



Add-on track system independently flexes in all directions when passing over rocks, ditches and other obstacles. High horsepower tractors can be fitted with a third axle.

"GIVES YOU THE ADVANTAGES OF A 'CHALLENGER' FOR LESS COST"

Low-Cost Way To "Belt" Wheel Tractors

"It gives you the advantages of Caterpillar's Challenger for a fraction of the cost," says David Hansen, Ridgfield, Wash., inventor of a revolutionary T-bar suspension system for converting conventional wheel tractors to run on belted rubber tracks.

David's prototype, unveiled at the recent Northwest Ag Show in Portland, got a rousing reception from farmers and others who foresee exciting applications for this first-of-its-kind track conversion system.

"What we have here is an American-built 1990 Deere 955 hydrostatic drive diesel with 4-wheel drive and 33 engine horsepower," David told farm show visitors. "We removed the rear wheels and installed our belted tracks, turning this particular wheel tractor into a go-anywhere all-terrain vehicle. In snow or rugged mountain terrain, it'll keep up with machines costing upwards of \$100,000. You can buy this rig for only \$25,000 and that includes the brand new tractor."

Many farmers who saw it felt the prototype on display would be great for spraying or planting. "With hydrostatic drive, you're always in the right gear. And, with the belted tracks, you can move right through mud or standing water. What's more, you have a deluxe tractor-powered sprayer, as opposed in many cases to an underpowered ATV equipped with a motorcycle engine," David pointed out.

He feels that while most standard wheel tractors can be equipped with Hansen tracks, the best candidates are those with 4-WD. On larger horsepower tractors, a third axle

can be added to "beef up" the tracks for heavy loads. Converting a tractor to run on belts doesn't curtail its ability to handle either pull type or 3 pt. equipment. A wide variety of carrying equipment can be mounted on top the tracks, such as a large spray tank, cargo box, fertilizer hopper or, for snow or mountain country, an 8-passenger "people carrier" cab.

The key feature of Hansen's tracks is a patented (pending) T-bar which runs between the tracks, and right through dead center of the front and rear axles. The bar, tied to a large spring coil and hydraulic cylinder, automatically tensions the tracks (eliminating the need for idler wheels) and gives the tracks complete freedom to independently flex in all directions when passing over boulders, steep ditches and other obstacles, be added.

Hansen uses industrial belting to manufacture the tracks. "It comes in a variety of grades and sizes, allowing you to pick and choose to best suit each application. The prototype, for example, is belted with tracks made from industrial belting made for potato conveyers. It comes in 30 in. widths. We cut it down to 28 in.," David points out.

At present he's only offering his tracks on new tractors which he buys and converts on special order. In year or two, he hopes to have kits available which farmers can buy to "belt" existing tractors.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Hansen, 15905 NE 31st Ave., Ridgfield, Wash. 98642 (ph 206 573-2093).



Key feature of Hansen's tracks is a T-bar which runs between the tracks, through the center of front and rear axles. No idler wheels needed.



Outside header section folds back against combine for transport.

FOLDS AGAINST COMBINE FOR TRANSPORT

Giant "Draper" Header Direct-Cuts Or Swaths

You can either direct-cut grain or swath it into windrows with this giant new "header-swather" from Honey Bee Mfg., Ltd., Frontier, Sask.

Built in widths up to 51 ft., it consists of two equal-length draper-type cutting heads mounted in-line on the combine. One header is mounted directly in front of the combine and quick taches to the feederhouse. The other header is mounted on a separate frame on the right side of the combine. The draper on this header consists of two parts, one 21 ft. long and the other 4 ft. long. The 4-ft. long section is fastened by two hold-down clips. When the header-swather is set up to swath, the 4-ft. draper section is removed, the combine's threshing mechanism is disengaged, and the direction of the front header's draper is reversed. Swathed grain falls through the 4-ft. opening between the two headers. To convert the header-swather for straight cut use, the 4-ft. long draper section is reinstalled and the direction of the front header's draper is reversed. Each draper is driven by a separate hydraulic motor.

"Our draper swather-header feeds smoother and with less bunching than an

auger header and results in less shelled grain. It could probably be used to swath hay, but it might not be practical because the swath might be too large," says Tim Hovdestad, sales manager.

The outside header is raised and lowered by a slave cylinder that's controlled by the header height control. Swath shape is controlled by adjusting draper speed and by changing the pitch of the draper.

The side frame, mounted to the combine with two brackets, swings back hydraulically along the right hand side of the combine for transport and is held secure by hydraulic remote pin locks. No trailer is required.

Header-swathers for self-propelled combines are available in 51 and 43-ft. widths. Header-swathers for pull-type combines are available in 38, 34, and 31-ft. widths. Brackets are available to fit most self-propelled and pull-type combine models, including conventional and rotary combines.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Honey Bee Mfg. Ltd., P.O. Box 120, Frontier, Saskatchewan, Canada S0N 0W0 (ph 306 296-2297).



Bale kicker automatically activates when endgate opens.

KICKS OUT BALE WITHOUT HAVING TO BACK UP

Handy New "Bumper" For Big Round Balers

An automatic, hydraulically-operated bale "bumper" that eliminates having to back the tractor to kick out each bale is new from Rolin Mfg., New Salem, N. Dak.

Designed to speed up baling and reduce tractor wear and tear, the new "stop and go" Hydra-Bump plumbs into the existing hydraulic system (no extra outlets required). It automatically activates (when the baler endgate opens) to kick out the bale and then

return to a resting or closed position.

Standard Hydra-Bump fits Deere (models 530 and 539) and Vermeer (model J) big round balers. Units for most other makes and models available on special order.

Sells for \$950, including operating cylinder.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rolin Mfg., Box 35, New Salem, N. Dak. 58563 (ph 701 843-7581).