



## Planter Fitted With 55-Gal. Drum Hoppers

"It lets me plant 35 acres of soybeans on one fill. Saves a lot of time," says Donald Anderson, Alberta, Va., who mounted five 55-gal. steel drums on his 10-row no-till soybean planter.

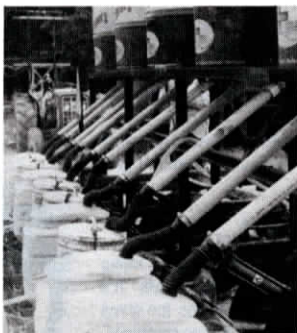
Each drum holds 5 bu. of seed. Together with the planter's 1-bu. seed hoppers, the planter has a total capacity of 35 bu.

Anderson mounted the drums on a 2-ft. wide wooden catwalk that he built over the planter. A pair of 3-ft. long, 1 1/2-in. dia. pvc tubes run from the bottom of each drum to the row unit seed hoppers - one tube to each hopper. Seed drops by gravity through the tubes and into the hoppers as they empty out.

Anderson plants up to 300 acres of soybeans each year. "I had been using an Allis-Chalmers 4-row no-till planter to plant corn in 36-in. rows, then added three row units between the existing row units to plant soybeans in 18-in. rows. However, I could go only 8 to 10 acres before having to refill the hoppers. I also wanted a wider planter.

"I didn't want to spend money on a new planter, so I bought a couple of used Allis-Chalmers 600 series planters, one 4-row and the other 7-row. I merged them to make a 10-row, 18-in. planter, then added the catwalk and five 55-gal. drums. I can fill the five drums just as fast as I could fill the hoppers on my old planter. Each drum holds about 300 lbs. of seed so I'm carrying 1,500 lbs. of extra seed. The extra weight helps the no-till coulters do a better job of penetrating hard or rolling ground. I use saddle tanks on my tractor to broadcast herbicide behind the planter."

The two converted toolbars were built with three separate toolbars to support the coulters, lift wheels, and row units. Anderson welded the toolbars together, beefing them up with channel iron. He used channel iron and angle iron to build the scaffold that supports the drums and



mounted a couple of steps on one end. He used angle iron and 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe to build a safety railing in front of the catwalk. Drums are bolted to the catwalk between two lengths of channel iron.

"I put soybeans in old fertilizer bags and just back my pickup up to the catwalk to dump seed into the drums," notes Anderson.

He cut a pair of 1 1/2-in. dia. holes in the bottom of each drum and mounted a bushing inside each hole to secure the pvc pipes. He ran the pvc pipes at a 45 degree angle down to within 1 1/2 ft. of the hoppers, then clamped a length of flexible rubber hose (designed for Deere grain drills) to the other end of the pipes. He cut a hole in the lid of each seed hopper and screwed the hoses into them, then used silicon caulking to seal them. The flexible hoses allow the planter to be raised and lowered without interrupting seed flow.

Anderson added bigger hydraulic lift cylinders to the planter and extra wheels (removed from an old Deere planter) to make tandem wheels. He still plants corn with his 4-row planter and just uses the converted planter for beans.

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## CRP Alfalfa-Grass Seeder

After putting part of his farm into CRP, South Dakota farmer Larry Scott wanted a more accurate way to seed alfalfa and grass. His solution was to pull a Brillion "Pulverizer-Mulcher" ahead of his 14-ft. 620 IH press wheel drill.

"I put it together in 1989 and got such a good stand my neighbors started asking me to drill their alfalfa and CRP acres," says Scott.

His original idea was to pull the Brillion packer behind the drill but his county SCS wouldn't approve the practice un-



less the packer was in front of the drill. As it turned out that worked best anyway, creating an extremely level, firm seedbed. "Allows far more accurate

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## "Made It Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director

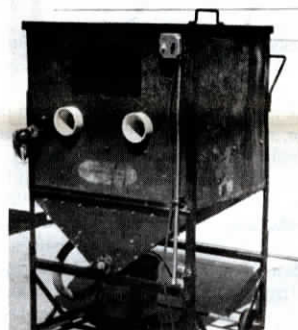
## Grain Hopper Sand Blaster

"I recently cut up an old Allis Chalmers pull-type combine to obtain extra steel for projects. When I got to the hopper it was in such good shape I decided I had to find a use for it," says David Kurowicz, Britten, Mich., who turned the old hopper into a sand blaster for cleaning parts.

"At that time I was restoring an antique John Deere tractor which needed a lot of sand blasting. Because there were so many small parts to clean up, I decided I needed a sand blast cabinet of my own to make it economical. A mid-size commercial sand blast cabinet cost \$800 so I decided to build my own. The old grain hopper was almost identical in size to the commercial cabinet I'd been looking at.

"I used angle iron off the scrapped combine to make legs and fitted a set of old lawn mower wheels to the back legs to make it easy to move around. Then I made a top door using sheet steel and angle iron, trimming around the inside edges with weather strip foam rubber for a good tight seal. I put a pipe plug in the bottom of the hopper to drain out the used sand and put a window and arm holes in the front side. The arm holes are just 4-in. plastic pipe that I pushed into the holes. I clamped some heavy rubber gloves over the ends of the plastic pipe with 4 1/2-in. hose clamps. The window is covered with plexiglass that I bought at a hardware store.

"A switch controls a light inside the hopper and there's a plug-in for a shop vac to remove excess dust inside cabinet.



"Inside the hopper I installed a wire mesh grate to set parts on. Any size mesh will work as long as sand can fall through to the bottom to be recycled.

"A hand-held trigger gun and sand siphon tube which runs to the bottom of the hopper was purchased from a local tool supplier along with an air filter, pressure regulator and dryer - for moisture that could be in your air supply. Inside dimensions of the cabinet are 20 in. high, 36 in. wide and 25 in. deep. That's plenty of room to sand blast engine heads, implement wheels, kids toys, and all kinds of small parts. Total cost was \$200."

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seeding depth and the drill press wheels keep soil from blowing away."

He bought the packer used for \$350 and completely rebuilt it, straightening all shafts and building them up to .010 oversize. He also installed new bearings and seals. The bridge hitch running from the packer back to the drill was salvaged from a field cultivator. The back of the hitch was extended with a reinforced tractor drawbar to reach the drill. "Works

great on flat ground. On hills we have to make slow wide turns," says Scott.

"The packer-drill combo has provided excellent stands on the 1,500 acres we've seeded with it. Only improvement I'd recommend is to use a packer with hydraulic transport to make it easier to turn on hills and for transport," says Scott.

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