

Old Truck Makes Weathertight "Seed Wagon"

A 1940's panel truck, with its engine cut off and a gooseneck hitch welded on, makes a weathertight "seed wagon" that holds a day's supply of seed and insecticide for Howard Streeter, Alpha, Ill.

The truck, 16 ft. long, 7 ft. wide and 6 1/2 ft. high, has rear double folding doors and a side door formerly used by the driver. "The truck was similar in design to today's bread delivery trucks," says Streeter, who pulls his "seed wagon" with a 3/4-ton pickup. "It really didn't have a cab. The glass that's now just behind the gooseneck hitch used to be the windshield. I removed everything ahead of it which included the engine and front end. Behind the driver was a 3-ft. deep compartment, where I now store planter parts, grease and oil. There's a door between

the front and rear compartments."

Streeter uses the main compartment of his "seed wagon" to hold 250 bu. of corn or soybean seed, as well as insecticides. "I separate materials into different piles and arrange them according to the order of my needs. Before I built this truck I hauled seed in my pickup. The bed wasn't big enough to carry a day's supply, and when it rained I had to cover the bed with a canvas. Also, when I had to drive to town for parts, I had to carry all of that cargo with me. Now when it rains I simply shut the doors, and when I want to drive to town for parts, I just unhook the seed wagon and let it sit."

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Single-Cylinder Switching Device For Markers

A Canadian grain farmer's mechanical switching device lets him switch automatically from the marker on one side of his drill to the marker on the other side without even watching.

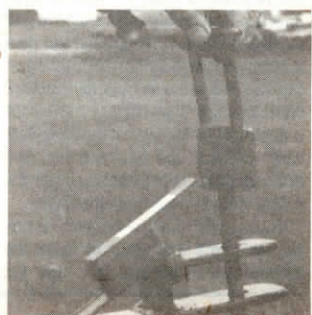
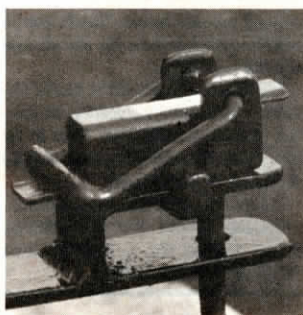
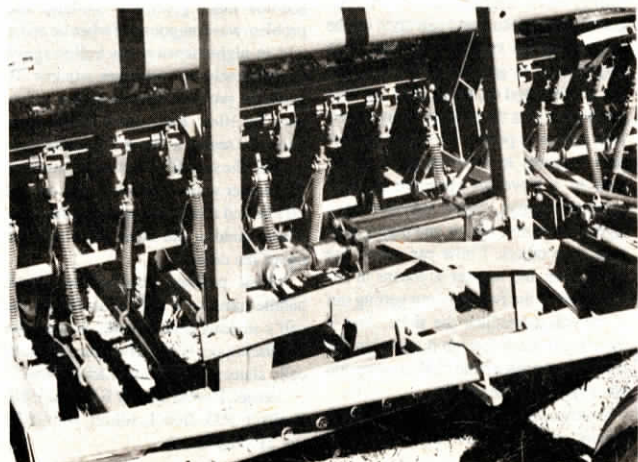
"Just pull the hydraulic lever and then forget about it," he says, explaining that as the single lift cylinder pulls one marker up, the marker on the other side is released to fall the next time the cylinder is extended. One cylinder raises and lowers both markers, freeing up a hydraulic outlet that can be used for something else, or eliminating the need to get off to raise or lower markers by hand. "Some farmers spend a fortune on hardware, hoses and cylinders."

The idea works great on planters, drills, sprayers or any other equipment. The switching device can be positioned any-

where on the machine and consists of two upright masts connected by rope or chain to markers on either side. At the base of each mast is a pointed hook that's 2 1/2 by 14 in. in size and 3/16 in. thick. The hooks slide back and forth in a narrow channel. When one marker is raised, the pointed hook slips under the hook on the other marker, raising it up and releasing the hook. The next time the cylinder is extended, it lowers the released marker, using the hooked marker as its base.

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Self-Lock Hitch Pin

"I got tired of losing hitch pins. I looked at other lock-down pins but they all have springs or other kinds of mechanisms that are difficult to use. This pin locks quickly and easily into place," says Gordon Brietzke, Spirit River, Alberta.

The pin is in two-interlocking parts. The protruding lip on the part that attaches to the tongue fits through the handle of the part that fits over the head of the pin. Once the pin is down through the

drawbar, the handle lays over the back end of the first part. Any upward pressure on the bottom of the pin simply holds the pin more tightly in place. "There's no springs or hold-down bolts and it can be padlocked," says Brietzke, who's patented the pin and is looking for a manufacturer.

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Old Grinder-Mixer Makes Handy Portable Feed Bin

"Old grinder-mixers make handy portable feed bins for use around the farm," says Floyd Zimmer, Cherokee, Iowa, who removed the hammer-mill, discharge auger and mixing auger from inside the tank of his Owatonna 95 grinder-mixer.

"Arts-Way, International Harvester and Owatonna grinder-mixers all have sliding rear unloading doors that make it easy to fill a basket or bucket for hand feeding animals. I use the modified mixer-bin to store feed for sows, parking it near the yard where the sows are located.

"I first removed the hammermill. That unbalanced the frame so I put a stand at the rear of the frame to hold it level after being unhooked from the tractor. The mixing tank was left bolted in its original position.

"About six bolts hold the mixing auger inside the tank and the gearbox located



below the mixing tank and main frame has to be unbolted and removed. Then the mixing auger can be lifted out the top."

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