



"It allows you to adjust twine tension to a much higher level than ever before," says Don Parker about his patented 12-volt twine brake.

## Twine Tensioner For Round Balers

For many operators of round balers, getting twine to wrap tight around bales is a real problem. Twine exiting the twine box can become so slack the baler knife won't cut it. You can adjust the brake to tighten the twine, but the added tension can stop the twine from feeding freely into the baler.

Don Parker, Scottville, Mich., solved the problem by coming up with his own patented twine brake that operates off the tractor's battery. The device, which replaces the existing brake, bolts onto the baler between the twine box and twine applicator tubes and is connected to a remote switch in the cab. Pressing a button in the tractor cab for one or two seconds actuates a solenoid that causes the brake to lift off the twine, thus freeing the twine for an easy start.

"It allows you to adjust twine tension to a much higher level but you can release the brake to start twine into the baler," says Parker. "Twine tension is a more difficult problem with plastic twine because it has less friction than fiber, making it harder to get the twine started into the baler. Last summer I



**Device bolts onto baler between twine box and twine applicator tubes and is connected to a remote switch in the cab.** started selling a few of my twine brakes to local farmers. I offered to take the product back if there were any problems, but I haven't got one back yet."

The brake comes complete with wiring harness. Fits most balers that use twine.

Sells for \$75 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald R. Parker, 1434 Osborn Road, Scottville, Mich. 49454 (ph 231 757-2804; fax 231 757-2667; email: dparker@1010internet.com).



"Custom Contour" loader from Westendorf fits the profile of today's "smooth shaped" tractors while allowing clear sightlines.

## Contour Loader Fits Slope Of Tractor

One of the hottest new products at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., was a new front-end loader introduced by Westendorf Mfg., Onawa, Iowa.

The 340 "Custom Contour" loader fits the profile of today's "smooth shaped" tractors while allowing exceptionally clear sightlines for working. All hydraulic hoses are hidden inside the loader arms to eliminate hose snags and potential UV deterioration.

The loader can be attached and detached from the comfort of your seat in less than two minutes without the use of any tools or stands. To dismount the loader, you place the bucket on the ground and then simply flip up a steel plate at the front of the tractor. As you back up, legs drop down to "free stand" the

loader in place.

Once the loader has been dismantled, the hoses disconnect all at one time using a Hydra-Snap connector. It's a metal box equipped with remote outlets that mounts just ahead of the cab. To disconnect the hoses, you just rotate a lever on back of the box 90 degrees. All the hoses are fastened to a self-aligning plate that's keyed so the hoses can't get mixed up. To reconnect the hoses, you just insert the hose assembly plate and rotate the lever back.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Westendorf Mfg. Co., Inc., P.O. Box 29, Onawa, Iowa 51040 (ph 712 423-2762; email: matt@westendorfmfg.com; website: www.loaders.com).



To dismount loader, you flip up a steel plate that fits inside a bracket on front of tractor. As you back up, "tower stabilizer" automatically drops to hold loader upright on ground.



To attach ladder, Bergman ran a steel rod through bottom rung and then through the lift arms on tractor 3-pt. Then he ran two support straps up to a rung about halfway up ladder.

## Tractor-Mounted Ladder

Refinishing decks and painting house painting are not fun jobs but Richard Bergman of Chippewa Falls, Wis., made those jobs a lot easier by mounting a ladder on back of his Steiner tractor.

To attach the ladder, he ran a steel rod through the bottom rung and then through the lift arms on the tractor 3-pt. Then he ran a couple of support straps up to a rung about halfway up the ladder. The setup allows him to set the bottom of the ladder on the ground so the back of the tractor doesn't carry his

weight.

To pressure wash his house and deck, he strapped his hot water pressure washer into the Steiner's loader bucket, and ran the hose up to a hook on the ladder.

"When I'm not using the ladder on the house I also use it to pick fruit," notes Bergman.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Bergman, 16201 120<sup>th</sup> Ave., Chippewa Falls, Wis. 54729 (ph 715 288-6031; email: rbergmanf@centurytel.net)

## Add-On Backhoe Bucket "Thumb"

Imagine your hand without a thumb. That's what running a standard backhoe is like, says Guest Industries, Inc. The company makes an extendable "thumb" that turns a backhoe into a true mechanical hand, says Gary Guest, president.

"If you've ever watched a guy try to move a rock with a backhoe, it's a comedy," says Guest. "With our thumb attached, you can not only move it, you can set it exactly where you want. When we made the first prototype, the operator was stacking boxes inside boxes with it and then lifting them out."

Guest says the thumb makes the backhoe ideal for moving scrap metal or logs. Operators can use it to rip off entire sections of a building wall.

"With this, you can literally pick up a brick," says Guest. "When you are done, you can fold it back against the boom for storage."

Both the thumb itself and the arm it is attached to offer multiple positions for different needs. "The different positions allow a range of openings," explains Guest. "A guy hauling rocks might want the thumb closest to the backhoe while a guy lifting tanks might want it farther away."

The backhoe thumb can be welded to older backhoe booms (\$2,080). It can be bolted to cast extendable booms that can't be welded (\$2,880 with clamp). Different machines may require a different clamp to match the cross section of the dipper boom, as every model is different.

"The clamps are highly engineered to allow for the tight clearance between the cyl-



Extendable "thumb" turns backhoe into a true mechanical hand, says manufacturer.



Thumb makes backhoe ideal for moving scrap metal or logs. Both the thumb itself and the arm it's attached to offer multiple positions for different needs.

inder on the boom and the boom itself, sometimes as little as a quarter inch," says Guest. "As a result, we simply can't fit some machines."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Guest, Guest Industries, Inc., 3601 Winstead Rd., Torrington, Conn. 06790 (ph 800 243-5390 or 860-482-1118; fax 860 489-6336).