

“Ballast Hitch” Great For Compact Tractors

Greg Parnow wanted a way to easily add rear ballast to his compact tractor without losing use of his hitch. His Heavy Hitch does both and more.

“I have a long, steep driveway that needs to be cleared of snow in the winter, and I needed ballast to counter the front-end loader,” explains Parnow. “I also wanted to be able to use my receiver hitch-mounted salt spreader.”

With the help of his father-in-law, Parnow came up with a few designs. After a handful of prototypes, he settled on one that does everything he wanted. After using it for a while, he made a second and offered it on eBay.

“It sold quickly, and I made a few more, and they sold as well,” explains Parnow. “I added a website, and sales took off. I quit my job and started selling them full-time. Sales have really taken off.”

The versatility and ease of use makes it easy to see why the Heavy Hitch is in demand. With its 3-pt. quick-attach hitch pins, Parnow can pick it up fully loaded. Offsetting is just as easy.

“I can hang up to 600 lbs. of weight on my hitch using standard suitcase weights,” says Parnow. “Yet, when I set it down on its storage cart, my 7-year old daughter can push it across a concrete floor.”

The weight frame includes a standard 2-in. receiver hitch. An optional second receiver hitch can be installed top/center on the frame for use moving gooseneck trailers.

“I just back under a trailer and raise the

Heavy Hitch on my 3-pt. to engage it,” says Parnow. “If I’m just moving it around the yard, I leave the jack stand in place and set it down where I want to leave it.”

Other options include a sleeve hitch adapter. It lets Parnow use his hitch with older style, sleeve hitch tillage equipment like a Brimley Plow. It includes two, 5/8-in. Allen screws. They secure the implement side to side. A connecting pin locks the implement in place.

Parnow’s Heavy Hitch fits any ASAE standardized quick attach, including John Deere’s iMatch and other brands. It comes in black, John Deere Green and Kubota orange. Models are available for Cat. 0 and Cat. 1 hitches. An upgrade model is available for use with 70-lb. suitcase weights.

The Cat. 0 Heavy Hitch starts at \$189. The Cat. 1 model starts at \$219. The stand with wheels sells for \$149.

Parnow also offers a toolbar (\$79) that fits the standard receiver hitch. Off-the-shelf coulters, chisel plow shanks or other tools can be attached as desired to create a customized tillage tool. Parnow does offer a variety of clamps as well as disc hillers, sweeps, ripper shanks and other tillage tools.

“When used with weights on the Heavy Hitch, you have instant down pressure on tillage tools, even if you don’t have down pressure capability on the tractor’s 3-pt.,” notes Parnow.

Other options include a chain hook receiver hitch (\$20) on the Heavy Hitch, pallet forks



Parnow’s 3-pt. mounted “Heavy Hitch” accepts up to 600 lbs. of suitcase weights and comes with a wheeled storage cart. Weight frame includes a standard 2-in. receiver hitch. An optional second receiver hitch can be installed top-center on the frame for moving gooseneck trailers.



Wheeled storage cart, (left) makes storing the weighted frame easy.

(\$249) that fit on the lower bar of the Heavy Hitch frame and a pickup bar (\$39) for picking up and hauling trash cans.

“We call the trash can pickup our Hitch’N Can,” says Parnow. “It makes it easy to take the garbage can out a long driveway.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heavy Hitch, S3516 Falcon Dr., Fountain City, Wis. 54629 (ph 507 450-8151; toll free 888 337-8999; info@heavyhitch.com; www.heavyhitch.com).

LED’s Light Up The Night For Farming

LED lights developed for off-road drivers to race at night, work just as well for farmers in fields after sunset, says Baja Designs.

When a Nebraska farmer tested Baja Designs’ lights on his tractor, the neighbors noticed - one saw the lights 1 1/2 miles away. Most of them were placing orders soon after, says Trent Kirby, marketing manager.

The 21-year-old company has made a name for itself in off-road racing with its nearly indestructible lighting systems.

“We know our lights can be used in the agriculture market and provide cost savings,” Kirby says. “They allow farmers to farm at night longer with less eye strain and half the power draw.”

Baja Designs is one of the few companies that have LED lights with a color temperature of 5,000 Kelvin, which is a pure white light resulting in less eyestrain. They have a lifetime warranty (49,000 hrs.) and are protected in housing made of aircraft grade aluminum. All lights are made in the U.S.

“They have O-ring seals, and that’s been a huge factor for farming owners. They are IP69K-certified, meaning they are waterproof and can be pressure washed at up to 1,450

psi,” Kirby says.

Another advantage of Baja lights is their ability to change beam patterns (spot, high speed spot, driving/combo, wide-cornering, wide-driving and flood) for different applications. Instead of purchasing another light, it’s just a matter of changing the reflectors (\$4 to \$5). Likewise, lenses can be changed if they get cracked, pitted or cloudy (\$10 to \$15).

All products work well, but two specific models in Baja’s product line adapt well on tractors and farm equipment. The OnX is an LED light bar that ranges from 8 to 59 in. wide (\$395 to \$2,395).

The Squadron is an auxiliary light (\$299.95) that works best as a pair mounted on each corner.

“The bracket has easy and versatile adjustments to aim the light wherever you need it,” Kirby says.

The stainless steel brackets for both systems bolt to the tractor/equipment, and Kirby notes the company is working on creating a magnetic base. The lights plug into a tractor’s auxiliary plug, via a separate harness or into a cigarette lighter for farmers



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who want to use the lights on multiple tractors.

“The lights are not DOT-approved, but in the majority of states, you can have up to two auxiliary lights if they are tied into the high beams,” Kirby says.

He adds that he has two Stealth LED light bars on his Silverado set up for highway driving.

Besides visibility, farmers appreciate fuel savings because the lights have less draw. An LED light bar draws 42 watts, compared to a

halogen light that uses 125 watts.

Other companies sell LED lights, Kirby says, but Baja Designs products are highly engineered with reflectors designed in-house using the LED’s to their full capacity.

The lights are available through the company’s website, and Baja Designs is actively pursuing agriculture dealers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Baja Designs, 185 Bosstick Blvd., San Marcos, Calif. 92069 (ph 760 560-2252; www.bajadesigns.com).

“Mixing Mate” Paint Lid

You can mix and then pour paint accurately, with no spills, with the new Mixing Mate paint lid that attaches to any 1-gal. paint can. It also provides an easy way to rescue old paint.

The unit comes with a crank on top attached to an auger-style paddle, which lifts paint from all parts of the can and thoroughly mixes it. It locks onto the can with a pair of cam locks.

You rotate the crank a few times to mix the paint, then press a thumb-operated lever and grab the pistol-grip handle to pour. A slide opens on the paint spout, and uncovers a bleed hole to let air in so the paint pours out smoothly. Release the lever and the cover slides across the top of the spout to seal it.

A built-in ring on the unit forms a tight seal on the can to keep paint from getting on the rim. As a result, the can’s lid seals back tight onto the can. There’s no mess and no wasted paint.

When you’re done painting, you simply undo the cam locks and lift the unit out of the can. The auger and handle come apart, which makes them easy to clean.

The 1-gal. model sells for \$19.99 plus S&H; a model for 1-qt. paint cans is also available and sells for \$14.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 4365 Willow Dr., Medina, Minn. 55340 (ph 800 279-4441; www.rockler.com).



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