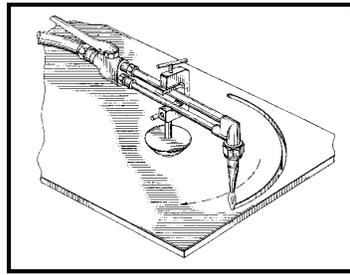
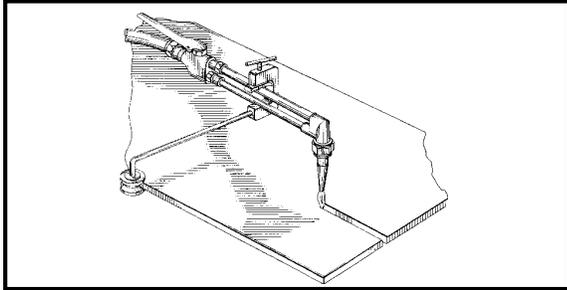


To make a circle, you stick the pointed end of the circle cutter into a dent made by a center punch.



This attachment is for cutting larger diameter circles.



Wheel attachment follows edge of piece to make straight cuts.

Add-On "Clamp" Lets Cutting Torch Work With Precision

Cutting perfect circles and straight lines is easy with the help of these add-on "clamp" attachments that are designed to attach to any cutting torch, says Accu-Cut, Pretty Prairie, Kan.

Three different clamp-on attachments are available to cut small circles, large circles, and straight edges from almost any metal. To cut a circle you tap a center punch into the surface of the metal to make a dent, then stick the pointed end of the circle cutter into it which allows the torch to work like a pro-

tractor. The straight line cutter consists of a roller that you place against the edge of the metal and roll as you cut.

"It lets you cut with a smooth finish and is guaranteed to within 1/32 in. accuracy," says inventor Bill Shippen, who notes that he will also soon offer a fixture to cut saddles in pipe.

All three clamps sell for a total of \$35 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Accu-Cut, 4412 N. State Rd. 17, Pretty Prairie, Kan. 67570 (ph 316 459-6917; fax 6864).

Pull-Type Fertilizer Spreader Makes Great Soybean Seeder

Fertilizer spreaders can be converted into low-cost soybean seeders, says Duane Janikula, Waverly, Minn., who uses a modified pull-type spinner spreader to plant all his soybeans. He makes a second pass with a field cultivator to cover the seed.

"It works fast and it's cheap. It also saves on labor," says Janikula, who has used the fertilizer spreader for 10 years.

He bought a used Mobility spinner spreader for \$2,300. He replaced the sprockets on the delivery chain at the bottom of the hopper with bigger ones in order to slow down the chain and reduce seed damage. The chain runs at half its original speed, allowing Janikula to open the endgate twice as high and increase the soybean flow rate. He filed down sharp edges on the endgate in order to avoid cracking beans. The delivery chain is ground-driven by a small rubber wheel that rides against one of the spreader wheels. The drive wheel was originally engaged by pulling on a rope. He replaced the rope with a hydraulic cylinder, allowing him to simply push a lever in the tractor cab at the end of the field in order to shut off the seed flow.

"It's an easy way to cover a lot of acres fast without having to spend money for a drill," says Janikula. "It spreads the seed in a 45 to 50-ft. wide pattern. I use it every year to plant about 1,000 acres of soybeans. It results in an excellent stand of soybeans, even in dry years. I use a 130 hp tractor to pull it, although I could use a much smaller tractor.

A forklift fills it with seed from bulk bags. I put two bulk bags into the hopper at a time. Each bag holds about 2,500 lbs. Any more weight than that would stretch the delivery chain. At first I had problems with cracked seed because the delivery chain was running too fast. I haven't had any problems since I slowed down the chain. The slower speed also pulls beans through easier. However, I do have to watch bean size so I don't over or under plant. I compensate for differences in bean size by adjusting the endgate opening.

