



Using his 12-ft. Sunflower chisel plow as a base, DeShaw built a 17 1/2-ft. folding, self-leveling plow.

## Home-Built Chisel Plow “Works Better Than New”

There was nothing on the market that looked quite like the chisel plow Richard DeShaw wanted, so he just built his own.

“I had a 12-ft. Sunflower with disk openers on it,” he says. “It worked fine, but I wanted something bigger.”

So DeShaw paid \$650 for an older model IH 15-ft. chisel plow for parts. Using the Sunflower chisel as a base, he built a 17 1/2-ft. folding, self-leveling plow.

He started with an 8 1/2-ft. section from the Sunflower. Then he cut a 54-in. section from each end of the IH bar with lift wheels attached. He mounted the smaller bars on each end of the Sunflower bar with hinges from a folding anhydrous toolbar that he bought for \$50. Finally, he moved the transport/gauge wheels from the Sunflower plow forward 15 in. for more trash clearance. This also allows him to raise the plow higher.

He slid the chisels out to 15 in. spacing, so he had plenty of shanks for his new plow from the two old ones. “Originally, I was just going to buy square steel tubing and new shanks to extend the Sunflower plow, but I found I could buy the old IH chisel for quite a bit less,” he says.

DeShaw used extra steel from the old chisel to reinforce the extended toolbar and wheels. “I didn’t have any of that old bar to throw away when I was done,” he says.

He liked the swiveling coulters in front of the chisel shanks on the Sunflower plow. Since the IH plow didn’t have similar swivels, he went looking for more. When he found he couldn’t buy the swivel mounts separately, he made his own.

Since each of the end sections has its own lift wheels, they float independently of the



End sections fold up and over to rest in saddle brackets on the center bar. Folded, the chisel plow is only about 10 ft. wide.

center bar. The wheels can be raised or lowered hydraulically. In order to control all the lift wheels with one hydraulic lever, he had to make some changes in the hydraulic lines on the plow. He cut the return line from the two-way main cylinder on the center bar and installed a T. Then he ran lines to each of the end cylinders, also 2-way cylinders. The return lines from these cylinders run back to a T, which returns back to the tractor.

DeShaw pulls the chisel with a 2670 Case-IH 4-WD tractor. “It’s the best chisel plow I’ve ever pulled. We have terraces and contour strips, and it’s very maneuverable. I was worried those floating end sections might not go into the ground or would bounce out. But it has plenty of suction. It goes into the ground and stays there. It’s great for breaking up compaction in end rows in the fall. It goes through corn stalks as well as any new plow I’ve seen.”

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“It’s built heavy and has infinite depth control from 0 to 8 in. deep, thanks to its unique depth control wheels,” says Karl Plesums about his home-built cultivator.

## Farmer-Designed Cultivator Built To Handle Rocks

Farming rocky ground can be a frustrating experience if your equipment is not built to handle it. After years of repairing conventional cultivators, Karl Plesums, Spooner, Wis., decided to build a cultivator that could walk through his rockiest fields without a problem.

The result is a heavy-built machine with features not found on any other machine. He uses conventional Deere chisel shanks fitted with 24-in. wide shovels. Everything else on the machine he built himself. He uses it primarily for row crop cultivating but he also strip-tilled with it last fall at 6 in. deep. In addition, he can put chisel points on to use it as a chisel plow.

Plesums spent \$2,243 on parts and steel to build the cultivator.

“What makes it unique – besides being built heavy – is that it has infinite depth control from 0 to 8 in. deep, thanks to its new-style depth control wheels,” says Plesums.

The depth wheels mount on heavy adjustable brackets made from 2 by 4-in. sq. tubing. Plesums says he built the brackets as “heavy as he could”. The wheels are made from a fluted coulters with sections of 12-in. dia. steel tubing welded to either side of it. Plesums welded round end caps made from plate steel into either side of the wheel to seal up the open pipe sections. Bearings mount at the center of each end plate. A bolt extends through the bearings for the wheel to turn on.

“Most cultivators have both coulters and depth control wheels. I combined them both into one wheel that’s heavy, rides solidly on the ground, and cuts through any residue,” notes Plesums.

The scissor-shaped linkage that holds the depth wheel pivots at two points – right under the toolbar and on a bracket mounted on back of the toolbar. A single 1-in. dia. threaded rod is used to adjust depth.

The spring-loaded shanks mount on brackets at the back of the 7 by 7-in. toolbar. “I fashioned the linkage after a tractor 3-pt. hitch,” says Plesums.

All his hard work paid off when he took the 8-row, 30-in. cultivator to the field. “Last fall I used it to strip-till some ground and pulled up a big rock with the end shank. It pulled so hard it caused the whole tractor to make an unexpected 90 degree turn. At that



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point I thought I had broken something on the cultivator but there was no damage at all.

“The precise depth control is great for cultivating. I can work at 1 to 2 in. with no problem.

“I could not have bought a cultivator this good. I plan to set up a spray system for in-row herbicide application for spot spraying while cultivating.”

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## Top-Link Weigh System Fits Any Tractor

A British company has come up with a new weigh system for tractors that simply consists of a replacement top link with a load cell build into it.

Parker Weighing System says the new top link could be used to weigh any load you can carry on a tractor 3-pt. – such as bulk loads of seed and fertilizer. It could also be used to weigh silage bales, chopped forage, and other feeds. Once it’s calibrated, no further adjustments are needed as long as all weights are taken at the same height. The scale has a built-in electronic level with indicator lights on the control box so it’s easy to put it at the same height.

The company says the system is accurate to within 2 percent.

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Weigh system does the job of a top link and also weighs whatever is being carried.

(Photo & story courtesy Power Farming)