

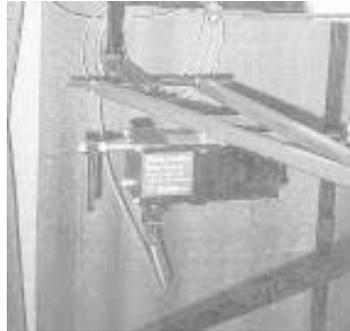
Remote Sieve Control Lets You Adjust Combine Settings On-The-Go From Cab

You can adjust combine sieves on-the-go from the cab by simply pushing buttons, with a new remote sieve control monitor from Factory Direct International, Saskatoon, Sask.

A digital readout shows sieve position at all times. There are six different pre-programmed crop settings. "Open" and "close" buttons let you fine tune on-the-go. There's an automatic "sieve clean" button that opens, then closes the sieve to its original position; and a manual override on the drive that lets you manually open the sieve from the back of the combine for quick cleaning.

"It's very easy to use and lets you fine tune your sieves for changing conditions where you otherwise might not bother if you had to stop the combine. The result is a cleaner sample with less grain loss," says inventor Gerald Wiebe.

An electric-activated screw system at the back of the combine controls the sieves. The drive attaches with a universal mounting bracket so it'll fit most combine brands and models. "If you trade the combine, you can keep the drive and monitor and trade in the mounting hardware," says Wiebe. "As far as we know it's the only aftermarket remote sieve control on the market. We demonstrated it at the recent U.S. Custom Harvester's annual convention and got a lot of positive response. Caterpillar offers an OEM remote sieve control system on its Lexion combine, which is one of the features owners really



Electric-activated screw system at back of combine controls the sieves.

like about it.

"All newer combines have the ability to change fan speed and concave speed on-the-go from the cab, and many have a grain loss monitor on back so the operator knows when he needs to change the sieves. However, he still has to get out of the cab and do the job manually."

Sells for \$1,495 plus S&H.

The company also offers a new remote opener for hopper bottom grain trailers, as well as remote openers for grain bins and cattle/security gates.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Factory Direct International, Site 407, Box 22, Rt. 4, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7K 3J7 (ph toll-free 888 327-6347 or 306 683-0330; fax 306 688-5552; Website: www.remote.cc).

Personal Kiln Makes Sharp Investment

You can make your own fine knife blades for fun or profit with this kiln from Paragon Industries.

Cutting out a blade and grinding it down is easy enough for most people. But it's the heating and tempering process that really makes a knife. With the Paragon kiln, you can make blades that rival the best on the market, according to the manufacturer.

Arnold Howard, Paragon Industries, says knife makers tend to be passionate about fine tools so the kilns have to be built well. Having their own furnace allows knife makers to custom design different heat-treating formulas for different knives.

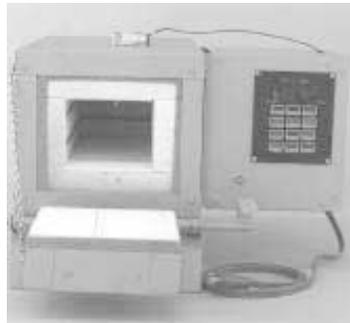
Howard describes knife making as both a hobby and an art. While it may be the hobby that attracts people to knife making, it is often the collectors' market that makes it worthwhile for them to perfect their craft.

"Collectors look at knives and see a work of art like a fine painting," says Howard.

The best knife blade starts with the best steel. The blade is first wrapped in a stainless steel foil with a wood chip or cigarette butt inside next to the blade. As the furnace quickly heats up, the chip burns up any oxygen inside the packet that might otherwise allow oxidation at high temperatures.

Within three hours, the kiln takes the knife up to 1,800 degrees, making it very hard and brittle. The second treatment is usually to a lower temperature. The higher the level of this second firing, the softer the steel, but also the tougher and harder to break it becomes.

Knife makers will often test their new blades by counting the number of manila rope strands it can cut before it loses its edge. Another test involves carefully bending the knife and measuring the foot pounds it takes to bend it 45 or even 90 degrees. In both



Within three hours, kiln heats knife blade up to 1,800 degrees which makes it very hard and brittle.

cases, they then adjust the heating formula accordingly to make a knife that either keeps its edge longer or one that is more or less flexible.

