



Worn cutting edges off road graders are bolted together to form the leveler.

Road Leveler Made From Used Grader Blades

By Georgina Campbell

Old road grader blades can be turned into a low-cost driveway leveler, says Stan Harder, St. Brides, Alberta, who made a "double triangle" leveler out of used cutting edges off grader blades that he got free from his local county highway department.

The leveler is made entirely from 7-ft. long blades bolted together into the shape of two triangles. The first triangle gathers gravel and dirt from an 11-ft. wide area and leaves a 2 1/2-ft. windrow for the second triangle, which redistributes the material. The sides of the first triangle and back of the second triangle have blades stacked and bolted together to provide adequate downpressure. The 5 blades on back of the second triangle drag straight behind the tractor to spread the windrow evenly across the road. A single blade bolted across the sides of the first triangle serves as the pivot point for the rear triangle.

A pair of 7 1/2-ft. long steel cables run from the leveler to the tractor. "I arrange the blades with the cutting edge facing backward," says Harder. "The leveler flows with the terrain and cuts off the bumps and ridges. The blades come with pre-drilled holes so I didn't have to do any cutting at all. I use long telephone pole bolts to stack the blades which makes it easy to pile on more blades if I need more down pressure. If too much gravel is going over the back I just take a couple of blades off."

"My neighbor has suggested using it to level gopher mounds in hay fields. The side



The first "triangle" gathers gravel and dirt, the second redistributes it.

blades would cut the hills and the back blades would distribute the soil. I don't think they would damage the hay at all because the blades are perfectly flat on the bottom. You could make the leveler wider to cover more territory or run two levelers side by side and pull them with a bigger tractor.

"I found that 7 1/2-ft. long cables work just right. If the cables were any longer the leveler would drag too far behind on corners and end up in the ditch. Any shorter and it would get caught in the rear tractor tires."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stanley Harder, Box 86, St. Brides, Alberta, Canada T0A 2Y0 (ph 403 645-1881).

Canopy For Deere 3020 Made From Old Baler

After he installed a rollover protective structure (ROPS) on his Deere 3020 tractor, Robert Riche, Plattsburg, Mo., decided he'd like to have a canopy on top. However, he didn't want to pay the \$500 Deere wanted for one so he made his own using parts from a junked-out Allis-Chalmers round baler.

"It looks as nice as a factory-made model and cost less than \$50 to build," says Riche, who painted the canopy Deere yellow.

He used the top part of an old Allis-Chalmers "Roto Baler" as well as the angle iron supports for it. The supports weren't quite long enough to reach the front part of the canopy so he welded on additional lengths of angle iron, then bolted the supports to the underside of the canopy as well as to vertical mounting brackets salvaged from another part of the baler. He bolted the brackets to holes already in the top of the ROPS frame, using six 5-in. long, 7/16-in. dia. bolts.

"So far it has held up well," says Riche, who made the canopy last summer. "The sheet metal was rusted solid so I had to do a lot of sanding and painting which took a lot of time. My only cost was for paint and the bolts. After the photo was taken I added a 28-in. muffler extension to reduce problems with noise and exhaust fumes that get trapped under the canopy. Deere wanted \$36 for its



Top part of Allis-Chalmers "Roto Baler" was used to make the canopy.

muffler extension so I had a local muffler shop make one for \$10. I bought the ROPS last spring at dealer cost for \$375 and installed it myself. At the time many tractor manufacturers were offering farmers reduced prices on kits to equip older tractors with safety equipment.

"The Roto Baler was made in the late 1940's and 1950's and made small round bales that were only 10 to 12 in. in diameter. It was the beginning of the round bale era. Farmers liked the bales because they could leave them outside without having to pick them up right away. These balers are still widely available and inexpensive."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert H. Riche, 2246 N. Hwy. 33, Plattsburg, Mo. 64477 (ph 816 930-3025).



Reel uses the latest Crary gearbox-driven fan and out-front Keho-style manifold for more airflow with less horsepower.

"COMBINES FEATURES FROM THE BEST CONVENTIONAL AIR REELS"

New-Style Air Reel Fits Any Header

"We designed it with edible beans in mind but it also works great in short, standing soybeans," says Len Lobb, Becker Farm Equipment Ltd., Exeter, Ontario, about his company's new-style air/batt reel combination kit that mounts on any self-propelled combine header.

The company unveiled a 25-ft. model at the recent Canadian Outdoor Farm Show near Woodstock.

Becker Farm Equipment has been selling air reel kits for years, primarily to edible bean growers. The firm has now introduced its own kit. It combines the best features from other commercial units.

It's equipped with a Crary gearbox-driven fan. Air goes through a flex-tube to an 8-in. dia. Keho-style manifold mounted along the front of the header with curved aluminum nozzles 3 to 4 in. ahead of the cutterbar. The curtain of air they create pushes the crop into the cutterbar and also blows "shattered" grain back onto a multi-section, stainless steel platform.

"It marries the latest Crary fan technology with an out-front style manifold, resulting in more airflow with less horsepower," says Lobb. "The nozzles are spaced to mount between every other tire on the reel. They direct air parallel to the ground and just above the knives and guards. Air keeps the crop moving back over the knives and holds it

against the auger to produce a constant crop flow without bunching. Nozzle positioning can be adjusted by an electric actuator. Air flow volume can be adjusted by a mechanical dampener.

"The pto drives a gearbox on the fan and also chain-drives the header cross auger. We switched to a gearbox-driven fan because it eliminates problems in maintaining belt tension and requires less maintenance."

"The stainless steel floor we install allows the crop to slide easier. Anywhere from 5 to 9 stainless steel panel sections are hinged together, depending on header width. The panels aren't bolted to the floor. Instead, a coil spring system is used to draw them forward to the cutterbar. The design increases the flexibility along the entire length of the header. It also provides a nice transition on the floor of Case-IH headers and has a 1 1/2-in. rise about 7 in. back from the cutterbar to keep stones from riding forward."

The air/batt reel kit is available for headers ranging from 17 1/2 to 30 ft. wide. A 17 1/2-ft. model sells for \$7,400 (Canadian) plus installation while a 30-ft. model sells for \$8,350.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Len Lobb, Becker Farm Equipment Ltd., 615 Main St. South, Exeter, Ontario, Canada N0M 1S1 (ph 519 235-2121; fax 2791).

Strap-On Safety Sandals Improve Footing On Roofs

Strap-on safety sandals that go on over any type work shoe or boot make roof work a lot safer and more enjoyable.

"Grippers" feature a replaceable sole made of an open-cell foam that lasts up to two weeks under continuous professional use. It provides greater traction on metal roofs and on oily, wet, or frosty surfaces, allowing you to walk on steeper pitches and work longer than is possible with ordinary shoes.

The sandals, which are available in sizes X small to X large, come in three styles - lace, buckled and harness. They sell for \$49.95, \$79.95 and \$19.95, respectively.

Replacement soles, which are interchangeable between right and left foot, sell for \$5.50 per pair.



Safety sandals are made of a foam material that provides secure footing on slippery surfaces.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Korkers Inc., P.O. Box 166, Grants Pass, Ore. 97526 (ph 800 524-8899 or 541 476-6823; fax 479-1281).