



Twister Trencher consists of a pto-driven hardened shaft fitted with a series of cutting blades that penetrate dry, hard-packed soil.

“Twister Trencher” Makes Narrow Drainage Ditches

“No other trencher can do what our pto-driven Twister Trencher can do. It lets you make narrow trenches in dry, hard-packed soil to drain water and save your crops. It leaves a trench 8 to 10 in. deep and only 7 in. wide, so machinery can be driven across it without damaging anything,” says Steve Raguse.

The 3-pt. mounted Twister Trencher consists of a pto shaft hooked to a straight hardened shaft fitted with a series of cutting blades. The blades twist through the soil and throw it outward, spreading the soil evenly in a 10-ft. pattern behind the trencher.

“It works better than 3-pt. mounted, disk-type trenchers which can’t penetrate dry, hard-packed soils. It also works better than flywheel-type trenchers that leave much wider trenches that can damage equipment,” says Raguse. “It spreads the dirt thinly and evenly, allowing you to trench right after planting, or later in standing crops, with little or no crop damage. Various blade sizes are available to make the trench anywhere from 4 to 8 in. wide.

“You can use it all year long – in the spring to help with spring runoff; after planting to get your crop ready for growing-season rains; in standing crops; or after fall tillage. The auger is hooked directly to the pto shaft so there are no high maintenance gearboxes to worry about.”

A conversion kit is available that lets



Unit leaves a trench 8 to 10 in. deep and only 7 in. wide, so machinery can be driven across it without damage.

you quick-tach the unit on front of a skid loader. An orbit motor that operates off the skid loader’s hydraulics is used to drive the trencher’s pto shaft.

The Twister Trencher operates on either 540 or 1,000 rpm pto’s. It sells for \$2,995 plus S&H. The conversion kit for skid loaders sells for \$2,495 plus S&H. A pull-type model is also available and sells for \$3,495 plus S&H.

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Hydraulic-Operated Top Link

Michael Myers found that the manually-controlled, screw-type top link on his tractor’s 3-pt. hitch was difficult to adjust, especially when the 3-pt. was carrying a lot of weight. He didn’t want to spend the money for a commercial hydraulic-operated top link, so he made his own using a standard cylinder.

Myers bought the 2 by 8-in. cylinder at Tractor Supply Co. for \$92. He cut a pair of brackets out of heavy plate steel that pin to each end of the cylinder. The brackets in turn pin onto the tractor and 3-pt. hitch.

“I use it with a quick-tach hitch on my Kubota tractor, which has about 70 hp,” says Myers. “One end of the cylinder is threaded which allows me to adjust the yoke up or down. I welded a ball hitch on top of the quick hitch so I can use the tractor to pull my gooseneck trailer. I bought 3/8-in. dia. hydraulic hoses and fittings. My total cost was about \$100.”

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Michael Myers made this inexpensive hydraulic-operated top link using a standard cylinder.



Allen Bjergo gets rid of Styrofoam by letting his chickens peck it apart. “It keeps chickens from pecking each other, and it also lets us dispose of a nuisance product,” he says.

Chickens “Disappear” Chunks Of Styrofoam

“We dispose of Styrofoam by letting our chickens peck chunks of it apart. They love going at it and afterward there is no sign of it in the manure or eggs. It just totally disappears,” says Allen Bjergo, Corvallis, Mont.

“The benefit of the idea is that it keeps them from pecking each other the same way pigs will stop tail-biting if you put a bowling ball in their pens. And it also lets us dispose of a nuisance product.

“All we see on the ground afterwards is an occasional speck. It must go through the gizzard and get chewed up. Even tiny beads

don’t show up in the manure. They just get worked into the ground.

“In the past 30 years, we have unpacked enough Styrofoam from appliances and other stuff to fill a garage. When we throw a piece out, the chickens come running and attack it like a flock of eagles on a dead fish. Interestingly enough, they totally ignore the soft foam ‘clamshells’ you get takeout food in from restaurants.”

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Strap-A-Pult pole throws trailer straps over big loads.



Strap-A-Pult Throws Trailer Straps Over Big Loads

With more than 30 years experience around semis and flatbed trailers, David McCullough has thrown his share of straps over big loads. And his shoulder knows it. So, recently the Wiggins, Colo., trucker created the Strap-A-Pult, that lets a pole do the work.

He explains he designed two versions. One attaches to the strap bracket and the other attaches to a bracket on the rub rail. The spring-button pole adjusts from 7 to 16 ft. and can be stored in the truck or on the trailer and takes just seconds to attach to the bracket with a pin.

“The bracket is aluminum and the pole is nonelectric fiberglass. It’s yellow to indicate safety,” McCullough explains.

The rolled strap fits inside a basket at the

end. “Just pick the pole up and give it a shove over,” McCullough says. “I’ve used it on hay, pipe, lumber, containers and oversized loads.”

He also added a handy strap winder to the pole.

Other truckers have liked the Strap-A-Pult and McCullough has begun the process of manufacturing them. He estimates the cost will be around \$375 and is taking orders.

He welcomes inquiries from dealers and manufacturers.

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