



Meyer spent just \$50 and about half a day adding a second cab door to his Deere 4620. He says the idea would work on any older 20 series Deere cab.

Easy Way To Add A Second Cab Door

Garry Meyer of Carrot River, Sask., wanted to be able to enter and exit his tractor cab from either side, so he added a second door to his Deere 4620's cab.

"In my opinion, this right-side door is something Deere should have added from the very start," Meyer says. "For me, it only took about \$50 worth of materials, and it saves me a lot of steps. The project took half a day and it's sure handy. You can make this work on any of the older 20 series Deere cabs."

According to Meyer, you don't even have to add hinges in this modification project, because the existing window hinge works as the hinge for the added door.

The first thing he did was to cut out the brace between the window and bottom panel so that it was flush with the cab. Then he bolted the bottom panel to the remaining brace, and cut off the extra piece.

"I welded a little gusset on each side to support the two pieces and then welded an angle iron on the bottom of the panel to support it," Meyer explains. "Next, I filled in the holes on the bottom where the panel was bolted on, with silicone. On both sides of the door, I bolted on handles that I got off a wrecked cab. I also mounted a piece of rod to the inside of the door for pulling it shut,

and made a catch on top of the door to hold it open."

He then welded a rod with supports down the outside, right side of the door frame just like on the original door.

Underneath the cab mount, Meyer bolted an 8-in. long piece of 6-in. channel iron (he first cut the back side off), "so it fits up in there nicely and looks original." Next, he mounted three 12 by 7-in. steps, spaced 12 inches apart on a 25-in. piece of 3-in. channel. The steps sit at a 45 degree angle to the tractor and are set forward a little. "I made the same kind of steps to replace the originals on the other side, too, because they had real suicide things on there originally," he says. "The ones the tractor came with were not big enough and too steep."

Meyer says, because he has a loader on his tractor, the added door is extra handy for standing on the step and working the levers.

"Also, if you want to pick up a rock or a root, you can slip in and out either side. A big person might have trouble, but I can slip in and out of there with no problem," he says.

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Add-On Seat For Tractor Cabs

"Add-on instructor seats" for tractor cabs make it easy to ride along with inexperienced operators. Epley Enterprise specializes in retrofitting late model Deere and Case-IH Magnum tractors.

"I saw a need for an extra seat in the cab, and I wanted that extra rider to be buckled in and secure," says Aaron Epley. "I built the first one, ran a few ads and did a few farm shows. I have been busy ever since."

Epley's first concern is for safety. Each seat comes with a lap belt. All metal parts are powder coated. He uses all-welded frames, foam cushions and heavy upholstery fabric, which he says is as tough or tougher than factory installed. Cost is \$235 per seat.

"My first seat has been in use for three years and shows no wear," he says.

The seats have their own foot stand. Installation is a matter of cutting away the floor covering where the seat is to be mounted. Drill four holes and bolt the seat in place. On Deere tractors, it is bolted to the floor of the cab. On Case-IH tractors, it is bolted to the fender.

"Installation shouldn't take more than an hour," says Epley.

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On Deere tractors, seat bolts to floor of the cab while on Case-IH tractors, it bolts to the fender.



Luepke swapped a case of beer for a 300-gal. fuel tank which he turned into a powered composter. Total cost was about \$350. It gives him about 200 gal. of compost each spring.

300-Gal. Rolling Composter

Kathy Luepke wanted to make compost on their place near Courtland, Minn., but her husband Wayne didn't want the mess. He liked the looks of little compost barrels that rotated, but knew they would be too small. One day he spotted an unused 300-gal. fuel tank and knew he'd found a solution.

"I swapped a case of beer for the barrel," he recalls, "and filled it with water. Using a saber saw, I cut a small door for filling and a large door for emptying plus a series of 1/8-in. slits for ventilation. I also welded some flighting inside the barrel to encourage mixing."

To spin the big barrel, Luepke mounted it on a frame built out of 2-in. steel tubing. An axle and wheels from a snowmobile trailer are hinged to the rear of the framework, allowing the composter to rest on the ground when not in transport mode. A bulldog jack mounts on front. As the jack is raised, a cable attached to the rear wheels pulls them into place, raising the frame off the ground. The extra height allows the barrel to be emptied directly into a garden cart.

The barrel rests on two idler wheels on one side and two powered wheels on the other side. The idler wheels were salvaged from an old lawn mower, while the power wheels had been gauge wheels on an old cultivator. A castor wheel mounts at the front of the barrel to prevent forward creep as the barrel turns.

The power wheels are mounted on a 1-in. shaft that passes through two pillow-block bearings attached to the composter frame. At first, Luepke thought he could spin the barrel by hand with a crank on the end of the shaft.

"I found that when the barrel gets full, it was a struggle to turn," he says.

To handle the load, he mounted a 1/3-hp



Barrel is powered by a 1/3 hp electric motor and spins about one revolution per minute.

electric motor with a 50:1 reduction gear case on the frame. A sprocket drive chain from the gear case drives a sprocket mounted on the shaft. It turns the barrel about one revolution per minute.

A detachable trailer hitch makes it easy for Luepke to tow the composter to his garden and flower beds for unloading.

He estimates he has about \$350 in the project including another case of beer for the drive shaft and \$35 for the gearbox. The investment produces about 200 gallons of rich compost each spring.

"We add about a third of a barrel of shredded leaves in the fall and some compost-starter bacteria along with table scraps and a little water every month or so," says Luepke. "It seems to hold down the weeds, absorbs rain and our little garden produces beyond what we ever thought it could."

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