

Receiver Mounted Steps Make For Easy Access

Terry Atkins devised a 3-step access unit to mount on a truck tow receiver after he purchased a truck camper without a ladder or step.

“Most truck campers used a plastic ladder stowed in the back of the truck or had scissor-looking steps bolted on,” Atkins says. “I didn’t like them as they had to touch the surface and didn’t work well on uneven ground.”

After considering some designs and completing some testing, he decided to use the truck’s standard 2-in. tow hitch receiver. He built a wooden step prototype, took it to a fabricator, and had a metal unit created. A couple of attempts later, he was satisfied with the final design.

The black, foldable, textured, powder-coated step treads measure 7 by 15 in. and weigh 32 lbs. Seven different height adjustments are available. The maximum lowered height is 16 1/2 in., and the maximum when folded is 20 in. A 12-in. long 2 by 2-in. hitch receiver bracket is included. When not in use, the unit folds neatly out of the way.

Atkins decided to use steel for the steps as aluminum would have been lighter and doubled the cost. The steps have evolved with added accessories that are now available. Easy Hitch Step also offers two and four-step models for basement truck campers and other specific-use vehicles.



Black, foldable, textured, powder-coated step treads measure 7 by 15 in. and weigh 32 lbs.

The 300-lb. maximum capacity foldable 3-step units are manufactured in South Carolina and require some assembly. They sell directly from Atkins’ shop for \$464 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Easy Hitch Step, 233 Meredith Dr., Fair Play, S.C. 29643 (ph 770-853-0371; info@easyhitchstep.com; www.easyhitchstep.com).

Soil Blades Designed For Challenging Conditions

Prescription Tillage Technology (PTT) developed its Sabre Tooth Planter (STP) series blades for superior agronomic soil interaction.

The standard, shallow, fine-tooth blades are designed to cut through tough crop residue and cover crops with friction rather than blunt force. This efficient cutting process allows them to operate extremely well in challenging soils and climate conditions.

Standard O.E.M. round, smooth blades use direct force, causing more hair-pinning and pinching excessive residue into the soil. They also slide up to 30 percent of the time, smearing the trench sidewalls and making it difficult for seedlings’ initial roots to break out of the seed bed. Poor early root development harms future brace root formation.

The PTT’s Sabre Tooth propels the blades forward, causing less hair-pinning and minimizing sliding. The company claims their blades turn 92 to 95 percent of the time during forward motion.

“Some of our customers say they can shift up a gear and throttle back on the tractor,” says Doug Hays, President of Ag Blades Direct Incorporated, PTT’s distribution arm. “This is because our blades are rotating and not just dragging.”

On the STP blades, one blade is 15.15 in. dia. and mated with a 14.75 in. dia., creating different rotational speeds while in motion.

“This helps the cutting action as it acts like scissors in the soil,” Hays says. “The teeth make more of a U shape in the bottom of the seed trench instead of a V, so you get better seed-soil contact. We don’t need after-market closing systems to compress the soil around the seed.”

Hays explains that the STP series blades also decrease compaction and smearing as they fracture the sidewall and granulate soil over the seed trench. This lifting and fracturing helps achieve maximum seed-to-soil contact and creates a seed trench that early



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seedling roots can easily break free of.

The STP full 4 mm. thick blades, machined billet hubs, and a range of bearing choices make PTT’s pricing competitive with rival heavy-duty lines.

Except for their bearings and bolts, PTT completes its manufacturing processes in-house, allowing for strict quality control guidelines and testing in the factory.

The STP series blades are currently available throughout North America and Australia. Blade sets start at \$152 plus shipping online.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Prescription Tillage Technology LLC., 1735 E. Main, Lamon, Iowa 50140 (ph 712-357-1149; sales@prescriptiontillage.com; www.prescriptiontillage.com).



An operator moves the disk into position with a cab-mounted switch. It cuts under fence wires and pushes up against posts or trees.

One-Pass Fence Line Mower

When Trey Price, co-owner of Price Bros. Equipment, saw a need for a better skid steer mower to cut under farm fence lines, he approached Dragone, an Italian manufacturer, to gauge their interest in developing one.

Dragone is a small, family-owned business that makes flail mowers, shredders, and drum mulchers. After some back-and-forth conversations, the Taurus G-1000 fence line trimmer with a disk, flail, and rotary cutter was developed.

“The idea of the mower is to make a first pass along a fence line cutting the brush, shrubs, and grass to make it easier for a less experienced operator to continue cutting a hay field or crop,” says Price.

The mower mounts using a universal skid steer attachment and features a hydro-pneumatic suspension arm system that controls a cutting disk with a flail.

An operator moves the disk into position with a cab-mounted switch. It cuts under

fence wires and pushes up against posts or trees. The hydraulic pressure can be set as desired for the disk to float and kick around obstacles.

The G-1000 weighs 1,630 lbs. and was designed for skid steers with 21 to 32 gpm of flow at 3,500 psi.

It features a 40-in. dia. cutting disk and a working flail width of 78 in. The disk head folds hydraulically to fit inside a trailer deck for transport. Rear wheels are also adjustable for cutting height selection up to 18 in.

The Italian-made Taurus will be commercially available at Price Bros. in late fall 2024, with a retail cost of approximately \$15,600 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Price Bros. Equipment Co., 619 S. Washington, Wichita, Kan. 67201 (ph 316-265-9577; tprice@pricebroseq.com; www.pricebroseq.com).



The 25-ft. upper horizontal pipe reaches across most standard 24-ft. roadways.

Pipe Bridge Transfers Liquid Manure Across Roadways

Thanks to Fort Equipment’s pipe bridge, farmers wanting to pump their liquid manure lagoons or pits across roadways now have an overhead option rather than the usual under-road route.

“It’s always been an issue for farmers to get draglines to all their fields,” says Fort Equipment owner Greg Fortkamp. Europe has something similar to our bridge, but not to this scale.”

The transport-positioned bridge features a 12-ft. wheelbase but a new 8-ft. 6-in. wide telescopic axle option is under development for narrower roadway transport.

The pipe bridge lifts and lowers using hydraulics and electric power. Two self-contained hydraulic power packs, two batteries, solar panels, and a wireless remote control are used to set up, take down, and position the equipment.

“Solar panels keep the batteries charged, so you never have to worry about carrying a charger,” Fortkamp says. “Just pull up to your job site, hit the buttons on the remote control, and it goes up. It takes about 70 seconds to raise and 50 seconds to take down from start to finish.”

The 25-ft. upper horizontal pipe reaches across most standard 24-ft. roadways. In the

raised position, a turnbuckle ensures the unit is level even when the wheels are on a slope or partly in a ditch. The bridge is 20 ft. tall on flat ground to accommodate 16-ft. clearance regulations. It maintains the minimum clearance even up to 4 ft. into a ditch.

Fort Equipment makes an 8-in. and 10-in. hose model to fit about 80 percent of the manure pumping operations. Hose adapters are available for farms using 6 or 12-in. hoses.

The 8-in. bridge sells for \$37,800, and the 10-in. retails for \$40,900. Manufacturing is based in Fort Recovery, and units have been sold from Colorado to Vermont and into Canada.

Fortkamp recommends checking with local township and county road authorities for permissions and required signoffs.

“I had a customer tell me the pipe bridge opened up 300 acres for them, and another said it eliminated 5 miles of hose,” Fortkamp says. “It’s a niche product, but when you’ve got a road in the way, it’s extremely useful.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fort Equipment LLC, 3216 Wabash Rd., Fort Recovery, Ohio 45846 (ph 567-644-5927; contact@fortequip.com; www.fortequip.com).