

Air Hitch Handles Rough Terrain

In the late 1990s, dirt track racer and car aficionado Bob Sagen dealt with numerous rough roads as he pulled his utility trailer around the countryside.

After breaking numerous tongues and trailer frames, he developed a method of cushioning his unit's ride by welding a makeshift hitch on a typical truck ball receiver. This prototype featured a rubber, non-adjustable bushing to control travel choppiness. After selling the truck and homemade hitch, he designed and developed the Shocker Hitch, an adjustable air system to smooth the ride for trucks and trailers.

Shocker Hitch now manufactures bumper-tow, gooseneck, farm and fifth-wheel hitch kits. Each kit features a small air-ride component to adjust pressure and stiffen or relax the ride. The kits come complete with everything required, including balls, pintle hitches, drawbars, clevis pin mounts, and integrated air hitch technology.

The heavy-duty built-in air ride systems cushion towing methods, absorbing road shocks, jerks, bumps, and tugs, creating a smoother, safer ride.

"The hitches have a pivoting motion, so as the trailer is moving up and down and side to side, they safely control this movement," says Shocker Hitch Marketing Manager James Watson. "These air-ride hitches control the chucking back and forth to settle everything down. It's the best of both worlds when traveling over rough roads, railroad tracks, bridges or other rough terrain."

Their farm-use and Combo Farm Mount Towing kits are perfect for trucks, bobcats, wagons, farm equipment, augers, and other



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agricultural-related equipment and trailers.

Shocker Hitch offers a wide variety of additional ball mount attachments: drop ball mounts, pintle and ball, raised mounts, shackle mounts, and mounts with sway bar mounting tabs.

The unique hitch kits are manufactured in North Dakota and are available through hundreds of dealers across North America and Australia.

Watson recommends that interested customers check the website for sizes, options, features, cost and availability.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Shocker Hitch, 2801 3rd Ave. SW, Jamestown, N.D. 58401 (ph 701-707-2666; www.shockerhitch.com).

Portable Stand Ideal For Hunting And Elevated Work

"The idea for the Traveling Tower came as I sat in my deer stand and saw the same 178 buck over two hunting seasons, knowing I couldn't do anything about it," says owner Todd Rubey. "I didn't want to test my buddy's friendships by erecting anything permanent at the site."

The Traveling Tower is a portable powder-coated steel hunting tower. It's ideal for locations without practical cover options or when setting up hunting gear, only to notice game action in the next field. The unit is easily movable to where it needs to be.

The structure is a metal cage with 3-ft. extensions. It attaches to any ATV or can be mounted on a UTV or pickup truck using an optional bracket assembly. The unit features a boat seat mount and hand crank winch that lifts it from 11 to 14 ft. in height.

The tower can be temporarily staked to the ground, and the ATV, UTV or pickup can be driven away for excursions.

Rubey says the Traveling Tower is also popular with farmers, who use it as a portable scaffold for elevated work, such as repairing a combine spout or maintaining irrigation heads.

An optional hydraulic lift model with two rear legs and a single front leg is available for disabled hunters.

"We'll custom make the Traveling Tower for any specialized applications and needs," Rubey says.

Part of the manufacturing occurs in Minnesota, with the rest completed overseas. Dealers are located across the U.S. Rubey invites potential Canadian distributors to



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contact him for North American expansion.

The Tower sells for \$1,099 directly from the website and typically retails for around \$1,299 plus S&H from dealerships.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Traveling Tower, 10713 193rd. Ave. NW, Elk River, Minn. 55330 (ph 612-749-4660; todd@travelingtower.com; www.smithworksoutdoors.com).

"It's amazing how much torque these self-propelled snowblowers have. They handle the heaviest slush, and the blade pushes it right where you want it with no issues," Santino says.



Snowblower Attachment Clears Slush

Anthony Santino volunteers to clear driveways for the elderly in his neighborhood, but even with various machines for light or heavy snow, none adequately handles stubborn slush.

"It was a little frustrating," Santino says. "Garden tractors and trucks had blades, and even some cars were adapted for a small blade. I was stuck in the slush on shorter driveways, breaking my back with a shovel."

After considering this dilemma, he devised the idea for the Throwerblade attachment built to fit any two or three-stage snowblower.

The Throwerblade consists of a 22 to 32-in. expandable plow blade, mounting brackets and arms, and all necessary hardware, including wrenches, tools and a drill bit.

Installation requires only a few simple measurements and steps. Once the brackets are installed, the arms are attached with simple lock pins, and the blade is sized and secured to fit the snowblower's width. The optimal blade width reaches 3 in. over on

each side. The attachment arms slide into the brackets and can be locked with angle lock pins at a desired distance from the blower, with the blade angled left, right or straight.

When using the snowblower traditionally, the arms can be locked up and out of the way with two lift lock pins. The blade and arms can also be quickly removed in one piece and folded up for convenient storage.

"It's amazing how much torque these self-propelled snowblowers have. They handle the heaviest slush, and the blade pushes it right where you want it with no issues," Santino says.

The Throwerblade is manufactured overseas and warehoused in Toronto. It's sold directly from the website and can be delivered in North America in three to five days. The unit costs \$249 CAD plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Throwerblade, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (anthony@throwerblade.com; www.throwerblade.com).



Air bumper weighs 600 kg. (1,320 lbs.) and doubles as a front-end weight block. The system can also be used with an air gun to control excessive dust build-ups on other equipment.

Prototype Tractor Bumper Adds Air

Fons Janssen, owner and founder of TractorBumper, was concerned about tractor road safety in the Netherlands. In 2013, he began developing tractor bumpers strictly for safety but has since added much more functionality.

Today, the company is expanding its original line of equipment by creating the TractorBumper Air, which features an integrated air compressor and tanks to enable quick tire inflation and adjust tire pressures for roadways and field compaction.

"The compressor-integrated unit is still a prototype, but we see a lot of interest," Janssen says.

The onboard vane-type compressor is hydraulically driven and has a capacity of 2,000 L/min. It requires 55 L/min. of oil. Two 60L air tanks are optional.

The bumper's outer wings incorporate a built-in break-back protection system to fold forward if impacted while reversing. In addition, they help shield the wheels from the front and side in case of a collision.

Mounting the bumper is simple as it fits any tractor with 3-pt. connections and front

hydraulics. Standard and optional features include red and white panels, flexible LED outside markers, LED contour lighting and direction indicators, safety guide poles, a front linkage to adjust the height, and matching color and logo designs.

The air bumper weighs 600 kg. (1,320 lbs.) and doubles as a front-end weight block. The system can also be used with an air gun to control excessive dust build-ups on other equipment.

All TractorBumper models are produced in-house.

"For me, it's important every bumper leaves our factory in perfect and usable condition," Janssen says. "They've been revised for improvements around 40 times. My focus points are safety, design, functionality and practicality."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tractor Bumper, Hondseind 25, 5131 RE Alphen, The Netherlands (ph +31 13 207 03 44; info@tractorbumper.com; www.tractorbumper.com).