



To convert his Chevy S-10 pickup to diesel power, Jeff Flicek matched up a new 2.2L 3024T Caterpillar diesel engine to a Chevrolet 700R4 automatic transmission.

Chevy S-10 Converted To Diesel Power

The idea to put a diesel engine in a small pickup first occurred to Jeff Flicek as he was plowing. If he could turn over 4-ft. swaths of dirt and only burn a gallon and a quart of diesel an hour, why couldn't he do that in a vehicle driving down a smooth road pushing air? Later, an article about a gas to diesel conversion in FARM SHOW convinced the retired plumber he could do the same thing.

He purchased a new 2.2L 3024T Caterpillar diesel engine from a surplus business for \$3,200 and matched it up to a Chevrolet 700R4 automatic transmission he already had. He bought a 2000 S-10 Chevy truck with 40,000 miles and slight passenger side damage from a repairable vehicle business.

"It wasn't a bolt-in job," Flicek notes with a laugh. "There were a lot of little obstacles, but I tried one thing or another and it turned out to be a drivable vehicle."

Cutting the front crossmember to accommodate the engine depth was the biggest challenge. Flicek braced it before cutting to keep it in alignment until he could fabricate a new crossmember.

The conversion included rebuilding the

oil pan and building mounts for the motor, alternator and power steering pump. He also had to reset the gear ratio.

Flicek worked on the truck off and on for one winter and has driven it for a couple years now.

"Its mileage is in the upper 30's. The best has been 41 mpg. It's a small engine so it doesn't have pulling power, but it goes down the freeway good at 70 to 75 mph and accelerates well enough to merge in the city here," says the St. Louis Park, Minn., resident.

He spent about \$9,500 for the conversion, and has been more than satisfied with the results. He likes the fuel savings, of course, and it's had other unexpected benefits.

"Its most value to me has been in conversations," he adds, with folks who comment about the obvious diesel sound it makes. Plus, he gets a kick out of those gas attendants running out to stop him when he pulls his little truck up to the diesel pump.

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3-Row Planter Built "On The Cheap"

When Gerald Stutzman of Hardinsburg, Ind., moved from the city to a 40-acre farm, he didn't have a planter. So, he built one out of a 4-wheel truck dolly, a mailbox, cultivator shanks, a rake, and some metal pipes. He pulls the unusual-looking rig behind his Ford 8N tractor.

"At the time I was learning on-the-go and didn't know what was on the market or what I really needed. All I knew was that I didn't want to plant by hand," says Stutzman.

The planter rides on a 4-wheeled truck dolly with three 1-in. dia. metal pipes attached to it at an angle. The pipes are spaced 8 in. apart. A cultivator shank is clamped to the bottom of each pipe while the upper end extends a short distance into the mailbox. He made seed tube "stoppers" out of a set of three 4-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipes mounted on a crosspipe with a center-mounted handle. All the pipes have fittings on them that fit snugly into the seed tubes.

To plant Stutzman reaches back as he drives, grabs the handle, and moves it up and down to force the seed stoppers in and out of the 1-in. dia. pipes. As the stoppers are raised, the seeds fall around the fittings and into the 1-in. dia. pipes. Seed falls out the pipes and into the trenches made by the cultivator shanks. To stop the flow of seed he shoves the stoppers all the way in.

"It's not really a precise seed delivery

system, but it works as long as I keep moving," says Stutzman. "I used mostly junked-out materials so I spent very little to build it.

"I used it last year to plant 5 acres of corn, 3 acres of oats and 2 acres of sunflowers. The smaller the seed, the faster I have to move the handle up and down as I drive. Oat seeds are small so they come out very fast. With larger seeds such as sunflowers, I don't have to move the handle up and down as much, and I can drive faster.

"I made a place to store bags of seed on the tractor, and when I run out of seed I just pour more in the mailbox. I attached an ordinary garden rake behind the pipes to cover the seed and drag a smooth log behind to cover the seed. A cement block wired down to the dolly adds weight and also helps seed tubes in the ground."

A pair of lightweight chains are used to hook the dolly onto Stutzman's tractor. He attached homemade metal brackets on front of the dolly and uses muffler clamps to attach the dolly to the tractor 3-pt. 's lower lift arms.

"During the winter I set the planter on a floor creeper so I can move it around inside my barn," notes Stutzman.

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Quick-tach spade clamps onto loader bucket or slides over pallet forks. Works great for digging trenches and rooting out tree stumps or buried rocks.

"Cutting Edge" Products Fit Buckets And Pallet Forks

"You might say we're on the 'cutting edge' of what's new for loader tractors and skid loaders," says Ted McSherry, IAM Mfg., about his company's new pallet fork and bucket-mounted accessories.

Quick-Tach Spade

"It clamps onto your loader bucket or slides over pallet forks. Works great for digging trenches, and rooting out tree stumps or buried rocks," says McSherry about their universal quick-tach spade.

The spade measures 12 in. wide by 24 in. long and slides on over pallet forks or clamps

onto a loader bucket. It comes with a pair of side-by-side tubes equipped with bolts that screw in sideways against the forks. The unit is also equipped with a pair of screw-type clamps for attaching to a loader bucket. You slide the tubes under the bucket and then screw the clamps on.

Clamp-On Tooth Bar For Buckets

Their universal, quick-tach tooth bar is designed for 4, 5, and 6-ft. buckets and comes with spaceable, replaceable bucket teeth that bolt into a mounting bar. It measures 5 ft. 10 in. long, 12 in. deep and 5 in. high and weighs 107 lbs. No modification to the bucket is required. The unit fastens to both sides of bucket with a chain and turnbuckle-type system that wedges between the top and bottom of the bucket.

"It's easy to put on, no drilling is required, and the teeth are easy to replace," says McSherry. "Works great for digging through hard soil or digging up hard packed manure. By mounting all the teeth on one side you can even use it to dig a trench."

A 4-ft. tooth bar sells for \$249 plus S&H; a 5-ft. bar for \$299 plus S&H; and a 6-ft. bar for \$329 plus S&H.



Clamp-on tooth bar comes with spaceable, replaceable bucket teeth that bolt into a mounting bar.

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Planter has three 1-in. dia. metal pipes attached to 4-wheeled truck dolly at an angle. Upper end of pipes extends a short distance into mailbox.



Seed tube "stoppers" consist of three 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipes with fittings on them. To plant, Stutzman moves handle up and down to force stoppers in and out of pipes.