

## “Bob Sox” Keep Dirt Off 3-Pt. Link Arms

After he grew tired of dirt and moisture locking up the adjustable links on his tractors’ 3-pt. hitches, Bob Henderson of Lamesa, Texas, decided to do something about it. He came up with waterproof covers that are designed to protect each link arm.

Each 2-ft. long “Bob Sox” is a sleeve made from waterproof, rip-resistant nylon material. A velcro patch at each end allows the sleeve to be drawn tightly up against the threaded part of the link, keeping dirt and moisture out.

“It takes care of a problem that farmers have lived with forever,” says Henderson. “If a link locks up due to dirt and moisture in the threads it’s a real hassle to unlock it. You have to take the link off and use a cutting torch to heat it up, and sometimes even take the link completely apart in order to clean it. It can be a two-hour job.”

Bob Sox sell for \$19.50 apiece plus S&H. One size fits all. “That might seem high, until you consider the time and hassle involved in freeing up a link. They’re made from top quality material to stand up to abuse.”

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**Waterproof covers have a velcro patch at each end, allowing sleeve to be drawn tightly up against threaded part of link.**

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**Capiuk used steel tubing from an old combine to build the frame and fitted it with the front end off an old Honda 3-wheeler.**

## Home-Built 3-Wheel ATV

With an ample supply of scrap metal and old spare parts, some farmers can make almost anything.

That’s the case with Dan Capiuk, Barrhead, Alberta. Building things is his hobby but he says he saves a bundle, too.

For example, the homemade “workhorse trike” that he constructed cost him only about \$400. He says brand name ATV’s have all the features that his rig has.

Capiuk used steel tubing from an old combine to build the frame and a front end off an old Honda 185 3-wheeler. Other supplies included a motor bike seat, a combine gas tank and the lever from an old walking plow (to adjust blade height). The blade angle can be changed by pulling out one bolt on the U-frame and installing a short brace made from tubing.

He powered the unit with a 5 hp Briggs and Stratton engine that he bought. He installed a roll bar for safety and a rear tool box.

Besides the motor, he purchased the tires and bearings.

Capiuk designed a tow bar that fits the front of the ATV so he can tow it behind implements. This provides him with easy transportation back to the yard when doing field work.

He says the home-built ATV took him about one winter in his spare time to build and it serves him well around the farm. He uses it for snow plowing, pulling yard trailers around, and for checking cows and fields.

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## “Head Handlers” Help Save Storage Space

Handling Deere combine heads is easier for Jeff Garman, Colfax, Illinois, since he designed and built a couple of “tools” that attach to the heads. They worked so well he put them on the market.

One tool is called the “Head Handler.” The Head Handler is attached to the 3-pt. or Cat II, or a Cat III quick coupler. “With this, you can mount the head right on a tractor, raise it up, and move it around wherever you want,” Garman says. “It’s very handy if your combine is at another location and you need to set your head on a header trailer. It’s not designed to be used on the road.”

The second tool is called a “Head Stand.” Like the Head Handler, it mounts on the head using the feederhouse connections. “It’s made of heavy steel, with small pneumatic tires at the bottom. Once it’s attached, you can tip the head up so it’s vertical. It can be stored in a lot less space this way.”

To tip heads, Garman uses a tipping tool which fits on either a tractor 3-pt., a forklift, or a skid steer loader.

Once the head is tipped, it can be picked up with a forklift. There’s also a 3-point hitch on the stand, so the head can be moved by a tractor.

Garman’s Head Stand and Head Handlers fit any Deere combine head made from the late 1960’s to the present, since they all mount on the combine in the same way. The difference between the two is the Handler doesn’t allow the head to be stored vertically.

“The Head Stand saves space and makes it a lot easier to work on the gearboxes and snapping rolls,” he says. Garman’s current models work with 8-row headers or smaller. “I can make them for larger headers, too, if people want them,” he says.

Head Handlers will work with either Category II or III hitches, and with or without a quick coupler. It sells for \$289. Weight is 125 lbs.

Head Stands sell for \$949. The shipping weight on one Head Stand and one Tipping Tool is about 420 lbs.

Garman’s head handling equipment works only with Deere headers. His primary business is farming, but he has made a few of these for others in his spare time. He says



**“Head Handler” is attached to tractor 3-pt. “Lets you mount the head right on a tractor, raise it up, and move it around wherever you want,” says inventor Jeff Garman.**



**“Head Stand” tips header up to vertical, saving storage space.**



**Once the head is tipped, it can be picked up with a forklift.**

it takes about three weeks from the time he receives an order until it’s painted and ready for delivery.

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**Outtrigger arm makes it easy for driver to swing propane torch in or out, forward or back.**

## Torch Holder For ATV’s

Holding a propane torch can get a bit tiring on the arm, while riding the fields burning straw. Many people are now also using torches to burn weeds around buildings or along fencerows. There are times when you need to let go of the torch suddenly to control your ATV, or just to rest your arm.

Todd Dennis solved this problem for his neighbor by building an out-rigger arm for the rear of his ATV, to carry the weight of the torch. Then he added a couple of flexible joints so the operator can swing the torch in and out, forward and back.

“The forward-back motion is really handy. It lets you aim the torch. Without slowing the ATV, you just drive by and swing the torch down and back as you go by. There’s a fair bit of sideways movement at the torch head, so you don’t have to get close every time. It’s always easier to move the torch than to try and get the ATV exactly in line,” says Dennis, who runs a small metal fabrication business on his farm near Rosser, Manitoba.

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