"I got the idea because I needed a way to reduce labor. I had been using an 8-row planter. One advantage is that the spreader holds more seed than a drill or planter. I can plant 100 acres per fill and up to 250 acres per day. My fertilizer spreader isn't as depth accurate as a planter, but it certainly works as good as most drills. Incorporation of seed into the soil is the most important factor in getting a good stand."

Before planting beans Janikula disk-chisels corn stubble in the fall. The following spring he field cultivates and applies a yellow herbicide on his first pass, then spreads the soybean seed and makes another pass with the field cultivator. The seed is broadcast onto soil that has about 60 percent surface residue cover.

"We incorporate preemergence herbicides at the same time we work the seeds in," says Janikula. "We use a Wil-Rich Quad 5 cultivator and set the 9-in. wide sweeps to go 3

Would You Buy Your Seed Corn At SAM'S Club?

After you've bought your toilet paper and breakfast cereal on your next trip to SAM'S Club, there's one more item you might want to pick up - next year's seed corn.

Unity Seeds, Kentland, Ind., is believed to be the first and only company in America to market its hybrids through a consumer-type superstore. Unity now sells its corn through selected "SAM'S Clubs" in 11 Midwestern states.

"My brother Mark and I were on the way to a field day early one morning and were discussing new ways to market our seed corn," explains Cathy Simons-Standish, one of the owners of the family-operated business that used to grow seed for other companies. "SAM'S Club came to mind because we shop for a lot of our supplies there. One store in Terre Haute was the first to take it on, then others began calling because it did so well."

Seed corn sales through SAM'S Clubs are growing "exponentially" because it's a "win-win" situation for farmers, Simons-Standish says.

"When farmers are getting less than \$2 per bushel for corn, our price of \$51 per 80,000 kernel bag looks pretty attractive compared with up to \$100 or more for hybrids from the competition," she says.

But how do Unity Seeds' hybrids stack up against the competition?

"It's always one of my highest-yielding hybrids," says Verl Schoenrock of Fairbury Neb. He's planted 25 to 30 bushels of Unity Seeds 6285, a 113-day seed corn, since SAM'S Club in Lincoln started selling it five years ago.

For example, in 1996, Unity Seeds yielded 114 bushels per acre on dryland corn, compared with 95 and 99 bushels per acre for comparable Pioneer numbers and 79 and 96



Unity Seeds says making its hybrids available through SAM'S Clubs is a "win-win" situation for farmers since seed costs about half the price of competitors.

bushels per acre for comparable Northrup King numbers. It was also the driest at harvest, Schoenrock adds.

"Besides the yield and dry-down advantages, it costs about half as much per acre to plant," he says, adding that the price more than makes up for the 150 mile round trip to Lincoln and back to pick up his seed.

Unity's hybrids can usually be found in the "seasonal" goods section of the clubs, although they're sometimes placed at the front of the store or at the end of an aisle.

Altogether, 12 Unity Seeds hybrids are available from SAM'S Clubs, ranging in maturities from 85 to 116-117 days. The company will also be introducing transgenic hybrids through SAM'S Clubs next year and is planning on adding clubs in five more states bordering the Midwest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Unity Seeds, 803 N. 3rd., P.O. Box 344, Kentland, Ind. 47951-0344 (ph 800 338-4558 or 219 474-5810).



Janikula used a Mobility spinner spreader he bought for \$2,300. Once converted to a soybean seeder, it spreads seed in a 45 to 50-ft. pattern.

in. deep, which places seed about 1 1/2 in. deep. Cultivating at 7 mph, about 5 percent of the seeds end up on the soil surface. Because of that we deliberately overplant by 5 or 10 percent. After using the field cultivator we run a double-wrapped FlexiCoil soil packer for better seed-to-soil contact and it also pushes the old corn roots and any soil clods down, which makes for really nice com-

binning in the fall."

To plant a field, Janikula starts from one side and works across. If he ends up having to plant a partial strip, he lowers the endgate and adjusts spreader speed to throw a narrower band of seed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Duane Janikula, 11213 Elliott Ave. S.W., Waverly, Minn. 55390 (ph 612 658-4177).