



Photo shows discs in "straight-ahead" position. The variable disc gang can be mounted on front of any chisel plow, field cultivator or other tillage equipment. "We've boosted yields 15 to 20 percent on the ground where we've used it," say the inventors.



Discs can be angled anywhere from 0 to 38°, depending on conditions. Soil is mixed between discs, resulting in "vertical mulching" of residue that goes down much deeper than other methods.

## Revolutionary Tillage Tool Changes Disc Angle On-The-Go

By Mark Newhall, Editor & Publisher

"There has never been another tillage tool like this. It works the ground up in ways that aren't possible with existing equipment, letting you custom mix residue into the soil as needed," say the Flenker's of Flenker Enterprises, Inc., Long Grove, Iowa, about their new revolutionary invention – an adjustable disc gang designed to fit the front of any tillage tool or ridge planter.

Bill Flenker, along with his two sons, Kim and Kevin, developed the new tillage concept. They've been testing the tool for the past two years on their farms and recently received patents on their design.

What makes the new "variable tillage tool" unique is that you can adjust the cutting angle of the front gang of discs from 0 to 38 degrees "on-the-go". The discs are controlled hydraulically by a pair of cylinders. The more you angle the discs, the more aggressively they mix soil and residue. Pairs of disc blades are mounted back to back and offset a few inches from front to back – each pair of disc

blades are positioned ahead of a deep-till shank.

Everyone who has seen the implement in use for the first time can't believe the aggressive way it mixes the soil and residue – tossing it back and forth between the discs. This disc action, in combination with the deep till, provides what the Flenkers and others call "vertical mulching".

The Flenkers say the new disk has performed perfectly under a variety of conditions, in soils ranging from sandy to gumbo. Field tests have shown a 15 to 21 percent increase in yield, which is due to a combination of several benefits of the new tool.

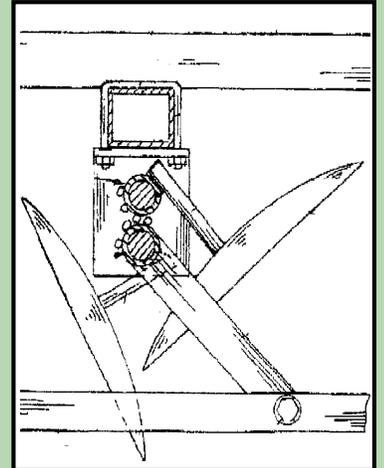
"The mixing of the soil simply creates a better conditioned soil that's aerated for increased root penetration. The warmer soil condition produced by the composting of residue helps seeds germinate faster in the spring and establish themselves sooner, giving them a competitive advantage over weeds. You can precisely control the amount

of residue left on top of the ground, reducing erosion where necessary," say the Flenkers.

The "variable tillage tool" is relatively simple. The up-front gang of adjustable discs can be mounted on front of a variety of implements such as a chisel plow, field cultivator, manure injector, disc harrow, or other equipment. The disc assembly uses standard parts that are readily available. No special tools or equipment are needed to maintain it.

The Flenkers are looking for a manufacturer. They'll be exhibiting the implement this fall for the first time at the Farm Progress Show in Amana, Iowa (they'll be in the Kent Mfg. booth).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Flenker Enterprises, Inc., 29476 240<sup>th</sup> Ave., Long Grove, Iowa 52756 (ph 319 225-3333; fax 2254).



Drawing shows how variable discs are rotated on front of tillage tools.

## Deere 7700 Combine Converted To Grain-Hauling "Monster"

"I can run full throttle across the rows, loaded with 600 bu., and not leave a track," says Jim Henning, Hennepin, Ill., about his "Corn Monster" self-propelled grain cart that he built out of a 1973 Deere 7700 combine and a 600-bu. Kill Bros grain cart.

Henning works full-time in construction and farms 900 acres, so time is at a premium. "The self-propelled cart is much easier to maneuver alongside the combine, much easier to unload, and it moves fast. I have a J&M 750 bu. grain cart parked in the shed that I only used one season. I'm going to trade it off because this worked out so well."

FARM SHOW has featured other self-propelled grain carts made from combines. What makes Henning's machine unique is the way he attached the Kill Bros grain cart to the 7700 combine frame.

He first removed the original grain hopper and all grain-cleaning components, leaving the cab and engine in the same place. Then he unbolted the axle from the Kill Bros wagon and mounted the grain box and the wagon frame on back of the Deere frame, building a new frame around it out of 5 by 7-in. square tubing that's welded to the frame of the grain cart. Then he replaced the 7700's original steering axle with an axle off a Deere 7720 combine because it's much heavier.

"If I needed to, I could take the Kill Bros wagon off the combine with a cutting torch, remount the axle, and use it again as a pull-type wagon. That's why I used the Kill Bros



Entire grain cart mounts on combine.

wagon – because it had a bolt-on axle. I already had a J&M 750 grain cart but the axle on that cart is welded in place. I wasn't 100 percent certain this conversion was going to work so I wanted to have the option of converting back, if necessary," says Henning.

He says the "Corn Monster" works better than he ever dreamed it would. It's fitted with oversized flotation tires on front and back. He says visibility for unloading is outstanding thanks to the position of the cab on the left side of the machine. "I can see right into the truck when I unload so it's easy to spread the load around. It takes a lot of the stress out of harvest by making it easy and fun to haul grain," he notes. "The hydrostatic transmission makes it easy to operate."

Henning drives the unloading auger off the combine's main drive, via an add-on gearbox and a single drive chain.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Henning, RR1, Box 63, Hennepin, Ill. 61327 (ph 815 339-2688).



Henning left the cab and engine in place and fitted the self-propelled grain cart with flotation tires. It'll carry 600 bu. at full speed across fields.

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