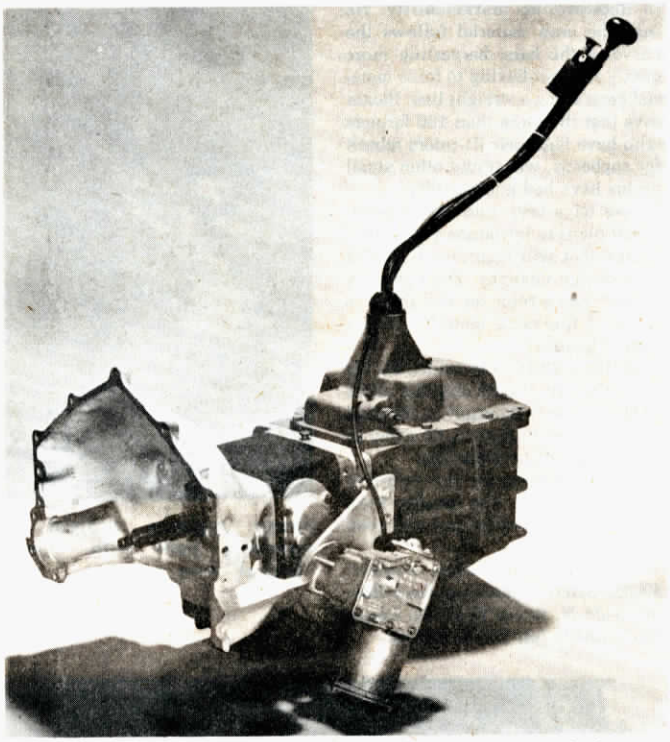


Splitter mounts between bell housing and existing transmission.

SPLITTER GIVES YOU "IN BETWEEN" POWER

Convert Your Pickup To Eight Speeds

If you've been eyeing those new pickup torque splitters that'll convert your pickup to eight speeds, you'll want to take a look at the torque splitter manufactured by Advance Adapters, Paso Robles, Calif.

Advance Adapters has been making splitters since the early 1970's when it bought the idea from a Colorado manufacturer who pioneered the technology. Since the splitter is not protected by patent, it has since been manufactured and marketed by other companies.

John Partridge, president of Advance Adapters, says there's more demand now for splitters than there has ever been. "The new diesel pickups are worthless for heavy hauling without a torque splitter. On any pickup, the difference between having and not having one for hauling is like the difference between night and day," he told FARM SHOW. "The splitter gives you a way to use the engine's power by giving you an extra set of in-between gears that you can use when you need them."

Advance Adapter's Ranger, as their splitter is called, mounts between the bellhousing and the existing manual transmission. The front side of the Ranger is an exact copy of your existing transmission and bolts directly to the bellhousing. The rear side of the Ranger duplicates the appearance of the bell housing. No special tools are required to install it, although you have to shorten the drive shaft to install it, which makes it a permanent installation. The company is working on a new model that can be removed when the pickup is sold.

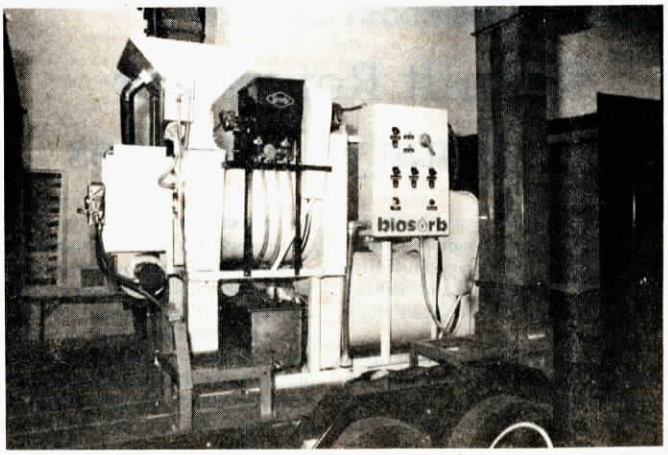
Here's how the splitter works:

