

UTV-Mounted “Rock Claw”

“Our new UTV-mounted Rock Hawk and Steel Replacement Box makes rock picking an easier job and prevents damage to the UTV’s original box,” says Tyler Wenner, Ag Storm Equipment, LLC, St. Peter, Minn.

The UTV Rock Box and Rock Hawk is designed to fit all Polaris Rangers and most Deere Gators. It works much like the company’s front-mount Rock Hawk rock picker for tractors, which is designed to pick up rocks in the field and then swing them over into a rock box on front of your tractor (Vol. 38, No. 5). The steel replacement box bolts on using the same mounting brackets.

The Rock Hawk consists of a self-tightening, 3-claw grapple assembly on the end of a cable, and is operated by a winch that runs off the UTV’s battery. The winch is controlled by a 2-way switch mounted near the mast.

“It lets you use your UTV to pick up rocks, without doing any damage to the vehicle,” says Wenner. “Many UTV’s come with plastic boxes that can be easily damaged by rocks thrown into them. One customer who traded in his Gator every year had to take a \$1,000 discount every time because the box was destroyed by rocks.”

“The winch is rated at 3,100 lbs. so the Rock Claw can handle really big rocks,” says Wenner.

The box comes with a tailgate that can be angled down and locked at a 25 degree angle. “The problem with a factory UTV box is that the weight of rocks pushing on the tailgate may keep you from being able to open it. By setting the tailgate down at a 25 degree angle the rocks won’t come out, yet you can still dump them,” says Wenner.

If you don’t want to spend the money for a Rock Hawk, the company offers a metal rock liner that sets inside the UTV’s cargo



UTV-Mounted Rock Hawk is designed to pick up rocks in the field and then swing them over into a steel replacement box.

box to serve as a protective shell.

The UTV box and Rock Hawk combo sells for \$3,500. The box only sells for \$1,950. A metal box liner only that fits all Polaris Rangers and most Deere Gators sells for \$995.

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Reader Inquiry No. 139

Got Cast Iron To Weld?

Welding cast iron is finally easy with Magna 770 rod. Starting at \$150/lb., the electrodes aren’t cheap, but they do what other electrodes can’t. They provide perfectly machinable welds on nearly all types of cast iron without preheating.

“Magna 770 welds have a much higher elongation, or stretch capability, than cast iron, so they won’t crack,” says Jimmy Morris of Brecko Corporation, the U.S. distributor for Magna welding alloys. “And their 58,500 psi tensile strength is stronger than most cast iron.”

They cost more than other rods, but Morris says “they’re money-back guaranteed to do the job right, every time.”

The rods are popular for repairing any type of cast iron that is not easily or cheaply replaceable, and when broken machinery needs to be put back in service immediately. Morris says “If you’re welding on a fence or something cheap, we have another less expensive rod for that. The Magna 770 needs to be reserved for special situations.”

The 770 comes in three sizes, 3/32”, 1/8”, and 5/32”. It can be used with either AC or DC machines, and needs only 40 to 140 amps.

Morris says, “Because the rods are so expensive, we have a ‘per rod’ price for smaller customers”. Magna 770 rods 1/8” size are currently \$11 each, but we have a “Farm Show Sample Pack” – 5 rods for \$50, with only \$10 shipping.

There is a stronger rod, the Magna 777, which delivers 66,800 psi tensile strength, and is said to be slightly easier to machine. But Morris says “The Magna 777 rod is about 25% more expensive than the Magna 770, so I usually suggest the 770 unless that increase in tensile strength or machinability is really important”.

Magna 720 for burned and dirty cast iron, is much less expensive than the other two electrodes at \$50 per pound. Morris says “It works well on exhaust manifolds, furnace grates or old wood stoves, or when machinability is not needed. The tensile strength is only 50,000 psi and it is a bit more difficult to work with. And it only comes in 1/8” size” according to Morris, “I guarantee it’s not machinable. It’s even hard on a grinder”.

All Magna products are made by a subsidiary of Illinois Tool Works. Other Magna rods are also designed for specialized applications. “Magna 303 steel rods will weld any steel to any steel and are stronger than any other rods we can find, with tensile strength as great as 128,000 psi - they even work harden to 180,000 psi”, says Morris. “It’s a weld you simply can’t break”.

Magna 307 can be used to weld pipes with fluid in them. Morris says using the 307 is easy, even for inexperienced welders because you can use direct contact and it will not “stick”.



Magna 777 rod provides machinable welds that won’t crack on most types of cast iron. Photo shows a steel valve welded to a cast iron pump.

Brecko sells all Magna electrodes out of open stock, by the piece or by the pound. A standard \$15 shipping charge is added to orders whether for a single rod or 10 lbs.

“Call to discuss your project” says Morris. “We’ll get you to the right rod”. Don’t forget the “Farm Show Sample Pack” – 5 rods at \$50 + \$10 shipping. And we have direct access to the Magna corporate engineers if a customer needs it.”

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