

## Made It Myself

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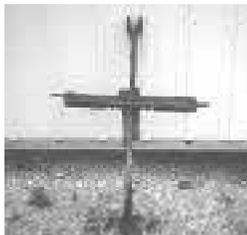
### 3-Pt. Root Ripper And Stump Remover

"It lets me rip out small tree stumps without having to dig them out," says Joe Lewis, Edina, Mo., who used scrap steel to make a 3-pt. root ripper and stump remover.

He used 3/4-in. dia. steel rod and flat metal to reinforce the back side of a long shank and welded a 4-in. long point (salvaged from an old road grader) at the bottom. A cutting torch was used to "sharpen" the front side of the point, leaving it with a saw-like roughness.

To cut tree roots he gets as close to the stump as possible, then lowers it into the ground and pulls forward. Once all the roots have been cut he lowers the point deep into the ground and drives ahead to pull out the stump. If the stump is too high to clear the tractor drawbar he reverses the drawbar, adjusts the 3-pt. top link to set the point farther back, and backs up to lift out the stump.

"It works good. I can cut even big roots by raising the 3-pt. and going forward at the same time for maximum pressure," says Lewis, who uses his Massey-Ferguson 165 60 hp tractor to pull the ripper. "The farther forward the point, the easier it is to penetrate the ground. A subsoiler point might work just as well as



my road grader point.

"I welded a steel tube behind the point that I can also use to lay electric wire under the ground. I make one pass to dig a trench for the wire, then make a second pass and feed wire through the tube."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe D. Lewis, Rt. 3, Edina, Mo. 63537 (ph 816 397-3300).



### Modifications Improve Drill Performance

You don't have to spend a lot to make a drill perform at its peak, according to Larry Conrad who made a few simple modifications to his 24-row (15-in.) Great Plains Soybean Special. He uses the drill to no-till both corn and soybeans.

"There was nothing really complicated but it makes my drill perform better than the day it came off the assembly line," says Conrad, Delta, Iowa.

To plant corn in 30-in. rows, Conrad replaced one of the rubber tires on each pair of closing disks with an iron ring. The 3/4-in. wide rings are 1 1/2-in. larger in dia. than the original rubber tire so they run 3/4-in. deeper.

The conventional disk mounts in the rear offset hole, while the modified disk



mounts in the forward hole.

"Because the iron ring is narrower and extends out farther than the rubber tire, and because it runs 2 to 4 in. ahead of the rubber-edged disk, it works as a furrow closer by collapsing one side of the furrow ahead of the other wheel and pushing soil over the

### "Ball Racks" Help Seed Cleaner Work Better

Dave Salenbien, Wallaceburg, Ontario, uses a small seed cleaner to clean soybeans. Trash often plugged up the screens and he got tired of constantly having to remove them and shake the debris out. He solved the problem by replacing two of the cleaner's four screens with homemade "ball racks".

"It's a simple modification that makes the cleaner work twice as efficient and also eliminates a lot of hassle," says Salenbien, who runs a small seed company and does custom work. "Big industrial size seed cleaners have ball racks as standard equipment, but they're not available on small seed cleaners."

His Vac Away cleaner originally had four 3 1/2 ft. long, 2 1/2-ft. wide screens - two at the top and two at the bottom, spaced only a few inches apart. The screens fit into wooden slots mounted on the sides of the cleaner. Salenbien removed the bottom screen from each pair. To make the ball racks he kept the original frame but removed the mesh and installed more durable mesh with larger perforations. He divided the frame into several 4 by 5-in. chambers and ran a wooden rod through the middle of each chamber. He puts four or five 1-in. dia. rubber balls in each chamber. As the rack shakes back and forth the balls hit the rod and bounce up against the



overhead screen to shake debris loose. The soybeans then fall through the screen and ball rack.

"I think the same idea would work on any seed cleaner," says Salenbien. "I'm willing to custom build the ball racks for about \$100 apiece."

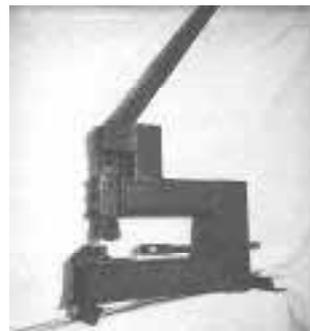
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Salenbien, Sals Seed Limited, Rt. 6, Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada N8A 4L3 (ph 519 351-1460; fax 2516).

### "Handiest Metal Shear Ever"

"Because this shear operates manually, you can take it along in a service truck and cut heavy flat stock right in the field, unlike a chop saw or Sawzall. Plus, it lets you make cuts you can't make with an ordinary scissors-type shear," says Stephen Blank of Classic Metalworks, Lancaster, Calif.

The new-style metal shear is built out of 4-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick steel tubing and features a large, 12-in. throat that lets you cut inside holes out of larger panels. It has a unique, two-fulcrum lever action that produces more pressure (7 mechanical tons) at the bottom of the stroke than at the top (about 5 tons), opposite of conventional scissors-type shears. Blades are made of tough 3/4 by 1 by 3-in. oil hardened steel.

"It's worked great for me for nine years, using it primarily to cut 1/8-in. thick by 1-in. wide flat stock for wrought iron fencing, etc.," says Blank. "It's also ideal for cutting up to 10-in. slugs out of metal sheets up to



20 in. sq. used for instrument panels."

Blank can make plans available for a fee.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stephen P. Blank, Classic Metalworks, 47454 80th Street West, Lancaster, Calif. 93536 (ph 805 942-3257).

seed," he says. "In softer soil, the rubber provides support for the iron wheel and prevents over-aggressive soil movement often associated with cast iron closing wheels.

"The iron wheel also provides better root worm insecticide incorporation by throwing more soil.

"There were no negative effects, such as throwing seed out of the furrow, building up with mud, or dragging trash along."

Conrad says the iron ring design could be used on any drill or planter used to plant corn.

Out-of-pocket expense for the rings was \$5 to \$10 per row.

To plant soybeans, Conrad made new seed tubes for his drill out of electrical conduit. Each two-piece tube is made of 1-in. dia. and 3/4-in. dia. conduit. The smaller conduit telescopes inside the larger piece so

the tubes flex with the drill.

"We pinched the smaller tube so it's tear-drop shaped, small enough so only one seed rolls down the tube at a time, so there's never a chance of getting doubles. I use a Vanguard drill seed sensor and Dickey-John population monitor and I know I've increased my drill's accuracy to almost 100 percent, compared with about 85 percent for the original rubber seed tubes."

Conrad says the seed tubes could be made to fit any drill.

Out-of-pocket expense for the seed tubes was about \$2 apiece.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Conrad, 20891 120th Ave., Delta, Iowa 52550 (ph 515 624-2380).