

Latch Holds Truck End Gate Where You Want It

Jerry Bauer of Thorhild, Alberta, uses a homemade latch equipped with an eccentric to keep his truck's end gate in place wherever he wants it.

"It holds the door tightly in any position. I never have to worry about it falling down," says Bauer.

The latch consists of a threaded bolt that goes through a hole drilled into a length of angle iron along one side of the door. The bolt is welded to one side of a 1/2-in. long piece of 1-in. dia. steel pipe. Because the bolt is welded to one side of the pipe, it acts as an eccentric, clamping down tight against the door when turned. He welded a short metal strap onto the other end of the bolt to serve as a handle.

A nut on each side of the angle iron stabilizes the latch.

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Bauer's homemade latch is equipped with an eccentric that holds end gate tightly in place wherever he wants it.



Pig holder consists of a 15-gal. grease drum stuffed with loose straw and set at an angle. Zomerman simply sticks pigs inside the barrel head first and holds onto their legs.

Modified Drum Works Great To Castrate Pigs

"It's not fancy but it works great to castrate pigs, especially bigger ones that are harder to handle," says Jerry Zomerman, Stony Plain, Alberta, about his homemade pig holder that consists of a 15-gal. grease drum stuffed with loose straw and set at an angle.

Zomerman cut a 10-in. dia. opening in the top of the drum. The bottom of the drum rests on top of some small square bales and is held in place at a 45 degree angle by a length of rope tied to a fence panel.

Zomerman simply sticks pigs inside the barrel head first and holds onto their legs.

"It works especially well for castrating pigs from 40 to 60 lbs.," says Zomerman. "The straw provides a comfortable place for them to lie. It's dark and quiet inside so they don't struggle as much."

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Schlossler mounts a homemade, spring-toothed dethatcher on front of his Deere 318 garden tractor and a box scraper on back.

Garden Tractor Fitted With Front-Mount Dethatcher, Pull-Type Box Scraper

Charles Schlossler increased the usefulness of his Deere 318 garden tractor by mounting attachments on front and back.

On front is a spring-toothed dethatcher. It's hydraulically raised and lowered. On back is a 5-ft. 2-in. wide box scraper with an axle that can be hydraulically adjusted 3 in. up or down to do grading work. It's equipped with a row of homemade scarifier teeth on front. The teeth are built in two sections and are free to swivel up or down on a steel pipe, making it possible to raise or lower them as needed.

Schlossler bought a 4-ft. wide commercial dethatcher on sale for \$80 and painted it Deere green and yellow. It's equipped with a pair of rubber caster wheels. The dethatcher mounts on a home-built parallel linkage system that attaches to the front of the tractor and is raised or lowered by the same hydraulic cylinder that's used to raise or lower Schlossler's snow plow.

"I use a grass catcher with my lawn mower so I can dethatch and bag the grass clippings at the same time," says Schlossler. "It takes only about 5 minutes to mount or dismount the dethatcher. All I do is remove four pins from a bracket on the tractor."

On back is a box scraper that rides on 13-in. wheels off an Audi car. The wheels are connected by an axle made from steel tubing. A 6-in. cylinder is used to raise or lower the scraper. A 1-in. manually operated thread screw is used to tilt the scraper to one side or the other, allowing it to be used to cut ditch sides. The thread screw fits into a big square nut that's used to adjust the axle up or down. "If I want I can lower one side 2 in. and cut on an angle. It works great on ditches," says Schlossler.



Box scraper is equipped with scarifier teeth positioned 8 in. ahead of blade.



Back of rig has two indicators. One shows how much the scraper is raised and lowered; the other shows how much it's tilted.

The scarifier pivots on a round steel shaft and can be flipped up out of the way when not needed. "The scarifier teeth mount 8 inches ahead of the blade and penetrate 2 in. into the ground before the scraper blade even touches the ground," says Schlossler. "They loosen the soil, then the blade scrapes it off. The scraper hitch mounts on a 2-in. ball so it can pivot easily in any direction."

The back of the rig is equipped with two indicators - one that shows how much the scraper is raised and lowered, and one that shows how much it's tilted.

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Bolt-on plastic liner comes in sections that are screwed onto the back, sides, and bottom of bucket and then "welded" together at the joints.

"No-Stick" Plastic-Lined Loader Bucket

Manure, wet dirt, and other sticky materials aren't as likely to stick onto a front-end loader bucket if it's lined with plastic, says Dan Thiel, Badger Plastic & Supply, Plover, Wis., who's come up with a bolt-on plastic liner for front-end loader buckets. He showed it at the recent Electric Power & Farm Equipment Show in Madison, Wis.

The plastic liner comes in sections that are screwed onto the back, sides, and bottom of the bucket and then "welded" together at the joints. "We're not quite ready to market it

yet but there has been a lot of interest in it," says Thiel. "One customer has had the liner on his 7-yard loader bucket for two years, using it to haul sand, gravel, and rocks. It works great for him and has shown very little wear. I think the same idea could be used on payloaders and earth-moving equipment."

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