

# Original Grease Buster™ Loosens Up Frozen Fittings

“The Grease Buster™ tool might be the handiest tool to come along since the adjustable wrench. We now have 16 years of satisfied customers,” says inventor-manufacturer, Paul Michener.

An aircraft mechanic won a \$2,500 bonus for reducing the cost of maintenance on landing gear on air freighters using the Grease Buster™ tool. It forces solvent into a fitting and/or bearing.

A new pneumatic piston fits only the shop-size Grease Buster. It's powered by a pneumatic hammer. The shop-size Grease Buster, using the pneumatic piston, is much more effective and faster at cleaning out fittings as the pneumatic hammer will produce 30 to 40 hits in the same time one can tap the shop size piston 3 or 4 times with a hammer.

Ordinarily the fitting will either free up instantly, or the process may be repeated until the solvent has had time to work says Michener, now retired from the hay business. Michener developed the Grease Buster to solve the problem of fittings that would not take grease. Once solvent flows freely into the fitting, grease can then be injected with a grease gun to displace the solvent in the fitting.

The Shop size Grease Buster was introduced in the fall of 2001. It has a 7/16-in. diameter. Overall it's a stronger tool and it has about twice the capacity of the original tool. The Grease Buster tool is available retail or wholesale, with quantity discounting available for bulk orders.



The Grease Buster tool comes with a one-year limited warranty. Using the tool without solvent or disassembly voids the warranty.

Contact: Grease Buster, T-J Tools Ltd., P.O. Box 120, Waynesville, OH 45068 (Cell 513 312-5779).

**Reader Inquiry No. 89**

## Double-Duty Combine Fitted With Mower Head

James and Jordan Balmer's family combine does double duty as a mower tractor. When their custom haying business needed a mower upgrade, they put their combine to work rather than buy a bigger tractor. Switching from mowing hay to harvesting crops takes about 8 hours, but it's time well spent, says James Balmer.

“It works better than a tractor because the wheelbase is just right, plus you can see what you're doing better than with a tractor,” he says. “We've had other custom harvesters check it out. Some of our customers were impressed, and others wondered what we were doing.”

The new disc mower was a front-mount, 30-ft. Pottinger that they chose for size and speed. All they needed was a pto drive and 3-pt. hitch instead of the usual header mounting arms.

“We took a gearbox off a pull-type Deere chopper and mounted it on the right hand side of the combine,” explains James. “We ran a belt from the pulley that ran the rotor on the header to a pulley on the gearbox and a shaft from the gearbox to the mower.”

In order to mount the mower, the Balmers had to remove the front portion of the feederhouse or throat section that moves up and down with the header. A top link arm was mounted to this lift point. Two lower link arms were mounted to the combine axle.

Once the mower was in place, the



**When their custom haying business needed a mower upgrade, James Balmer put his Gleaner combine to work, mounting a 30-ft. Pottinger disc mower on front.**

combine required a little fine-tuning, says James. “We tuned the motor up for a few more horsepower. We also put a smaller pulley on the gearbox to reduce the pto speed to the mower.”

With few purchased parts other than the mower, the Balmers' modification paid off well. They estimate saving \$120,000 on the new tractor that they otherwise would have

purchased. The dual-purpose combine hasn't slowed them down either.

“The speed is pretty good,” says James. “We've mowed at 13 to 15 mph a couple of times.”

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