Reader Letters

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in. sq. tubing that's buried underground. ***(Andrew Taylor, Box 99, Beatty, Sask., Canada S0J 0C0 (ph 306 752-3795)***

We came up with our own loader-mounted bulk bag lifter for lifting 1-ton mini bags. We use it mostly during the fall when we spread

granular herbicides to control wild oats. We use our loader tractor to pull a trailer loaded with 10 1-ton bags out to the field, then unhook the trailer and use the loader to load the bags into the applicator. It eliminates the need for a forklift. One little pin fastens it to bucket.

The bag lifter consists of two parts and fits inside the bucket. One piece is made from steel tubing and pins onto a bracket welded on top of the bucket. This piece sits on the bucket floor and has bracing on back. The other piece consists of a four-pronged steel hook with a loop on top. The straps attach to handles on the bag, while the loop fastens onto a hook welded onto the bucket-mounted

piece. The bottom piece is made out of 3/4-in. steel rod so it'll never bend out of shape.

We took four 4-ft. sections off an old 40-ft. spike harrow and used them to make a small harrow that's really handy for doing yard work. We fastened two sections together side by

side, with two more sections behind them. The front and rear sections are attached by small lengths of chain. A rigid steel bar mounts across the front two sections and is hooked by chains to the tractor drawbar. It was simple to make and works great for smoothing out the gravel around our yard. It maneuvers easily around trees. ***(Joel Waldner, 67 Tudor Crescent, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 5C7)***

I converted a boat winch into a hand operated hoist that mounts on back of my Deere 318 garden tractor. It consists of a steel pole with a pulley on top and a crank and cable spool just behind the driver's seat. The bottom of the pole bolts to a homemade steel plate that bolts onto a trailer hitch that was already on the tractor. I use the winch often to lift a trash-burning barrel into a trailer, then

hook onto the trailer and dump the barrel in a dumpster. I made a similar winch to fit the back corner of my pickup. ***(Merle Bonnes, Box 67, 54017 270th St., Lansing, Minn. 55950 ph 507 437-1424))***

Our folding truck auger is made from a rugged PVC tube with polyethylene flighting. It's

lightweight, runs quiet, and won't rust out. The auger swings out 180 degrees and can be equipped with an optional telescoping downspout. It folds manually for transport and is held in place by an over-center clamp.

We also offer a plastic auger and hopper for gravity boxes. The auger glides back and forth on UHMW plastic slides and rollers which have bushings in them so they never need to be greased. ***(Howard Green, Market Farm Equipment Ltd., Rt. 1, Dashwood, Ontario, Canada N0M 1N0 ph 519 238-2301; fax 6044; Website: www.marketfarmequipment.com)***

My "Cap Lamp" provides hands-free personal lighting. This invention is a baseball cap with a hidden lighting system that illuminates what-

ever the wearer looks at. It has an angle-adjustable krypton spotlight and optional red illumination for night vision. It draws a lot of attention when operated in public. It's not in production yet and is available for licensing. ***(Charles L. Urso, Enterprising Concepts, Box 541136, Waltham, Ma. 02454 ph 781 891-1688)***

We sell authentic replacement steering wheel center caps for many models of Deere tractors. We're the only company licensed by Deere to sell steering wheel center caps for the company's "new generation" 4010, 4020, etc., series tractors made from 1961 to 1974. We also sell steering wheel center caps for Deere's lawn and garden tractors made from 1963 to 1980.

The caps are made from clear acrylic and are more weather resistant than the original ones.

In addition, we offer more than 100 different parts for lawn and garden tractors and farm tractors, including reproduction fiberglass hoods, old-style floor mat sets, original style seat cushions, "be careful" decals, etc.

(Brandon Pfeiffer, HAPCO, Inc., 6040 Ford Rd. N., Mt. Vernon, Ind. 47620 ph 812 985-2490 or 7640 evenings; Website: www.hapcoparts.com)

I built a utility tractor out of a 1970 Deere 214 riding mower. It has a seat that's big enough for two people. I call it my Run-A-Bout because it really comes in handy for doing jobs around our farm. I use it around my place to pull a trailer and also a sprayer. It looks so good that some people want to know if I bought it at a factory.

I made it primarily to take to tractor shows and parades. A lot of people take their golf carts to tractor shows and ride around on them. I use this tractor the same way. I mount a Deere umbrella over the seat when I'm riding around at shows. I gutted the muffler so that it sounds a little more like a tractor than a mower. It'll go 14 to 15 mph.

I bought the mower used with the deck missing and a bad Kohler 14 hp gas engine. I overhauled the engine, then decided to convert the mower into a tractor. I cut the frame in half and lengthened it about 14 in. I also raised the frame about 12 in. I replaced the original wheels with 14-in. high Deere implement tires on front and 20-in. high rear tractor tires on back. To mount the front tires I split the mower wheel rims and welded the implement wheels onto them. I did the same thing on back except that I welded in the wheel rims off a 1935 Chevrolet truck.

The tractor still has its original belt-driven rear transaxle. I replaced the belt with a longer one and installed belt guides to keep the belt in place. The tractor also still has the original hood and front end. The fenders are off a1950 Case VAC tractor and the drawbar is off a Farmall H tractor. I mounted an extension on the exhaust pipe, which comes out from behind a shield (original to the mower) at the front end of the tractor.

The double-wide seat sits on top of the mower's fenders and is supported on back by a rectangular frame made out of angle iron and square tubing. The gear shift lever goes straight down to the transaxle and sets about 12 in. farther back than its original location. There's a hole on the mower platform, right under the steering wheel, where the original gear shift lever used to be. ***(Jerry Cotter, 921 Cauley Lane, San Angelo, Texas 76903 ph 915 655-3030)***

Hooking up to all kinds of equipment is easy with this hitch I built. It mounts on the back of my Deere tractor.

Made out of 2 by 4 square tubing, the rectangular frame mounts on the tractor 3-pt. hitch. It's fitted with two receiver hitches – top and bottom – and brackets to hold various ball or tongue hitches.

I use the bottom receiver hitch to pull various trailers with either a ball hitch, pin

hitch, or even a rope-latch hitch that can be hooked or unhooked from the tractor by pulling on a rope. The top receiver hitch can be used to pull a gooseneck trailer.

The entire hitch assembly lifts high enough so I can still use the tractor drawbar, if necessary. I run a pto shaft through the hitch unit when needed. ***(DeWayne Zambo, 13842 – 314th Ave., Java, S. Dak. 57452 ph 605 649-7303)***

I put together a heavy-built blade using a field disk lift assembly and the grader table off a Caterpillar 212 road grader. I work for a Cat equipment dealer but live in the country. My International M does a good job handling the heavy blade except that it needed better hydraulics. So I equipped the blade with a "live" hydraulic unit driven by pto.

The blade has a geared rotary mounting

that's operated hydraulically for infinite, easy adjustment. It works great for snow plowing – I've even helped out on local county roads from time to time – but also works good as a road grader.

To build the unit, I cut off the Cat frame just behind the blade, and then mounted the disk lift wheel assembly under what remained of the frame. I rigged up a hitch on front which also supports the pto-driven hydraulic pump. ***(Dale Moffett, RR, Cowden, Ill. 62422 ph 217 783-2133)***

Editor's Note: Last issue we had the first report in North America on Deere's new telehandler, which we spotted last fall at the Smithfield Show in London. In January, Deere started releasing information on the new telehandlers in North America.

Deere called after we ran our story to tell us the new telehandlers will not be available in North America until next August. They also pointed out that the price we quoted – which was given to us by European representatives – was "too low". See your dealer for details.