

3-Pt. Mounted Automatic Hitch

"I call it my 'Last Hitch' because it's the last hitch I'll ever need," says Bill Kurtz, St. Croix Falls, Wis., about his 3-pt. automatic hitch that lets him hook up to equipment without getting off the tractor.

It consists of a steel frame equipped with a guide and hitch pin that mounts on the 3-pt., and a matching ring connected

to a stand that pins onto the tongue on any wagon or trailer. When Kurtz backs the guide over the ring the hitch pin automatically snaps into place. He can automatically unhook from the implement by pulling on a rope from the tractor cab.

"It works great for hauling round bales. I can drop a wagon off, load a few bales,



then hook the wagon back up and move to the next spot - without ever leaving the tractor seat. I also use it to hook up to a homemade 3-pt. bale fork.

"By removing two bolts I can mount the center section of the unit on an International tractor's fast hitch."

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Grass Seeder Mounts On Cultivator

An old grass seeder designed to mount on a grain drill works great when placed on top of a 9-ft. wide cultivator. The grass seeder is driven by a ground-driven press wheel unit off an old Deere corn planter. Gaylord Kaduce, Owen, Wis., pulls the cultivator and grass seeder combination behind his Massey-Harris grain drill.

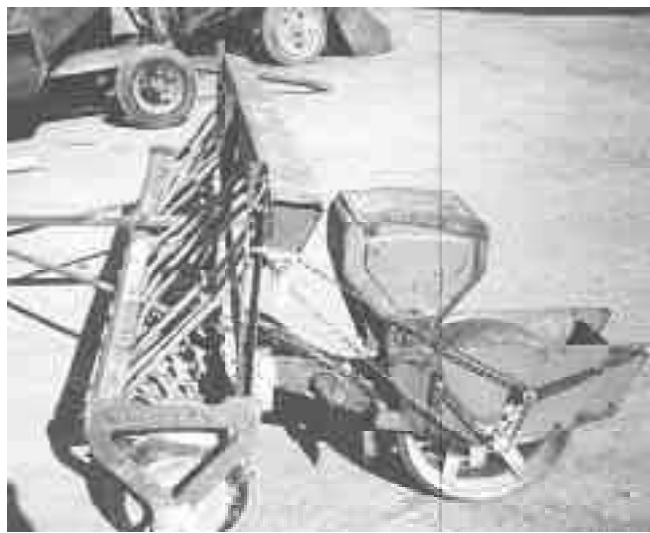
"The grass seeder works better on the cultivator than it would on a drill because the cultivator does a better job of covering the seed at just the right depth," says Kaduce, who uses the grass seeder to plant clover and alfalfa. The drill is used to plant a cover crop of oats or barley.

He removed the grass seeder from a rusted-out International grain drill and bolted it to three lengths of angle iron bolted on top of the cultivator frame. The seeder's drop tubes are spaced 8 in. apart

and drop seed about 1 ft. off the ground. He bought the ground-driven planter unit at a junkyard and bolted it to the back of the cultivator frame. He ran the press wheel's drive chain up to the drive sprocket on the seeder shaft.

"I could have mounted the seeder on the drill but it wasn't designed for this drill and was easier to mount on the cultivator," says Kaduce. "Also, the cultivator punches the seed in without covering it too deep. I disconnect the chain from the seeder whenever I don't want to use it. The press wheel unit came with an insecticide box. I put a weight inside the box to keep it from bouncing around and to help keep the press wheel on the ground."

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Hydraulic Levers Converted To Electric-Over-Air

Terry Macomber, Semans, Sask., used off-the-shelf parts to convert the hydraulic levers on his 1981 Case 2390 2-WD tractor to an electric-over-air control system that he can operate with the flip of a switch.

Macomber uses the tractor to pull a pair of International 7200 hoe drills. "The lift cylinder on each drill is hooked up to a separate remote outlet so I can control each drill separately. However, the control levers for the cylinders are in an awkward location and having to handle them both at the same time got to be a real chore by the end of the day. I tried lengthening the levers to make them easier to operate, but that didn't really solve the problem. The electric-over-air conversion lets me control both cylinders by simply pressing a switch instead of having to tug on the levers.

"I considered buying aftermarket solenoid-controlled hydraulic valves but I couldn't find a solenoid that was built

heavy enough. Instead I decided to just replace the manual levers on the existing valves with a pair of small air cylinders controlled by four 12-volt solenoid air valves and a small 12-volt air compressor. Since this was an experiment I didn't want to eliminate all the original lever hook ups so I just pulled the pins at the valve end of the remote cables and left everything intact. After I got it all hooked up and my air pressure set at the correct pressure I was very pleased with the results.

"I bought most of the parts at a surplus store although the compressor came off an old Cadillac. It was used to operate the car's air shocks. I spent less than \$250. I think the same system could be adapted to most other tractors."

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