The "spaces" between the existing gears are eliminated, giving your 4-speed a total of 8 speeds forward, with each existing gear split in two. A push-pull switch mounted on your floor shift lever electrically shifts the transmission from "high range" to "low range" with an Eaton 2-speed shifter. Your shift pattern remains the same. When in first gear, you clutch and pull the button to slip into your new second gear. As you shift the gear shift lever to move up to third gear (your old second gear), you push the button back in. The pattern continues through all 8 gears. If you're operating under no-load conditions, you can simply skip the in-between gears and shift it like a standard 4-speed.

The splitter allows you to haul big loads more easily and lessens engine wear, and also increases fuel mileage 20 to 30%, according to Partridge.

The Ranger fits most domestic and some foreign model pickups. It's guaranteed for 30,000 miles or six months. Sells for $1,200 and comes with instructions for do-it-yourselfers.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Advance Adapters, Inc., 1645 Commerce Way, P.O. Box 247, Paso Robles, Calif. 93446 (ph 805 238-7000).



Seed-coater applies a latex adhesive to hold the moisture-absorbing starch coating.

COMPANY NOW LEASES COATING MACHINES

"Super Slurper" Seeds Now Ready For Market

You've probably heard about seeds coated with absorbent "super slurper" coatings that soak up moisture for quick germination. Starting next spring, you should be able to buy super slurper seeds commercially.

Researchers have been coating seed for several years on a small basis but no one has had the machinery necessary to apply super slurper coatings commercially. Now Biosorb Inc., a newly formed Eden Prairie, Minn. firm, has introduced a machine that it plans to begin leasing to commercial seed handlers this fall.

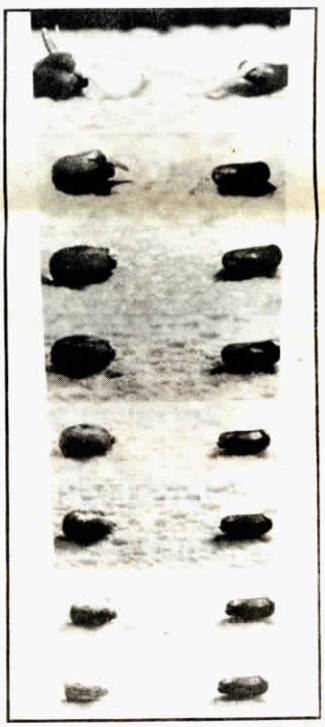
The absorbent coating's main ingredient is a super absorbent corn starch that was patented by the USDA in 1976 and which is now licensed to some 50 companies that make everything from diapers to batteries. According to Dale Behmer, Biosorb marketing manager, other companies have tried and failed to come up with a machine to apply the coating to seeds.

"No one could come up with a machine to do the two-stage coating that's necessary. Our machine applies a latext adhesive and the corn starch coating, adding various conditioning additives, if desired," says Behmer. "The seed coating also protects the seed coat from damage, especially for soybeans and cotton seed."

Experts don't agree on the benefits of super slurpers but Behmer says yields on test plots have shown yield increases from 0 to 25%, depending on conditions.

"If there is any moisture stress, the coating draws any available moisture to the seed and helps get a good stand established. Even when there is adequate moisture, we feel the coating helps the seed germinate faster and give several days more maturity that may well be worth the $2 to $4 an acre it costs to treat the seed," says Behmer.

Biosorb points to successful tests on cotton seeds in Texas, corn in Illinois and Wisconsin, soybeans and corn in Minnesota and wheat in the Dakotas. In each case, treated seeds germinated faster than untreated seeds, although yields differed by soil type and moisture conditions. The company feels it may have its best initial success in semi-arid growing areas.



Time lapse photo of treated and untreated corn kernels on wet sponge shows earlier germination of coated seed, left.

The company leases machines for around $7,000 a year.

For more information on where seed will be available, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Biosorb, Inc., 6876 Washington Ave., Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344 (ph 612 944-5110).