

## “Best Ever” Rock Picking Bucket

You can turn a skid steer loader into a fast, efficient rock picker with the Pikrite bucket from OMKO. The \$3,000 attachment lets one person pick rocks by the bucketful, dump them in a rock wagon and then keep on picking.

The unit is equipped with a set of 7 hydraulically controlled steel teeth that dig under the rock. The teeth, which pivot on the edge of the bucket, leverage a rock or boulder up, back and into the bucket.

“It’s easy to use, and you are able to fill up the whole bucket,” explains Larry Omann, the central Minnesota farmer who designed and now builds the Pikrite.

The steel teeth and open grate bucket means that dirt falls out as rocks are picked up. Used with a rock wagon, one operator can quickly clear a field by himself.

“They work so efficiently that a lot of farmers are share-buying them,” says Omann.

The 3 by 5-ft. bucket with teeth weighs 700 lbs. empty. Omann recommends a 35- to 75-hp skid steer loader for mounting. He points out that the attachment is more than just a rock picker.

“It’s a great landscaping or clearing tool,” he says. “You can transplant trees up to 10 ft. tall or pick up firewood, clear brush or clean up around a construction site.”

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**Pikrite bucket lets one person pick rocks by the bucketful, dump them in a rock wagon, and then keep on picking.**



**Dirt falls out through open grate bucket as rocks are picked up.**

(ph 320 251-4274 or 320 363-1775; email: sales@pikrite.net).

## Loader-Mounted Hedge Trimmer

Trimming hedges, brush and small trees is as easy as hopping on your loader tractor with this new hydraulic-powered cutter that attaches to a loader bucket.

A hydraulic motor powers an oscillating cam connecting two cutting blades. Changing the hydraulic flow changes the speed of the blades. The 38-in. cutter requires 3-gal./min. hydraulic pressure and can be mounted vertically or horizontally.

The Sabre II Multi-Cutter, as it’s called, doubles as a swath cutter on combine heads. It mounts on the ends of heads to slice through tangled crops like canola.

“Sickles can be sharpened and they’re easily replaced if broken because they’re fastened with capscrews, not rivets,” says Gaudes.

The Sabre has also been tested by the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, which said, “The ease of operating and adjusting the Sabre was excellent.” They also found it easy to maintain and effective in making harvesting canola much easier.

The Sabre sells for \$849 (Canadian).

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**Hydraulic-powered cutter attaches to loader bucket.**

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**“It works as well as anything on the market. The only difference is that it cost a lot less money,” says Chris Visser, who converted a Gleaner combine into this SP sprayer.**

## “Gleaner” Crop Sprayer

“It’s a great way to make use of an old combine and saved me a lot of money,” says Chris Visser, Wakefield, Kansas, about the 60-ft. wide, hydraulic-fold crop sprayer he built out of a 1978 Gleaner L2 combine.

The sprayer is equipped with a commercial 60-ft. boom with 24-ft. wings and a 12-ft. middle section. The rear-mounted boom mounts on a bracket Visser built out of 4-in. sq. tubing and strap iron. Nozzles are on 20-in. spacings for broadcasting pre-emerge and post herbicides. Visser removed the combine’s grain tank and replaced it with a 710-gal. tank he bought new. The machine rides on tall, narrow 18.4 by 46 tires on front and 13.8 by 38 tires on back. It’s complete with a Raven monitor and a GPS guidance system.

“It works as well as anything on the market. The only difference is that it cost a lot less money,” says Visser, who made the conversion one year ago. “I already had the Gleaner and paid about \$1,000 for the boom, which I bought used at an auction. It was off a 1998 Deere 4700 self-propelled sprayer. I bought the tires and rims new, which was my biggest expense. I sold some of the parts that I removed from the combine, including the header, chains, belts, and grain cleaning components, which helped keep the cost down. My total cost was about \$10,000. A used commercial self-propelled sprayer of comparable capacity sells for about three times as much. Even a new pull-type sprayer would have cost \$12,000 to \$20,000.”

He started by removing the header and all

grain-cleaning components from the machine, keeping the 6-cyl. diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, and cab. He removed the combine’s grain tank and replaced it with the 710-gal. tank. The engine, drive train, and fuel tank were left in their original positions. He mounted the boom on a frame he built from 4-in. sq. tubing. Combine hydraulics operate the lift, fold and wing tipping. The boom can be adjusted from 18 to 56 in. high. The feederhouse was removed. The sprayer is filled from the front of the machine, where a 15-gal. chemical induction tank tips forward for filling. On back, the straw walkers and sieves were removed to make room for a 60-gal. rinse tank that’s also plumbed to the front of the machine. A foam marker tank mounts under the rinse tank.

The spray pump is belt-driven off the combine’s separator clutch.

“I use it on all my crops, to topdress wheat, apply post emerge Roundup on soybeans, and preplant herbicides on milo,” notes Visser. “I spray at 6 1/2 mph in the field and can go up to 18 mph on the road. The tall tires provide more ground clearance and make a narrower track in the field. My combine sprayer doesn’t go down the road as fast as a Deere self-propelled sprayer, but it works just as good in the field,” says Visser. “Last spring I installed a GPS guidance system so I no longer have to use the foam markers.”

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## Front-Mount Cultivator Makes Sidedressing Simple

Tired of hiring out the sidedressing liquid nitrogen, Nolan Knight decided to do it himself. While a rear-mounted toolbar would have been easier to adapt, he figured a front-mounted applicator would work better on his northeastern Iowa hillsides. Knight created a 12-row cultivator/applicator from parts of these older cultivators. Liquid N is pumped from a rear-mounted 125-gal. tank and dribbled behind a single shovel to one side of each row.

“I had wanted to be able to vary the rates on different fields and soils, and it’s hard to get custom applicators to follow directions,” explains Knight. “With this setup, I can change rates on the go or shut off three rows on each side, which was important on our terraced hillsides.”

The cultivator sections he used for the outer wings 8-10 inches lower than the units he used at the center, so hinging the two was a challenge.

Knight’s solution was to weld a 15 by 30-in., 1/2-in. steel plate to the end of the center section. A knuckle on the end of each wing frame floats inside a 4 1/2-in. slot in each plate. A chain attached about 2 ft in on each wing is suspended from an upside down L-shaped arm made from angle iron. A hydraulic lift cylinder attaches to each arm.

Knight can raise or lower the wings and main gangs separately or in any combination. Although he can as yet only shut the liquid N off on one side at a time, he plans to split that also so application on any three rows can be turned off or on.

Knight extended the tractor frame; channel iron is bolted to each side. Chains run from either side of the box out to the ends of the wings to provide more support when they are in the ground.

Knight also bolted two pieces of 4-in. angle iron vertically to either side of the tractor frame and in line with the cultivator frame.



**Knight sidedresses liquid nitrogen with this front-mount cultivator. Nitrogen is pumped from rear-mounted tank and dribbled behind a single shovel to one side of each row.**

A horizontal piece of angle iron ties the two verticals together at the top, while two pieces of 2-in. windmill iron are attached in an X formation between the verticals to provide additional stability.

“I wanted to reinforce the International cultivator frame, as it takes all the weight when the units are lifted out of the ground,” explains Knight. “I ran two strips of 2-in.

windmill iron from the top of the support tower to either side. One is attached to the end of the frame, the other one attached part way back on the frame.”

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