

Portable workbench mounted on back of Schoenenberger's 2-ton service truck lifts up to 9 ft. in the air.

## **Truck-Mounted Workbench Raises Up To 9 Ft. High**

Instead of reaching up from a pickup bed or balancing on a ladder to work on big equipment, Albert Schoenenberger has a portable workbench on back of a service truck that lifts up to 9 ft. in the air. The inspiration for its design came to the Texas farmer at 3 in the morning as he was standing in his pickup bed, struggling to repair a bearing on the top roller of a baler.

His 2-ton service truck has a forklift mast on back that lifts a 3 by 8-ft. shop table made of 12-ga. steel. Its drawers are well equipped with socket wrenches, hand tools and air tools to fix machinery or an irrigation system. An air compressor in the truck supplies air to the shop bench.

The 14-ga. steel service bed mounts on a 6-in. channel frame, and the forklift mast attaches to the rear of that frame.

"A toggle switch on the workbench activates an electric over hydraulic pump, powered by three 12-volt batteries in the bed, which lifts the bench from ground level up to 9 ft. high," Schoenenberger says. "The tailgate made with 1/8-in. deck plate folds down and gives you a place to stand at the workbench.

"I mounted the unit on a 2-ton truck for many uses, mainly for working on equipment," Schoenenberger says, adding it works for other jobs as well. "My son, Brent, and I used the bed when we erected a 30 by 40-ft. shop. It was easier than standing on a ladder when fastening sheets of tin."

While he can take credit for the idea, he credits students Russell Eicke, Joel Rocha and Chad Sutton and teacher, Sean Hight-ower, from Adrian High School for building



Forklift mast is used to lift a workbench. Fold-down platform provides a place to stand.



it. They placed first and won \$4,000 worth of tools when they entered it in the Ag Mechanics Show in San Antonio.

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