

Custom-Built Loaders Fit Older Tractors

Vaughn heavy-duty loaders are engineered to fit a wide range of older tractors from Farmall 560s to John Deere 3020s. If they don't have a pattern in hand, they will modify one of their designs to fit. Just bring in your tractor. If there isn't a buyer, they don't create a design. It's one way they keep the price down.

"We have a lower price than our competitors in the market by keeping our overhead down," says Marvin Langer, owner. "All of our loaders are made by three people. We sell through dealers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota, but people in other areas can order direct."

Vaughn only makes loaders to fit standard front ends, not front wheel assist. The company uses 1/4-in. high-tensile steel and 4 or 5-in. pipe for torsion tubes. Mounting brackets are made out of 2-in. steel. Hydraulic cyl-

inders on the side have a 30-in. stroke and 1 1/2-in. shafts. Bucket cylinders have the same heavy-duty shaft, but a 20-in. stroke.

The loaders feature unobstructed views of the loader bucket or other attachments. While the quick-tach system makes changing attachments easy, the loaders themselves are not quick-tach. Taking one off is just a matter of pulling four pins and detaching the hydraulics, but it's not a quick-tach system. It's one more way Vaughn holds down costs.

"Most of the people we sell loaders to keep them on year round," he says. "We do offer stands, but you don't have to pay for a quick-tach system you won't use."

Vaughn loaders start at \$3,350 for a basic unit. Buckets and other attachments are extra.

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Vaughn front-end loaders are designed to fit a wide range of older tractors.

Drill-Powered Dehorner Gets Job Done Quick

If you've ever dehorned a calf or cow with a hacksaw, you know it's not a lot of fun. The bigger the horn, the worse the job. Jim Pardoe used a long-handled dehorner called a guillotine, but it wasn't that much easier to use. He decided to automate.

"I took the blades from the guillotine and put them in a frame that's powered by a 1/2-in. drill," says Pardoe.

The frame consists of four lengths of 1-in. wide, 1/4-in. steel strap. Two lengths bolted together with spacers between them form each leg of the frame. Cross bars combined with pressure bolts at the end of the frame lock the drill in place. One of the dehorner blades is bolted to one side of the straps at their lower end, with the cutting edge facing the drill. The second cutting edge faces the first, but is mounted to a steel plate. The steel plate has room to slide between the sides of the frame and push the second edge down and over the first blade. A piece of U-shaped steel rod attached to the dehorner frame lets the operator lift the dehorner into place with one hand while the other operates the drill.

"A length of 3/4-in. threaded rod runs through a collar on the plate to the chuck of the high torque, reversible drill," explains Pardoe. "When I trigger the drill, the rod drives the sliding cutting blade down and



Jim Pardoe automated a long-handled dehorner by mounting the guillotine blades in a frame that's powered by a 1/2-in. drill.

across the stationary blade. It will cut through anything."

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Gary Wear built this cab and evaporative "swamp cooler" for his Deere 5105 tractor.

Home-Built Cab Complete With "Swamp Cooler"

Gary Wear, Roanoke, Texas, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the cab and evaporative "swamp cooler" he built for his Deere 5105 48 hp, 2-WD tractor. Both the cab and swamp cooler are painted Deere green and yellow.

"I use the tractor in my business doing bush hogging and light earth moving work. The tractor came with a rollbar but no cab and no air conditioner, so I decided to build my own," says Wear. "I call it my 'Swamp Deere' and it works great."

The swamp cooler measures 17 in. sq. and 31 in. high and mounts on back of the tractor cab. It's powered by the tractor's 12-volt battery.

A 12-volt water pump mounts on the back side and a 15-in. dia. fan on front. The bottom half of the unit serves as a reservoir, holding 8 gal. of water. The back side of the unit is covered with metal lath and has an old window screen behind it to keep insects out. Behind the screen is an 8-in. thick layer of water-absorbing Celdex, which is a corrugated cardboard material made for industrial swamp coolers.

Water from the reservoir is pumped through a garden hose up to a tray (an old Tupperware dish) with a series of holes drilled into it, which allows the water to be evenly dispersed over the Celdex. The fan then pulls the saturated air into the cab.

"It works great and didn't cost much to build. The only new parts I used are the fan and the water pump," says Wear. "Once I start the pump it takes three or four minutes for the Celdex to become saturated, and I can feel the temperature cooling down as it becomes saturated. The water pump and fan



Swamp cooler mounts on back of tractor cab and is powered by tractor's 12-volt battery.

motors are connected together so just one switch will turn both of them on at the same time. I mounted the switch on the tractor's dash.

"To fill the reservoir I pour water into a 3-in. dia. pvc fill tube with a screw-on cap, located on one side of the unit. A hinged top provides access to the fan and tray. I coated both sides of the plywood with fiberglass in order to make it completely water resistant."

Wear used old bed frames to build the cab and added plexiglass windows. The cab is welded onto the tractor frame.

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Plastic Jugs Provide "Spot Irrigation"

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

When the weather turned dry last summer, our garden plants needed a drink - even though we had planted everything under black greenhouse fabric on strips of carpet. We decided to make our own "spot irrigation" system by using small diameter electric fence posts with plastic jugs "stabbed" onto them. They worked great.

We used a garden hose to fill the gallon or half gallon jugs while standing upright (important for senior citizens!), then slide the jugs down the posts to ground level and let the water drip out slowly. The system worked well until we finally got a good rain.

We used the same idea on a few blueberry and blackberry plants, only this time we used 5 to 7-gal. plastic buckets. First we drilled a 1/4-in. dia. hole in the bottom of each bucket. Then we placed the buckets near the plants and filled them with water.

We finally got a good rain. However, we could see the difference in the size of the blueberries due to the extra water applied when it was most needed.

A garden hose is used to fill jugs stabbed onto electric fence posts (above). Jugs are then slid down to ground level where the water drips out slowly.

