



Trip handle dumps rocks out the bottom of front-mount rock box.

Heavy Duty Tractor-Mounted Rock Boxes

Old hog farrowing crates and other scrap material can be used to make heavy-duty rock boxes to mount on tractors, says Ray Obrecht, McCallsburg, Iowa.

He first made a tripping rock box for the front of his 1984 Deutz DX 160 tractor. It's 30 in. sq. and bolted to a subframe on the tractor that was originally designed to carry weights. It has woven panel sides (off the farrowing crate) and a floor that's made from heavier woven panel. The floor is hinged at the back and has a trip handle on front that allows Obrecht to drop the bottom out to dump rocks.

"It holds a heck of a bunch of rocks and is built heavier than most commercial rock boxes," says Obrecht. "Another advantage is that dirt can fall through the woven panel floor and it won't hold water. I spent less than \$10 to build it. I've been picking up rocks on my farm for 40 years so most of them are now about the size of a coffee cup. I keep a spade in the box for digging out larger rocks."

Obrecht also made a rock box for his Deere 4630 tractor. It's 6 ft. long and 2 ft. wide and is mounted under the frame of the tractor, extending out both sides. The frame was made from an old front mount Deere cultivator and the 8-in. high sides are made from woven hog panel. The bottom is made from corn crib wire. A pair of hangers off the field cultivator are used to secure each side of the



Tippling rock box was made from heavy-gauge woven metal off a farrowing crate.

box. The hangers are welded to the box and bolted to the tractor frame.

"There's about 7 in. of clearance under the tractor frame so it can't be used to carry real big rocks," says Obrecht. "I couldn't mount a rock box on front of this tractor because there's a 60-gal. fuel tank there. It'll hold about 1,000 lbs. of rocks. My son uses this tractor to plant so the box also comes in handy for carrying extra bags of seed corn."

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This rock box extends out both sides of the Deere 4630's frame.



Rock-picking bucket mounts on the chassis of a Case self-propelled combine.

"IT WORKS FAST AND I HAVE A GREAT VIEW IN FRONT OF ME"

He Built His Own SP Rock Picker

"It's much more convenient to use than pull-type rock pickers because it's so maneuverable and gives me a great view in front," says Eugene Weimerskirch, Coulee City, Wash., who mounted a rock-picking bucket on the chassis of a Case self-propelled combine.

The 5-ft., 8-in. wide hydraulic-powered bucket tilts up and back to dump rocks into a box off an old gravel truck. The box is mounted "sideways" and tilts hydraulically to the side to unload rocks off the tailgate, which opens automatically during the lifting process.

He stripped the combine down to the frame and then reinforced the frame with steel tubing. The wheels and front drive axle came off a Deere 95 Hillside combine while the rear axle is off a Deere H combine. He built his own cab.

The rock-picking bucket is built in two sections - a 30-in. flat section in front and a 6-ft. long section behind that slopes up toward the back and has sides that angle inward. Both sections are made of steel pipes spaced 4 in. apart.

To use the machine, Weimerskirch runs the front edge of the bucket just under the ground surface to scoop up rocks. Dirt falls out as the bucket is tilted back.

"I've used it to pick up tons of rocks with no problems," says Weimerskirch. "A lot of the rocks I scoop up have been pulled up on top of the ground by tillage implements. It's



Bucket tilts up and back to dump rocks into a box off an old gravel truck.

amazing how big the rocks are that it can dig out. I've rooted out rocks as big as a 50-gal. drum. Some were so heavy that they almost raised the rear steering wheels off the ground.

"A hydrostatic pump on the V-8 engine powers an orbit motor that drives the combine transmission. I use a floor-mounted pedal to change speeds and direction. I used the wheels and front drive axle off the Deere Hillside combine because they're much heavier than the ones on regular combines."

The bucket is operated by three hydraulic cylinders and pivots on a 3-in. dia. solid steel shaft. The pipes on the horizontal section are made from solid cold rolled steel while the pipes on the 6-ft. long section are made from double strength steel tubing.

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