Plastic wear blocks were originally designed to replace wood blocks on Gleaner combines but can be used on other equipment by changing mounting blocks.

REPLACE WOOD BLOCKS OR SPROCKET IDLERS

Plastic Wear Blocks Reduce Chain Wear

"I got the idea when I saw other farmers slipping small wedges of plastic between the chains and wood block tighteners on their Gleaner combines," says Ron Rosman, Davenport, Wash., who started manufacturing plastic wear blocks for Gleaners and any other machine with wood tighteners or idler sprockets.

Rosman's wear blocks have a 3/16-in. thick wear area of high grade plastic. "They last 4 to 5 times longer than wood blocks, increasing chain lift and keeping chains tighter. I've had them on my own machines for 3 years and they work great. They seem to last forever with almost no wear," says Rosman.

The 1 3/4-in. wide wear blocks were originally designed for conventional Gleaner combines because of the high number of chain drives and the wood blocks used on them, but they can be used on any other chain drive. Rosman uses them on the feeder and unload augers on his IH Axial Flow combine as well as on rod weeders, fertilizer and spray equipment, sawmills and other equipment. "They're great under tough, dirty conditions where you don't want to use a sprocket idler because you don't want to hold the chain in a fixed position," he notes.

Plastic wear blocks sell for $3.45 apiece or $2.42 apiece for five or more. Although designed to replace the blocks on Gleaner combines, they can be adapted to other equipment by changing mounting bolts.

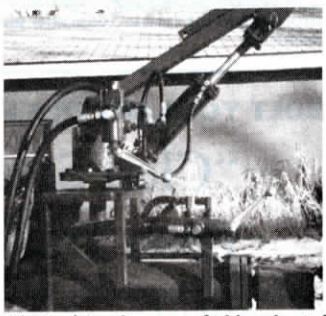
For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Rosman, Innovations In Agriculture, P.O. Box 275, Davenport, Wash. 99122 (ph 800 247-6567 or, 509 725-5047).

Log Splitter Fitted With Nifty Lift Arm

"It makes it easy to split logs as big as 4 ft. across," says Don Deshong, McConnellsburg, Penn., who, along with the help of neighbors Earl McCulloh and Jim Gordon, built a 3-pt. mounted log splitter fitted with a back-saving clam-type boom lift that pivots to either side of the splitter.

Key to success of the "made it myself" splitter is the design of the pivot on the boom, which is positioned above the front of the splitter. The pivot point was fashioned out of a heavy-built stub axle salvaged from a New Holland 77 baler. The hub of the axle mounts vertically just behind the 3 pt. Deshong says the first lift boom the men built failed because of stress on the hub. They solved the problem by mounting three small 1-in. dia. machined steel rollers between the bottom of the hub and the mounting plate. The rollers are positioned just behind the mounting point of the lift cylinder so that they support the weight of the lift, taking stress off the hub itself.

The 4 1/2-ft. long boom is fitted with a 2-in. dia. lift cylinder. A clam-type log lift, which works like a pair of ice tongs, dangles from a chain at the end of the boom. "Designing the clam was more difficult than it looks. The lift points had to be placed off center so it would really grab hold of the logs."



Pivot point on boom was fashioned out of a heavy-built stub axle from an old baler. Three small 1-in. dia. steel rollers between hub and mounting plate provide support.

The splitter itself was built out of a 12-in. H-beam and is powered by a 6-in. dia. cylinder with a 24-in. stroke. Control valves for both the boom and splitter are mounted on the splitter so there's no need to use tractor controls and only one set of remotes are required.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Deshong, 657 E. Market, McConnellsburg, Penn. 17233 (ph 717 485-3387).

