

## Modified Mack Truck Hauls 12 Big Bales

Loading large round bales of hay or straw is a quick and easy job for Arlen Stocking, Barrhead, Alberta, since he built his bale-hauling Mack truck.

Stocking added a hydraulic-controlled big bale fork to the side of a 1975 Mack tandem axle truck that loads bales in two side-by-side rows and unloads them the same way with no need for the driver to ever get out of the cab.

The pickup fork is on the driver's side of the truck. After lifting the bale onto the truck, a small hydraulic panel pushes it to the other side of the deck before the next bale is placed on the truck. Then both bales are pushed back to a headgate to make room for the next two bales.

A truck hoist raises the deck to unload and the headgate pushes them off in neat, tight rows as the truck drives ahead. The headgate is driven by two sets of chains that run the full length of the deck. They're

driven by an orbit motor. A 19 gpm hydraulic pump is driven off the front of the truck engine.

Stocking says the truck itself is worth about \$10,000 and he spent about an equal amount on materials to construct the hay loading system.

He has loaded and unloaded as many as 720 big bales in a 10-hr. day with the bale truck. His wife ran it all last summer. He notes that the longer the haul, the more advantageous the truck hauler is since it still travels at highway speeds. For long distance hauling, another row of bales can be stacked on top with a front-end loader.

Stocking, who runs a custom hay-hauling business, also uses the truck to haul machinery.

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## Heavy-Duty Garden Tractor

This home-built garden tractor has as much pulling power as a half-ton pickup, according to the builder, Glen Woodside, Thorndale, Ontario.

It's powered by a 10-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine with a 4-speed Datsun transmission and a narrowed-down Chevrolet rear end. A belt from a 3-in. pulley on the motor runs to a 12-in. dia. pulley on the transmission with a pedal-controlled tightener for a clutch. On the output end of the transmission is a 9-tooth sprocket that drives a 40-tooth sprocket on the rear axle via a number 60 roller chain. "That gives enough speed reduction that it has a top speed of about 8 mph," notes Woodside.

The frame was welded out of 3 by 7-in. tubing. Woodside fabricated the hood, grille, and other miscellaneous components. Wheelbarrow wheels mount on the front axle and 15-in. tractor tread tires mount in back.

"I used a power steering pump off an old car to make a hydraulic system to power a cylinder and 3-pt. hitch on back. I have a 1-row cultivator for garden work and we also use it for pulling hay wagons and other equipment around the farm. It's built heavy," says Woodside.

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## Timer, Solenoids Leave Unplanted "Marker Rows" On Grain Drill

"It leaves the second to last rows on each end of my grain drill unplanted for 30 to 40 ft. at the end of the field to serve as guides when I spray postemergence herbicides. Prevents costly skips and overlaps," says Tim Boucher, Crookston, Minn., who uses a timer and a pair of solenoids on his Deere 9350 30-ft. drill to temporarily block off the seed metering cups on two rows.

The timer, which activates the solenoids, mounts in the cab. Each solenoid controls a hinged steel paddle that's mounted over a seed metering cup. A small piece of flat iron is bolted onto the rocker shaft that supports the disc openers and an activator switch is bolted onto the frame of the drill. When the drill is lowered, the flat iron contacts the switch which activates the timer. The timer in turn activates the solenoids, which lower the paddles to close off the two seed metering cups for 7 or 8 seconds. Then the timer kicks off, the paddles open up,

and the drill plants normally again. The timer automatically resets itself when the drill is raised at the end of the field.

"It works much better than trying to follow guess rows because the unplanted row sections are much easier to see," says Boucher. "Several neighbors who looked at mine are now building their own."

"I block off the second to last rows so I can still see unplanted rows even if I overlap with the drill. Timer could also be set to come on every so often down the field which would help on hillsides where it's easy to overlap with a drill."

Boucha spent a total of \$350, including \$160 for the two solenoid switches (designed for a Deere lawn tractor), \$30 for the activator switch, and \$100 for the timer. He bought all the components out of a Grainger catalog (call 800 323-0620; in Ill., call 800 225-7149).

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## Low-Cost Way To Handle Big Bales

Virgil Hardin, Atoka, Okla., handles big round bales without ever lifting them off the ground. Lets him handle big bales with older small tractors. No need for a high-capacity 3-pt. lift.

He bolted a solid rod to the front of his Deere MT tractor, attaching it to the front cultivator mounting bracket. Then he put an old buck rake wheel on either end of the shaft.

"I use the wheels to push 1,000-lb. bales up onto the back of my utility trailer. I put 3 bales on the 14-ft. trailer to haul them in from the field or take them to a customer. I put a rope under each bale which lets me roll them off the trailer by myself. I never lift anything except the ramps on back of the trailer, which keep bales from rolling off in transit. You can also use this method to roll out bales to



feed cattle," says Hardin.

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## Heavy-Duty Trash Burning Barrel

"We used to burn trash in old 50 gal. barrels but they continually burned out or got water in them and rusted out," says Chester Kimber, Amistad, New Mexico.

"Another problem was that when I went to empty them, they were too heavy to lift into the pickup. So I got the idea of using a heavy pipe casing fitted with 3-pt. hitch brackets. It's a 30-in. dia. casing about 5 ft. long. For the bottom, I built a frame out of 2-in. pipe covered with wire mesh. Two short lengths of chain attach it to the bottom of the pipe."

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