



Brian Parkinson combined two IH 12 by 30-in. vertical fold planters. He uses his Deere 8440 4-WD tractor to pull the rig.



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Home-Built 24-Row, 15-In. No-Till Planter Made From Two IH Planters

Brian Parkinson says there were several factors that caused him to build his own 24-row, 15-in. no-till air planter from a variety of planter components.

- He wanted more exact and better seed placement, especially when using Roundup Ready seed.

- He could not justify new equipment. A new 24-row, 15-in. planter would cost well over \$50,000.

- There was a ready supply of older IH Cyclo planters available at low cost.

"We combined two IH 12 by 30-in. vertical fold planters, tying them together front to back with 5 by 7-in. box beams.

"One of the planters came with a Progressive Farm Equipment caddy so I use the planter as a pull-type, although it may be possible to use the planter as a 3-pt. with lift assist if the caddy was removed. I use my Deere 8440 4-WD tractor to pull it.

"Before I built it I visited other farmers who

had built their own planters. In addition, I traded ideas and even bought and sold parts for the planter over the Internet. I paid \$7,500 for the two planters and miscellaneous used parts from Cyclo 400, 500, and 900 planters. My total cost, including a Rawson hydraulic drive system, was about \$14,000 so I saved a lot of money."

Parkinson elevated the seed boxes 12 in., mounting them on a 4-in. sq. box beam to allow more room for the seed tubes and drum drive assemblies. Two seed boxes mount on the rear planter bar, and one is center-mounted on the front bar. The three boxes hold a total of about 45 bu. of seed. Catwalks allow easy access to both bars as well as to the area between them. A refurbished Rawson hydraulic drive unit drives the original primary driveshaft through the original seed transmission. Transmission power is sent to the back bar via a long no. 50 chain to a jackshaft, then up to the two rear-mounted

seed hoppers.

The original pto-powered hydraulic pump that powered the seed blowers was too small, so he replaced it with a larger pump. The pump mounts on the tractor drawbar and is connected to the pto by a short shaft. The original planter markers and controls are attached to the front bar. Parkinson doubled up on the front stationary wheel depth assemblies and tied them together in pairs with a 2 by 4-in. tube in order to keep them from twisting. He also doubled up the tubes for the rear lift assist assemblies and replaced the original IH castor wheels with much heavier Flexi-Coil castor wheels. Four hydraulic cylinders are used to power the lift assist wheels.

In planting position, the planter's rear wings are carried by shortened lift assist assemblies. There are no hydraulic cylinders on the assemblies, just screw jacks. The original planters automatically lifted the

wings slightly whenever the planters were raised for turning in order to keep the wings from dragging. Adjustments for planting depth and other functions are the same as on the original planters. And, the planter folds just as the original planters did. Parkinson added tractor weights to each rear wing as needed.

"I use the Deere 250 seed monitor from my Deere 7200 12-row planter," says Parkinson. "I had a harness custom made by Ag Express to merge the two original 12 by 30-in. harnesses into one harness that plugs into my Deere monitor. The Rawson hydraulic drive system is hooked up to the radar gun on the Deere monitor via a 'Y' cable."

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"Made It Myself" Solution To Costly Soil Drainage

No matter what he did, Armand Poncelet always had to leave 10 to 20 acres unplanted in every quarter section. Some areas were just too wet to plant.

Rather than continue to lose income from some of his best-producing land, the Whitewood, Saskatchewan grain and cattle producer figured he could cut shallow drainage ditches into the wet areas and direct the water into surrounding slough areas.

When he couldn't find the kind of tool he needed to cut those drainage ditches, he designed and built his own.

"I'd seen the small V-plows used on the fronts of road graders and figured that would be just right for cutting ditches," he says. So he began looking around for a used snowplow by contacting Rural Municipalities (RMs), which maintain roads in rural Canada.

"I figured I'd have to truck one in from some distance," he says. "But the local RM had one for sale, so I was able to go get it with just a front end loader."

Next, he needed a frame and axles so he could pull the plow behind a tractor. He used an A-frame toolbar off an old Morris chisel plow. "Since the A-frame originally pulled a 60-ft. toolbar, I was sure it was heavy enough to handle the draft my drainage plow required," he says. He removed all but the center section of the toolbar and then added the axles, wheels and tires from a pull-type IH 914 combine.

He removed the top flaring wings off each side of the plow, narrowing it by about 3 ft. on each side. Then, because the plow was

made for pushing snow, not digging dirt, he reinforced it by adding a length of 1/2-in. thick, 4-in. by 16-in. channel iron from the back of the frame to the nose of the plow.

"The plow has heavy brackets on the back where it fit on the front of the road grader. I adapted those to fit to the A-frame by making pivot points on the toolbar," he says. "This way, it mounts on the bar in almost the same way it mounted on the grader."

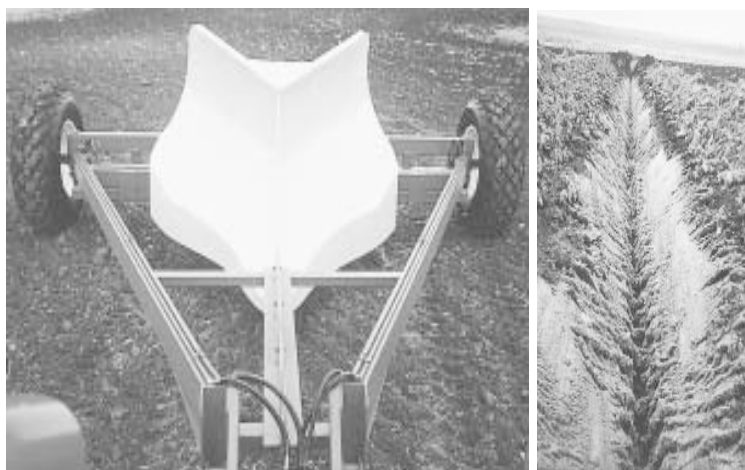
He fastened one of the cylinders that had been used to fold the wings on the Morris deep tillage between the top mount on the blade and the toolbar to control pitch and depth of the plow on the frame.

At the front tip of the plow, he mounted a tapered 4-in. long steel spike or probe. He made the probe from a longer piece of steel rod, and attached the back end of it to a 4-in. hydraulic cylinder, so he can extend it out to 12 in. "The probe breaks up soil deeper than the plow runs, so you can cut a channel up to 12 in. deeper without having to move much more dirt or use much more power," he says.

"I used it last fall for the first time and went back with a tape measure to see how deep it had cut. There were places where I'd gone 32 in. deep," he says.

He also used it to cut ditches in which to lay short lengths of 4-in. tile last spring, but doesn't know yet how successful that was.

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V-plow is mounted on A-frame toolbar off an old Morris chisel plow. Plow cuts deep V-shaped channel, right.

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