

Reader Letters



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motivated me to think about the math behind the angles and I worked out a formula for cutting the staves. I've put together a pamphlet explaining how to make a simple wooden bucket. (David G. Strenski, 323 Oak Street, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48198 ph 734 480-1587; email: dave@strenski.com)

We operate a big dairy farm and use wagons to haul a lot of silage. During harvest it's not unusual to get on and off the tractor up to 100 times a day. To save steps, I came up with a couple of ideas



for our five Deere 20 series tractors.

These tractors come factory-equipped with only one small step on the side. I replaced the single step with two larger, non-skid steps that make it much easier to get on and off the tractor. Both steps are newer-style tractor steps and are mounted on a metal bracket that bolts onto the tractor using the original bolt holes. I call it my "4020 two-step." I also came up with a drawbar pin equipped with a spring-loaded latching system that keeps the pin from popping out. The pin is about 10 in. long and has



a 13 1/2-in. long, U-shaped handle on one side. The tractor driver simply pulls on a rope to release the handle, and then pulls the pin out of the drawbar. A rotating collar at the top part of the handle allows the pin to rotate so the handle won't twist off while hauling heavy loads. I've made a few sets of both the steps and drawbar pins for neighboring farmers. (Brian Lexvold, 30380 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Red Wing, Minn. 55066 ph 651 388-3883)



I needed additional weights on my 3-pt. mounted, 7-ft. box blade and also on my

8-ft. offset disk. I wanted the weights to look neat on the implement and easy to remove. So I used lengths of salvaged 17-in. wide steel I-beam and blocked off the ends of the I-beams to make "weight boxes" that hold 16-in. long solid concrete blocks. The blocks fit perfectly into the boxes and can be laid on their sides or edges. Either way, they fit securely without shifting. I can add as many blocks as I need. If I want the maximum weight, I stack the blocks on their edges. The weight box on my disk is 6-ft. long and the one on my box blade is 3 ft. long

On the box blade, I welded the holder on. On the disk, I cut slots into the top part of the implement and slid the weight box into them. To adjust the location of the weights I simply slide the box forward or backward. (Bud A. Beaston II, HC 67, Box 935, Skiatook, Okla. 74070)



I got tired of taking the mower deck off my Murray lawn tractor every fall and putting on the snow plow for the winter. So I converted an old electric golf cart to do my snow plowing and to grade my driveway. I made an angle iron bracket and bolted it onto the frame under the hood. The snow blade bolts onto this bracket with two bolts, so it takes only a couple of minutes to mount the blade. But it's so handy that I never take it off.

I made a couple of other modifications to the golf cart. I removed all the golf bag holding brackets on back and replaced them with a wood dump bed. The dump bed measures 3 ft. square with 4-in. high sides and is manually raised. I use it to store hammers, nails, screws, clippers, and garden tools, etc.

I also added a trailer hitch bar on back of the golf cart that lets me pull a garden cart originally designed to be pulled behind the lawn tractor. My wife uses it to pick up sticks and leaves around our yard and haul them to our compost pile.

(Jerry Brandt, La Grange Satellite Systems and Mark Twain Computers, 900 North 5th St., La Grange, Mo. 63448 ph 573 655-2260; fax 573 655-2261)



Years ago we made our own truck-mounted bale loader out of a Dowden potato digger. It worked equally well with small round or square bales. Bales were delivered up a chain-driven conveyor and onto a wooden platform, where a worker would load them into the truck bed. The biggest problem was we could only load the one truck the bale loader was attached to, and if the driver made a turn it always had to be to the left. (Lloyd and Audrey Conrad, 10500 W. Carpenter Ave., Greenfield, Wis. 53228 ph 414 425-4976)



We're the official U.S. distributor for K-Line Irrigation, the patented pasture irrigation system developed in New Zealand that was first featured in FARM SHOW last year. K-Line Irrigation has been in use in New Zealand for over five years so it's a proven product with no "bugs" to work out. The system uses less water and energy to pump it, soaks in with almost no run-off, moves quickly and easily, and can be used on hills and irregular fields using water from almost any water source.

The sprinklers are attached to heavy-duty polyethylene lines at about 50-ft. intervals. The irrigating is done in swaths across the fields. The sprinkler lines can be moved in minutes by an ATV or similar vehicle, without even turning the water off. Ranchers can increase the amount of animals on a given acreage and know that enough forage will grow to support

them.

One New Zealander summed it up best when he said, "It's simple, it's basic, there's not much that can go wrong. The only moving parts are the pumps, the sprinkler heads, and the bloke on the bike moving the line."

We have an established dealer network in place throughout the U.S. and work only with reputable irrigation dealers known throughout the irrigation business. There are less expensive knock-off products on the market that try to do the same thing, but K-Line is the original producer and has patents on the system. They make a quality product. (Sandra Nye, K-Line Irrigation North America, 4270 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, Mich. 49085 ph toll-free 866 665-5463 or 269 429-3000; website: www.k-linena.com)

I came up with a hydraulic-foldout ladder for my Case IH 2366 combine and use it whenever I'm harvesting corn. It lets me automatically swing the ladder in or out simply by pressing a button in the cab.



The ladder was originally designed to fold out manually. The driver had to step out onto a platform and reach down to pull up on a knob, then grab the ladder and swing it in or out.

To make the modification, I welded a metal bracket onto the ladder and attached one end of a hydraulic cylinder to it. The other end of the cylinder hooks up to the combine frame. Then I hooked up the hydraulic hoses to the fore and aft control on the combine.

I use a 6-row corn header, so I have to keep the ladder folded in during harvest so it won't knock down the next row of unharvested corn. If I had an 8-row corn header, I wouldn't have to fold the ladder in. It really works nice if I see someone coming to talk to me and they want to climb up in the cab. I just hit the button and the ladder comes out. Of course, I'm not using the fore and aft control when I don't have the bean head on. And when I do have the bean head on, I can leave the ladder folded out all the time because the bean head is much wider than my corn head. (Larry Palmby, Palmby Farms, 607 County Road 10 S.E., Dover, Minn. 55929 ph 507 932-3358)

Last winter, we needed a backhoe so we modified an old backhoe with worn-out tracks. The backhoe was originally



designed to be an integral unit. We made adapter couplers that let us hook the backhoe onto our tractor's 3-pt. We also reworked the hydraulic system so it would



work on a tractor's open flow hydraulic system. And we added a seat off an old tractor. Our neighbors use the backhoe all the time to dig underground utility lines or irrigation lines, etc.

My son Wes came up with this padded gun holder that we use inside the cab on our Deere 8000 series tractor. It lets us safely keep any kind of rifle inside the cab. The gun's stock is secured by a velcro strap and is nestled between a pair of cloth-lined brackets, one at the top and the other at the bottom. The metal bracket bolts to one of the cab's corner posts using pre-drilled holes. (Lonnie Nichols, 2189 40th Road, Copeland, Kansas 67837 ph 620 668-5276; cell phone 620 272-4915)