



"Baby Steiger" Tractor True In Every Detail

When he was growing up in Grande Prairie, Alberta, John Loyek always wished his dad had a Steiger 4-WD tractor.

Loyek's father never bought a Steiger. But Loyek built a garden tractor that's true to the big Steigers in every last detail.

"I always liked the looks of the Steigers," Loyek says. "I guess that's why I did it. It looks like something that just came out of a showroom."

Loyek's Baby Steiger, which fits nicely into a pickup bed, is 4 ft. wide by 8 ft. long by about 4 1/2 ft. high. It's powered by a 16 hp Kohler grain auger engine he bought new. It features hydrostatic transmission that's infinitely variable up to 8 mph, front and rear ptos, steering, and a 3-pt hitch for the 5 1/2-ft. wide dozer blade mounted in front.

Except for the engine and hydraulics (he had most of the hydraulic components around his shop), Loyek built everything else from the ground up. That includes the Baby Steiger's 4-WD system, made from rear differentials off of two old Chevy Chevelle cars, and the channel iron frame, sheet metal fenders and front grille

made of expanded metal. The grille "pretty much copies the Steiger's exactly," Loyek says. "That took more work than anything else."

Loyek began building the Baby Steiger 10 years ago when he was still in high school. He just put the finishing touches on it this spring, when he painted it Steiger's trademark lime green and black colors.

Altogether, Loyek says he's got about \$5,000 invested in the project. "I don't know how many thousands of hours," he adds.

In the future, he plans to make a mower deck for the tractor and may replace its turf tires with dual 15-in. grip tires for looks. However, mounting duals on the tractor would cost a "small fortune" in rubber and require custom-built rims as well, Loyek notes.

Loyek says he'd be very interested in building more of the tractors and/or selling plans for them.

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Removable Bucket Forks

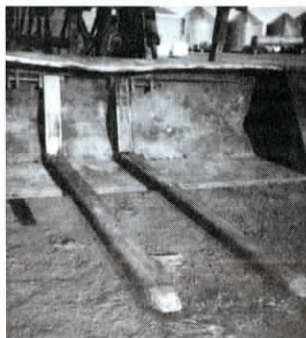
South Dakota farmer Thomas Biddle came up with this handy design for removable bucket forks that are easy to mount yet leave the bucket free when not needed.

"I needed a forklift to handle seed pallets but couldn't justify an expensive add-on attachment or forklift," says Biddle. "These forks are made out of 6-ft. long pieces 2 by 4-in. sq. tubing with 18-in. long pieces of 2 by 4 tubing welded vertically to the back end in an 'L' shape. A 6-ft. long 2 by 4 metal brace is welded along the top back side of the bucket to brace the loader for lifting. There are two sets of hangar brackets hanging off the brace so we can quickly adjust spacing of forks by pulling two pins.

"I use the wide position for unloading wood pallets from delivery trucks and to load pallets into a pickup when going to the field. I also use them to lift large bulk seed bags.

"I use the narrower inside brackets (as shown in the photo) for moving bulk shuttle tanks of chemicals.

"You can see the ends of the forks by



tipping the bucket forward or back. I painted 4-in. stripes on top of the bucket to indicate where the forks are in lining up to lift pallets. I've used the fork for 2 years now with no problems. They're built heavy enough to lift more than the loader can handle."

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"Double Toolbar" Rotary Hoe Controls Weeds In The Rows

By C.F. Marley

Marvin Manges, Yale, Ill., turned his 29 1/2-ft. wide Deere rotary hoe into a 19 1/2-ft., 8-row "double toolbar" hoe that he uses to control in-row weeds in his 30-in. spaced corn.

"It has twice as much soil mixing action as a conventional rotary hoe, allowing me to eliminate weeds within the row without using herbicides," says Manges.

Manges farms organically, using no chemicals or commercial fertilizer. He plants all his crops on ridges and uses cover crops to control weeds. He uses the same traffic pattern to plant, rotary hoe, cultivate, and chop stalks. He uses a Buffalo shredder to chop stalks and mulch cover crops and 14-in. wide Buffalo sweeps on his 8-row planter to level the ridges. He uses a Buffalo cultivator to control weeds between rows.

He cut 10 ft. off one end of the toolbar and welded it to a 9 1/2-ft. long 4 by 6 steel bar, then welded in steel cross beams and end plates to connect the two toolbars together. The toolbars are 26 in. apart. He remounted the hoe wheels in groups of four spaced 30 in. apart on each toolbar, with the wheels in each group spaced 3 in. Each front group of hoe wheels is offset 3/4 in. to the left of the center of the row and each rear group is offset 3/4 in. to the right of the row center so that the wheels are spaced evenly across the row, with 1 1/2 in. gaps between them.

A pair of depth gauge wheels mounts on the front toolbar to control depth of the front hoe wheels. Depth of the rear gangs is controlled by the top link on the 3-pt. hitch.

"It gives me the benefits of going over the field twice with just one pass," says Manges. "Because I don't use any herbicides my biggest problem is controlling weeds in the row. I use the

rotary hoe before planting to 'peel' off the top of the ridge. It provides a clean surface for planting. I use it again every third or fourth day after planting until corn is in the four or five-leaf stage and big enough to cultivate. I adjust hoe wheel depth for each pass depending on crop stage and soil conditions. I set the depth gauge wheels first, then use the 3-pt. to adjust the rear hoe wheels up or down.

"One advantage is that my double toolbar rotary hoe has only 64 wheels compared to the original 96 wheels so there's about 50% more down pressure per wheel, not including the weight of the extra toolbar, cross beams, and end plates. The extra weight really helps in hard soil conditions.

"After shortening the toolbar I recentered the 3-pt. hitch. To ensure that the hoe pulls straight, I mounted the rotary hoe wheels on the left side of the rear toolbar 3/4 inch to the left of the front four wheels, and the wheels on the right side of the rear toolbar 3/4 inch to the right of the front four wheels."

To weld the two pieces of the rear toolbar together, Manges welded two lengths of 1/2-in. dia. steel rod onto one end of each toolbar at opposite corners, allowing the toolbars to slip inside each other so they would stay in place before he did the final welding.

The hoe wheel mounting arms pivot on the original 1-in. dia. lengths of shaft. Manges cut the shafts down to fit the new wheel positions and used 2-in. sq. steel tubing to make mounting brackets for them. J-bolts through the tubing are used to secure the shafts.

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