The kilns come in three sizes varying from a 120-volt model measuring 5 by 4 1/4 by 14 in. to a 240-volt model that's 36 in. deep for sword blades. Prices range from \$1,000 to \$1,400.

Howard recommends Farm Show readers interested in knife making subscribe to *Knives Illustrated* or *Blade* magazine or check the Internet for videos, books and even classes on knife making. He also encourages attending knife shows and talking to experienced knife makers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Follow-up, Paragon Industries, Inc. 2011 South Town East Blvd., Mesquite, Texas 75149 (ph (800) 876-4328; Web site: www.paragonweb.com)

Barn Sidewall Curtain Rolls Up - And Down

Lloyd Peterson, Harmony, Minnesota, has taken some of the frustration out of barn sidewall curtains.

Peterson's company, High Pointe Coverings, has been making barn curtains for years. "We've made a lot of them over the years and hardly anyone has ever been completely satisfied," he says.

Peterson says curtain sidewalls do a great job of keeping out the wind and cold and are easily opened to allow for ventilation in the summer. But they have limitations. Most open either from the top or the bottom. And when the curtains are open, they're either loosely gathered at the roof or lying on the ground.

Peterson's new "sidewinder" curtain design rolls up tightly to the center. Rodents can't get into it. In fact, not even dust and dirt can get into the rolled-up curtain. And because of the way it's made, the top or bottom - or both - can be opened a little or a lot, depending on the amount of ventilation needed.

The top of the Sidewinder is held up by counterweights. The bottom is held down by its own weight and that of a 1 1/2-in. pipe in the bottom. Curtains are made of 20 mill (10 oz.) polyethylene and are sewn together



"Sidewinder" curtain is designed to roll up tightly to the center. The top or bottom - or both - can be opened a little or a lot, depending on amount of ventilation needed.

with lock stitches rather than chain stitches, "so they can't come unsewn." Curtains are reinforced every 3 ft. with vertical straps of nylon seat belt material.

"We can make curtains to fit any size opening," he adds. High Pointe also makes roll up doors, hoop shelters and greenhouses from the same translucent polyethylene. They have transparent polyethylene for greenhouse applications, as well.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mr. Lloyd Peterson, High Pointe Coverings, Box 476, Harmony, Minnesota 55939 (ph 507 886-2864; fax 507 886-2865).



Schreyer's hitch consists of a receiver "cone" on the tractor and a pivoting hitch bar that pins to front of wagon tongue. Hitch bar has a slot in it.

Do-It-Yourself Quick Hitch

By Keith Berglund

"The drawbar hitch pin on this tractor isn't visible from the cab, so we had to constantly get on and off to line things up. That wasted time and puts the operator at risk. I wanted something that would speed things up and be safer for my young son," says John Schreyer, St. Anne, Manitoba, about the quick-hitch he built for his Versatile 276 bi-directional tractor.

Schreyer's hitch is designed so that the wagon tongue only has to be within 6 in. of the center of the receiver to engage. A lock pin drops and locks automatically. The wagon is uncoupled - stopped or moving - using tractor hydraulics.

A pivoting hitch bar simply pins to the front of the wagon tongue. It moves back and forth to find the center of the receiver "cone" on the tractor. The hitch bar has a slot in it. Once it finds the hole and slides into the hitch, a lock pin is pushed down into the slot by a small double-acting hydraulic cylinder that locks it into place. To release the wagon, you simply lift the lock pin up.

Truck leaf springs mount under the wagon to hold it up for hitching.

Schreyer says the exact dimensions of the hitch are not important. You could use dif-



Once hitch bar finds hole in receiver cone and slides into hitch, a small double-acting hydraulic cylinder pushes a lock pin down into slot to lock bar in place.

ferent materials and different parts. But the concept of the pivoting hitch bar - pinned to the front of the drawbar - and the locking cam are the key components.

"Now I can send one person to the field to load and haul bales. We sell a lot of hay and move a lot of hay for our dairy cattle, so this one-person setup really helps," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Schreyer, St. Anne, Manitoba, Canada.