SIMPLE NEW CONTROL PLUGS INTO EXISTING HYDRAULICS

Header Height Control For Deere, IH Cornheads

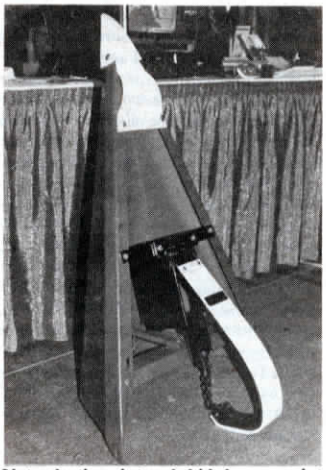
"Every year combines keep increasing ground speed in corn because the machines have so much capacity. At speeds of up to 5 1/2 mph it's difficult to always keep headers level. Our new header height control is a simple and economical way to get instant, hands-off control," says Dan FitzSimmons, inventor of a new height control system for Deere and Case/IH combines (soon to fit other models as well) that plugs into your combine's existing hydraulics.

The new system, manufactured and marketed by May-Wes Mfg., is designed to fit Deere and IH combines that are equipped with controls for hydraulically leveled bean and flex heads. The May-Wes system makes use of the fittings and controls for those heads. It consists of "feelers" that mount at about the mid-point of the underside of the snouts (three per 8-row head). The curved, plastic-coated feelers, which slide along the ground, are connected by cables to a spring-loaded rock shaft that mounts at the back of the cornhead. The rockshaft is connected by linkage to the hydraulic header controls.

"Unlike other, more expensive systems on the market that require a different valve and controller, this height control system plugs right into the combine's existing hydraulics, allowing the operator to dial in the proper height and keep the head in the same position regardless of the terrain," says FitzSimmons, who's service manager at a southern Minnesota Case/IH dealership.

The height control system was field-tested last fall on two combines. "It makes your cornhead float like a bean head. Works great, especially when working at night or in rocky or badly rutted fields," says FitzSimmons.

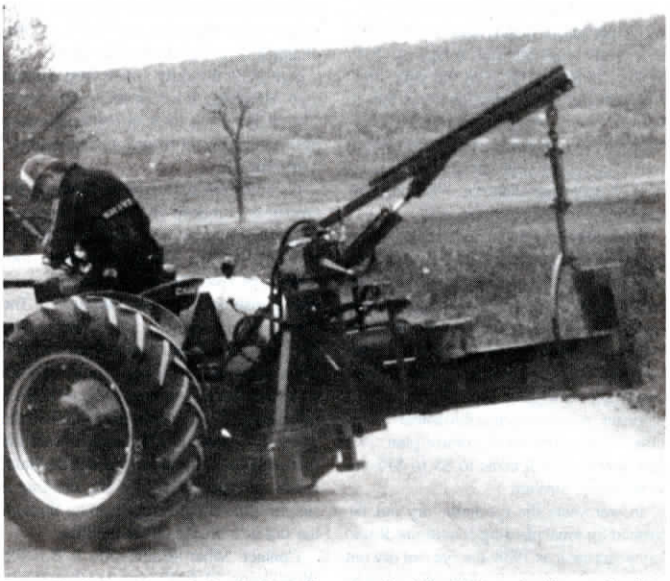
Three feelers are installed on an 8-row head, two on a 6-row head. They operate independently so any one of them can raise the entire head.



Note plastic point and skid shoe on point of snout. May-Wes sells this point assembly, which bolts into place, for $20 to fit Case/IH cornheads (800, 900 and 1,000 series), Deere quick-tach heads, and Gleaner "black frame" heads. The bowed skid shoe keeps the point about 1 1/2 in. above the ground.

The new control system fits any Case/IH combine since 1981 with flex head height control, and any Deere combine with "Dialamatic" controls. It's available for 6 and 8 row heads. May-Wes plans to also develop it for 12-row heads, and for other combine makes. Sells for $1,000 to $1,250, depending on model and size cornhead.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, May-Wes Mfg., Gibbon, Minn. 55335 (ph 507 834-6695 or 6572).



The 4 1/2-ft. long boom is fitted with a clam-type log lift which works like a pair of ice tongs.