

Made It Myself

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"Mini" Land Plane

A small chore tractor can easily handle this mini land plane built by Rollin Wachter, Hubbard, Neb.

"I originally built it to grade my driveway but found it also works great to level land after dozing waterways and to level any area in the field where dirt has been removed or filled in. It eliminates all work with a shovel or rake, leaving a finished surface that requires no more

work," says Wachter.

He built the land plane using an old truck frame and axle. He cut off the front of the frame, narrowed it up to a "V", and fitted it with a drawbar tongue. The blade can be angled right or left. Depth of cut is controlled by raising or lowering the tractor drawbar.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rollin Wachter, Hubbard, Neb. 68741.



Seat Belts Make Great Hold-Down Straps

"Seat belts removed from junked out cars make comfortable and inexpensive tethers for bred sows and gilts living in "free stalls", according to Bill Meyer, Prairie du Sac, Wis.

Meyer, who has been "buckling up" his hog breeding herd for seven years, cuts the 2-in. wide belts down to a 3 to 4-ft. length. He then ties a knot in one end of the belt to keep it from slipping through a 14-in. anchor chain bolted to the floor, and buckles the belt loosely around the

belly and behind the front legs.

"Commercial tethers cost about \$20 and are so narrow that they tend to cut into the sow. Seat belt tethers, including anchoring chain and bolts, cost only \$3 or \$4 and they're smoother, more comfortable and wear longer." Shoulder seat belts from GM and Ford cars work best because they buckle up easiest, he adds.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Meyer, Box 34, Prairie du Sac, Wis. 53578 (ph 608 643-3638).

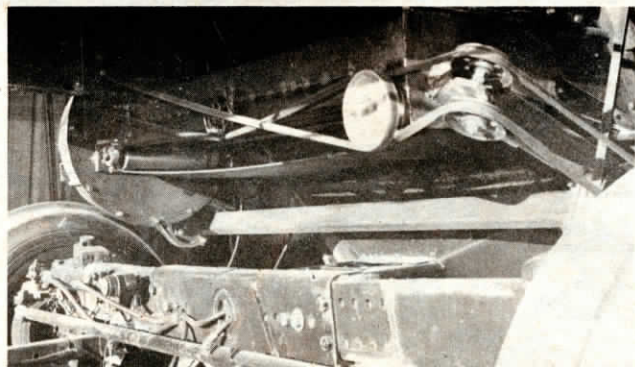
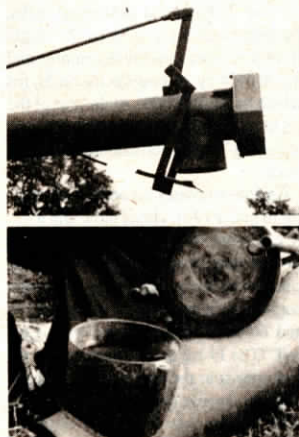
"Never Rust" Fertilizer Auger

A Minnesota farmer "rust-proofed" his 7-in. by 30-ft. fertilizer auger by installing sealing mechanisms over each end that keep air and moisture out of the inside of the auger after each use.

Alvin Koller, LeSueur, made the auger seals out of steel plate gasketed with pieces of rubber inner tube. At the high end, the sealing mechanism slides forward and upward, hand-controlled by a lever from the ground.

Koller says the idea has worked great. After 10 years the auger shows no deterioration.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alvin Koller, 2230 Regency Rd., LeSueur, Minn. 65058 (ph 612 665-2468).



An 11-in. conveyor belt runs across the rear of the combine, replacing the auger that would normally carry chaff to the blower (at left in photo).

Modified Chaff Blower Fits Case/IH 1480 Combine

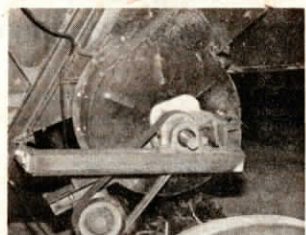
"We made a chaff blower for our Case/IH 1480 combine for less than \$650 using a salvaged chaff blower from an IH 914 combine. That sure beats the \$3,000 cost of a new chaff blower and we think it works better," says Ethelbert Heck, Liebenhal, Sask.

Heck first built a frame to mount the blower unit itself on the side of the combine. He then extended the length of the auger, which feeds chaff to the blower, to 76 in. to accommodate the extra width of the 1480. That's when he had problems. The auger shaft kept breaking because it was too thin for the increased length of the auger.

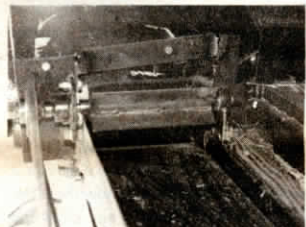
Heck solved the problem by replacing the auger with an 11-in. wide conveyor belt, that also feeds chaff more evenly than an auger. The blower is driven at 2,000 rpm's and the belt at 600 feet per minute. A small beater wheel mounts just above the conveyor belt where chaff enters the blower. It compresses material so it'll enter the blower. The beater runs at 1 1/2 times the speed of the belt.

All three driven components are powered off the back beater shaft on the right side of the combine. A jack shaft extends across the rear of the combine to drive the blower on the other side. A right angle belt drive powers the conveyor belt and a pulley on the conveyor drive powers the beater wheel.

"The cost of the entire job, including bearings, shafts, iron, bolts, pulleys, and belts was right at \$650. If I were going to do it again I'd save money by using an old 12-in. snowmobile track because it would have all the required belting,



Blower mounts on side of combine and is powered by a jackshaft that runs across the rear of the combine from back beater shaft.



Small beater wheel mounts above conveyor belt where it enters blower.

bearings and rollers. And you would probably spend less money installing a conveyor and blower on other makes of combines if you didn't have to rig up a jackshaft to drive the unit," says Heck. "We put 42-ft. oat swaths through it with no plugging problems, although we did have to put a shield over the conveyor belts so the straw spreader wouldn't throw straw onto the belt and plug it up."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ethelbert Heck, Double E Farms, Ltd., Box 47, Liebenhal, Sask. S0N 1L0 Canada (ph 306 624-4250).

"Swing Set" A-Frame Hoist

A home-built 24 by 16-ft. A-frame hoist on wheels allows Spencer Frost, Monticello, Utah, to lift and move heavy equipment anywhere inside his 50 by 24-ft. combination machine shed-shop.

"The hoist slides back and forth on the top I-beam. It's built strong enough that I can even hoist combine motors," says Frost, who notes the wheel under each leg supports 5,000 lbs. and rides on roller bearings.

Frost made the frame from used 3-in. dia. drill stem (with 3/8-in. sidewalls), bolting the A-frame sides of the hoist to the I-beam the way a child's swing set fits together. To form the I-beam he welded together two 10-in. U-channel irons. If necessary the hoist can be dis-



sassembled and moved outside of the shop.

Frost estimates he spent \$650 to build the hoist.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Spencer Frost, Box 1123, Monticello, Utah 84535 (ph 801 587-2079).