

Car Seat Improves Ride On Old Tractor

When the original seat on his Oliver 550 tractor wore out, Stewart Gray, McCallsburg, Iowa, decided to replace it with a bucket seat salvaged from a Volkswagen Rabbit car.

"The original seat on the tractor didn't have a backrest. This one has thick padding and a high back which makes it super comfortable. It sure shortens my work day," says Gray.

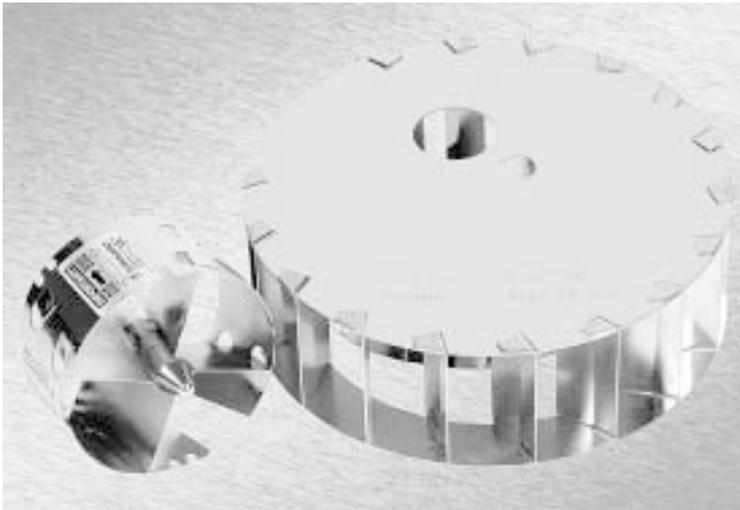
He removed some brackets from the bottom of the seat so it would rest low enough for him to easily reach the foot pedals. He was able to use some of the original bolt holes to install the new seat. He had to add an additional metal bracket to support the front part of the seat.

"I work for our town's maintenance department and use the tractor with a 3-pt. Bush Hog mower to mow along ditches and wastewater lagoons. The car seat makes a big difference," says Gray. "It's made from vinyl and foam rubber so rain and snow aren't a problem. One advantage is that the car seat is a lot easier to get in and out of. The original seat had a metal bar on each side of the seat next to my hips which made it difficult to get into. The car seat still has a lever attached to it that lets me tilt the backrest forward or back."



"With thick padding and a high back, it's super comfortable," says Stewart Gray, who installed the bucket seat from a VW Rabbit on his Oliver 550 tractor.

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"Tornado" contains hollow tubes that channel intake air into engine. The result is something of a turbocharging effect, according to the company.

Device Boosts MPG And Power

A new fuel-saving device called the "Tornado" takes just minutes to install and reportedly boosts fuel efficiency up to 24 percent.

Two versions of the device are available. One fits into the air cleaner on carbureted engines. The other fits into the air intake tube of electronic fuel injected engines.

The device, based on 10 years of research and development, contains hollow tubes that channel intake air into the engine. The result is something of a turbocharging effect. It seems to work better on older engines. A '95 Chevy Cheyenne pickup with a 350 V-8 engine that was used in independent tests got just 11.86 mpg without the Tornado. With it, mileage went up to 13.10. That may not seem like a lot, but, the company points out, it's an improvement of 11.1 percent.

Dynamometer testing by the staff at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, California showed a gain of 20 hp in a 1991 Honda 1.5L engine. A 1996 Pontiac 3.4L engine put out 12 hp more with the Tornado installed. In testing a Chevy 454 engine, maximum torque was at 3,000 rpm's. With the Tornado

in place, torque was 449.7 ft. lbs. Without it, torque dropped off to 433.5 ft. lbs. Horsepower at the same engine speed was 247.6 without the Tornado and 256.9 with it. Maximum horsepower for the 454 came at 4,000 rpm's. At that speed, it produced 294.1 hp with the Tornado and 289.3 hp without it. While this may not seem like a lot of difference, it could be significant when towing or hauling heavy loads.

Installation takes from three to five minutes and can be done without any special tools. The device, which sells for around \$70, can be ordered direct from the manufacturer through a toll-free telephone number on its Website. Several mail order companies, including J.C. Whitney and Camping World, also carry the Tornado and it's available in several auto performance shops and new car dealerships.

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"Swing-out" panels leave room for skid loader to clean manure out of pens.



All panels pivot 180 degrees on vertical steel posts.

"Swing-Out" Barn Panels Make Clean-Out Easy

"There was nothing on the market that would do the job," says Robin Shandro, Willingdon, Alberta, who got tired of cleaning out the pens inside his 30 by 80-ft. calving barn by hand. He wanted to use his skid steer loader to do the job. So he came up with his own pen design featuring "swing-out" panels and had them custom-built by a local company.

The barn has two rows of pens along the outside walls, separated by a 10-ft. wide alley running down the center of the barn. The pens measure 10 ft. square and are separated by side panels that fasten to the walls. All the panels pivot 180 degrees on vertical steel posts. That leaves plenty of room for a skid loader to clean out the manure.

"I had been spending about five hours a day cleaning pens. Now when I use my skid

loader it takes only about a half hour each week," says Shandro. "The panels ride about 1 ft. off the floor which makes them easy to swing over because they don't drag straw and manure with them. Also, I can easily slide feed tubs and water buckets under the panels without having to open them all the time."

"My total cost was between \$5,000 and \$6,000."

The panels are built from 2-in. dia. pipe. Each panel rides on hinges made from two short lengths of 1-in. dia. steel pipe welded to the post at 90-degree angles from each other. The posts are set into the concrete floor at 10-ft. intervals.

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Kit consists of a pair of 6-in. rubberized wheels and a 5/8-in. dia. galvanized steel axle that bolts to the legs of any existing wheelbarrow.

Kit Converts Wheelbarrow To 3 Wheels

You can make a wheelbarrow much more stable and double the hauling capacity by converting it to a 3-wheeler, says Contemporary Marketing & Design Group, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.

The company introduced its new "WheelBarrow Buddy" kit at the recent National Hardware Show in Chicago, Ill. The kit consists of a pair of 6-in. rubberized wheels and a 5/8-in. dia. galvanized steel axle that bolts to the legs of any existing wheelbarrow.

"It makes the wheelbarrow easier to use because you can just push it instead of having to lift up on the handles. It's a lot easier to push something than it is to lift and balance it," says Robert Barthe. "To turn the wheelbarrow you simply push down on the handles and lift the front tire off the ground. By leveraging the load onto three wheels there's less chance of tipping so you can move big, bulky, unbalanced loads safely and easily. Another advantage is that by lifting the front tire off the ground you can lift the wheel-



With three wheels there's less chance of tipping so you can move bulky, unbalanced loads safely and easily, says the company.

barrow right over curbs and ledges."

Sells for \$29.95 plus S&H.

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