. boards under the base plate," says Erdman.

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## Microchips Help Prevent Saddle Thefts

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain says saddles are a regular target of thieves, especially in the southern states. Some people might be surprised at how much a saddle is worth. "If you're a working rancher riding a horse, your life and safety depend on that saddle when you're doing things like roping calves," Strain says. "Custom saddles can be worth as much as \$10,000."

Used saddles can be worth \$500 to \$1,000.

The problem has gotten so bad that the Louisiana Ag Department is using technology to help solve the problem. They've begun microchipping saddles as a theft deterrent.

"Louisiana residents can bring their saddles to a central location, fill out a form, and we'll put their information into a database," he says. "That information is also made available to officials in other states, so if their saddles get stolen, the chances increase that it gets recovered."

"People have been stealing saddles almost since the moment we began riding horses," he says. "When a farmer isn't on their property, people will drive right into the yard, break into a horse barn or trailer, and swipe that saddle and other valuables they find."

Microchipping a saddle doesn't take long. Strain says they put the chip in the saddle in an undisclosed location and apply some epoxy to seal it in so it's invisible to the naked eye.

The microchipping program is working so well that the Ag Department is looking at ways to prevent other valuable farm items



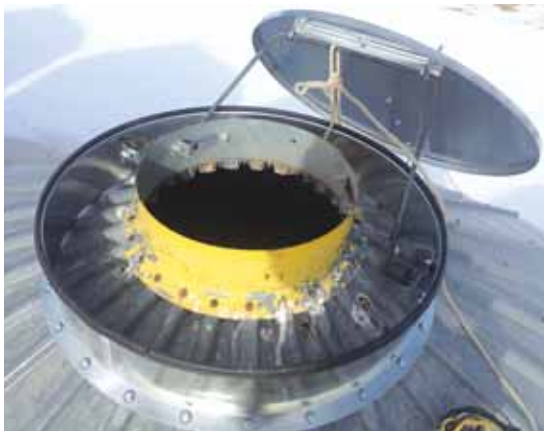
**Custom saddles such as this one by Lester Yoder, Hulett, Wyo., can cost as much as \$10,000.**

from getting stolen.

While he says there are likely other states that do some type of tracking with farm items, Strain says there doesn't seem to be any other rural state using microchips to track saddles. He's hopeful that other states will follow Louisiana's lead.

Strain says they don't charge horse owners to microchip their saddles.

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**Collar kit comes with a Remote Lid Opener that holds the door closed with two heavy-duty springs. Photo shows new collar installed before old collar is cut away.**

## Need More Room At The Top Of Your Bin?

By Chad Smith, Contributing Editor

Many bins put up over the years were designed to fit a 6-in. auger. However, if you've upgraded to a 13 to 16-in. auger, it might not fit through the top anymore.

Rockyford Steel in Rockyford, Alberta, Canada, can solve the problem with a 36-in. Collar Upgrade.

The Rockyford Collar Upgrade includes a new collar that bolts right over the old one. It also contains a Remote Lid Opening Kit and a new 36-in. lid.

The collar will fit on a variety of bins including Westeel, Butler, Twister, Goebel, and Behlen bins.

The collar kit comes with a Remote Lid Opener that's held closed by two heavy-duty springs. The lid will slide back smoothly on a rail completely clear of the auger.

When you've successfully unloaded the grain, grab the remote unit and either close the lid or leave it open slightly to air out the inside. A strong cable and chain bracket

system makes it easy to manipulate the remote lid.

Rockyford Steel has the experience to make the installation process go smoothly. The family-owned and operated business has been around since 1996.

However, their experience goes back even further. Adrian de Groot began building and repairing grain bins in 1977. He knows how to fix issues that farmers run into when using older bins.

The 36-in. Collar Upgrade Kit sells for \$750 (CAD), plus shipping. Discounts are available for farmers who buy ten or more collars. Bins can be purchased online or by calling the business. Shipping may not be available to all areas, which may require a trip to Canada to pick up a new collar.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Adrian de Groot, Rockyford Steel, Rockyford, Alberta, Canada T0J 2R0 (ph 403-533-2258; www.rockyfordsteel.com).



**Their unique rack and pinion drives are fitted with limit switches providing the exact torque and speed to properly operate the shutters.**

## Tunnel Shutters Driven By Rack And Pinion Drives

Tunnel ventilation doors that open inward into poultry and hog barns have long been the standard in the farming industry, says Theodore Brandley of Diversified Ag.

"Tunnel doors work fine, but their issue is that, when open, air travels up to the ceiling where it mixes with the hot air, wasting much of the cooling efficiency," says Brandley.

Eight years ago, together with his son Ari, Brandley designed and patented tunnel shutters to replace ventilation doors. Diversified Ag. is now the sole distributor in the U.S. of their exclusive drive system.

The tunnel shutters open outward until flat, creating a laminar airflow that's directed onto the birds instead of up into the ceiling. They're also practical for greenhouses, hog and dairy barns.

Their unique rack and pinion drives are fitted with limit switches providing the exact torque and speed to properly operate the shutters. 1/4 and 1/3-hp. electric motors power sprockets, or pinions that drive the rack to open and close the shutters. A single motor can operate up to 120 ft. of shutters. Single or triple phase, plus 110 or 220 volts are available.

"The limit switches on the gears can be set for open and closed, making the system

automatic," Brandley says. "We also market and sell the controller, which can be run manually or set to activate the shutters using temperature and humidity parameters."

Shutters are 4 ft. wide and fit together like a Lego set. Heights of 4, 5 or 6 ft. can be selected, depending on requirements. Panels are 2-in. thick galvanized or painted steel and carry an insulation factor of R9. Stainless steel shutters are available for hog barns.

"The longer your barn is, the lower the cost per foot," Brandley says. "The same drive can run 20 ft. or 100 ft. For longer lengths, we put a drive on both ends. You can mix and match to fit the application."

The shutters are manufactured in China to retain a competitive cost with the gears built in Israel. Motors are American-made. Full systems are available throughout North America.

Brandley suggests customers contact Diversified Ag. or one of their distributors for prices and shipping details.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Theodore Brandley, Diversified Ag., 556 Industrial Way West, Eatontown, N.J. 07724 (ph 770-301-6982; info@diversifiedag.com; www.tunnelshutters.com; www.diversifiedag.com).