

Templates Turn Plasma Cutter Into Precision Tool

You can make precise square, round or rectangular plasma cuts with these new templates from Julian Enterprises. They can be clamped or spot-welded in place, exactly where you want the hole.

"Plasma cutters are great, but guiding them is difficult because of the air flow around the tip," explains Dave Julian, Julian Enterprises. "With these templates, you get better control of the tip. Simply put the tip at an angle pointed to the center of the template and blow through. Then cut to the edge of the template and follow it around. The templates make it easy."

The Plasma Pro template sets can be ordered in 1/8-in., 3/16-in. or 1/4-in. thick steel. Sets include 1 to 2-in. holes in 1/4-in. increments, 2 and 3-in. holes, and 1/4 to 1-in. slot cut templates in 1/4-in. increments. Also included are 1, 2 and 3-in. square hole templates. Julian plans to add 2 by 3, 2 by 4 and 2 by 6-in. rectangular templates, as well as larger circle cuts.

"You can use the 1 1/2-in. hole template and drop in a 1 1/2-in. bushing with 1/32-in. tolerance," says Julian. "Combine a circle template and a slot, and you can quickly and easily make a chain slot. I include a simple plan for a template holder as a first effort to familiarize yourself with using the templates."

He suggests spraying the templates with splatter guard, though slag is easily knocked off the templates. "When cutting small holes, it's a good idea to make the first hole and then use a wire brush to take slag out before finishing blowing out the hole," says Julian. "Otherwise, the tip can catch on the slag."



Plasma Pro templates can be clamped or spot-welded in place, ensuring the hole you cut is exactly where you want it.



The 3 template sets range in price from \$200 plus shipping for the 18-lb., 1/8-in. templates to \$300 plus shipping for the 46-lb., 1/4-in. templates.

"I plan to add angle iron templates for pierced beam work," says Julian. "We can do custom templates as well, such as a company or farm logo for use with routers or cutters."

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Wheel-Supported "Floating" Snow Blade

Jake Clark of West Richland, Wash., didn't want to spend the money for a new bucket-mounted blade so he built his own for less than \$300.

"It attaches to the bucket like a giant C-clamp. I looked at a lot of other designs before I built it," says Clark. "I use it on my Kubota B20 20 hp tractor."

"It mounts on 8-in. caster wheels so that it can float. That's important because the road I plow is part gravel and part asphalt and I don't want to tear anything up by letting the blade ride too low."

The blade measures 6 ft. wide and 16 in. high and was cut out of a 24-in. dia., 3/8-in. thick steel pipe. There's a 4-in. bolt-on cutting edge on front and a 4-in. "rollover" plate on top.

The blade's mounting frame is built in 2 parts and attaches to the bucket floor with a pair of 16-in. long all-thread clamps. Both parts hinge at the back on a metal pin. The bottom part slips over the lip of the bucket, and as the bucket is raised it lifts the top part. The angle of the blade is adjusted by changing the position of a pin that goes through a flat bar welded to the back of the bucket. A big double-nutted bolt forms the swivel point for the bar.

The caster wheels ride on a pair of vertical supports. Stacked washers on the supports are used to adjust the blade's height off the ground.

"The bucket is 54 in. wide but the blade is 6 ft. wide, so even when the blade is at an angle it's still wider than the tractor's tire tracks," notes Clark.

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"It attaches to the loader bucket like a giant C-clamp and mounts on 8-in. caster wheels so it can float," says Jake Clark about his home-built, bucket-mounted blade.



"It eliminates the need to make an extra trip to a seed processor to get your seed treated," says Robert Aanestad about his new Sowmatic automatic seed treater.

"Sowmatic" Automatically Treats Seed In Drill Box

"It lets you treat your seed right in the drill box as you plant, saving time and minimizing left-over treated seed," says Robert Aanestad, Agri-Future Co., Isle, Minn., about his new Sowmatic automatic seed treater.

The automatic seed treater consists of a 10-gal. poly tank mounted in a metal stand that bolts on the drill. A small DC motor with a 7-prong plug connects to the tractor. Plastic tubes from the tank deliver the seed treatment to nozzle shields bolted on just above the seed cup openers. A switch in the tractor cab is used to turn the seed treatment system on or off.

"It eliminates the need to make an extra trip to a seed processor to get your seed treated," says Aanestad. "A big advantage is that the seed treatment stops flowing as soon as you turn off the switch, which results in virtually no left-over treated seed."

The system can be used on everything from a 5-ft. drill to a 50-ft. drill. "A single Sowmatic can be installed on one, two, or three drills that are hitched together," says Aanestad. "Installation requires drilling a hole into the drill box and bolting the nozzle shields onto the tray using the original OEM bolts. A single person can install the system in about 1 1/2 hours depending on the number of openings in the drill boxes."

He says the system is cost efficient. "Installing the Sowmatic on an 8-ft. drill with



Photo shows a Sowmatic with nozzle shields installed on a 5-ft. tray with 7 1/2-in. openings.



Nozzle shield installed over a seed cup.

7 1/2-in. openings will cost about \$855.25. That's only \$85.53 per year for a 10-year life."

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Pelleted Chicken Litter Catching On Fast

Pelleted chicken litter fertilizes better than spreading litter raw. The easy-to-handle organic fertilizer from Herbruck's Poultry Ranch in Michigan is now being marketed from Massachusetts to Montana and south to North Carolina and Missouri.

"We used to make compost and sell locally, then we started in-house drying of manure," explains Brian Geerlings, Herbruck's Poultry Ranch. "We started pelleting about 5 or 6 years ago after several years of experimenting. It's an easier form to handle and works in lime spreaders of all sizes and kinds."

The dehydrated, pelletized, poultry manure is plant friendly as well. It contains 80 lbs. of nitrogen (N) per ton. More N is available to growing plants the first growing season than with synthetic N sources. Herbruck's estimates that 2/3 of the N mineralizes in the first year. It's also microbe friendly, which leads to healthier soils and plants.

"Customers like the improved crop performance compared to conventional fertilizers," says Geerlings.

The pellets also deliver phosphate and potash, as well as micronutrients like sulfur, magnesium, calcium and more. It's available



Herbruck's Poultry Ranch says its dehydrated, pelletized poultry manure is plant friendly and easy to handle.

in various sizes, from 50-lb. bags (\$260/40-bag pallet) to 1-ton super sacks (\$169), and bulk semi-loads (\$99/ton, plus freight).

Crumbled pellets sized similar to fertilizer granules are also available for use with conventional fertilizer spreaders, planter boxes and lawn spreaders.

"We sell a fair amount of pellets and crumbles to organic farmers," says Geerlings. "It's in high demand from grain producers and other growers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herbruck's Poultry Ranch, Inc., 6425 West Grand River Ave., Saranac, Mich. 48881 (ph 616 642-9421; www.herbrucks.com).