

Maury Kaiser's Easy-Spring makes replacing broken closing springs easier on Deere and Kinze planters.



New Way To Upgrade Press Wheel Springs

Maury Kaiser found a better way to deal with worn castings on his Deere 7000 planter. His Easy-Spring is easier and less costly than replacing the casting, and it makes replacing broken closing springs in the future easier too. He has it patented and is currently selling it in sets of four.

"My castings were worn really bad, and I got lazy, not wanting to change out the casting," recalls Kaiser. "I figured a bracket that bolted into the worn hole in the casting would be easier than replacing it."

The Easy-Spring prevents additional wear and tear on the already worn casting. If the bracket wears out, it can be replaced in about 5 min. The closing wheel spring attaches to the Easy-Spring bracket instead of the casting.

"The spring on the closing wheel, when attached to the OEM casting, has four positions for adjusting pressure on the closing wheel," says Kaiser. "Using the Easy-Spring

bracket reduces adjustment options to three, but all four are seldom used."

Easy-Spring also eliminates the need to pull the planter into the shop when a closing wheel spring breaks. "With Easy-Spring in place, I can replace springs in the field in 20 min.," says Kaiser.

Although the bracket can be quickly replaced when it shows wear, it also offers another option. "Unlike the OEM casting, the Easy-Spring bracket can be welded shut and a new hole drilled through it," adds Kaiser.

Kaiser sells Easy-Spring brackets (with bolts) in 4-packs from his website or by phone. They are priced at \$95.00 and fit Deere 7000, 7200, 1760 and 1770 planters. They also fit Kinze 2300, 3000, 3005 and 3600 planters. He says installation takes only 20 min. per row.

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Leonard Seltzer converted an Allis-Chalmers subsoiler to 3-pt. mount.



Allis-Chalmers Ripper Mounted On 3-Pt.

Leonard Seltzer updated his old Allis-Chalmers snap coupler subsoiler with 3-pt. mounts. He also added an eye bolt to make the attachment easy to move.

"I wanted to tear up some headlands that had gotten compacted, but I wanted to mount the ripper on the 3-pt. on my International Hydro 84," says Seltzer. "I cut off the snap coupler mount and after measuring some 3-pt. mounts I fabricated one for the subsoiler."

The subsoiler frame consisted of a pair of steel bars that sandwiched the beam of the curved ripper tooth and came forward to the snap coupler. Seltzer ran a piece of rectangular tubing across the forward end of them. He welded short steel plates to the ends of the crossbar and drilled holes in the plates for the lift arm pins.

The top link connector was made with two 3/8 by 4-in. pieces of scrap iron. Two 3/8 by 3-in. steel supports were mounted vertically between the top link connector and the lower link crossbar.

"The top link is lighter as it doesn't have

that much stress," says Seltzer. "I reinforced the crossbar, which gets terrible stress, by running pairs of 3/4-in. rebar from either end of the crossbar back to the joining of the frame and the ripper tooth beam. Since the ripper pulls from the center, these equalize the pressure to each 3-pt. arm."

Adding the 3-pt. made the subsoiler top-heavy and awkward to move around. Seltzer added a forged 5/8-in. eyebolt to the balance point of the frame to make it easier to move.

"I used it on the headlands and also to rip through a pothole about an acre in size," says Seltzer. "It gets about a foot and a half deep and opened up the ground to let the water through."

Seltzer is unsure just how old the subsoiler is. A local machinery dealer who once carried Allis-Chalmers suggested it dates back to the 1950's.

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"Brushband" uses a curved blade connected to a 3-pt. hitch that removes brush with minimal soil disturbance.

New Tool Removes Brush With Minimal Ground Disturbance

During his teen years in the 1960's, George Garton's job was to hand dig brush from pastures with a mattock. Grubbing the brush and roots was the most effective method for long-term elimination.

Fifty years later, in 2013, Garton had a tissue biopsy performed. The dermatologist used a sharp, curved metal blade that easily and quickly scooped out the tissue and it also healed faster than with a scalpel.

A few days later, Garton had an "ah-ha moment" and thought that such a curved blade could work on a tractor's 3-pt. hitch and skid steer as an implement to remove brush.

He decided to design an implement that, in addition to easily removing brush, would have minimal soil disturbance, be affordable, have few moving parts, require minimal operator skill and reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals.

The goal in designing the implement was to simply be able to drive over the brush, drop the implement, scoop out the brush with its roots, and then move on to the next one.

After performing several tests in different soil types with the Brushband, as he calls it,

Garton was encouraged by the results. The soil passed through the band and scooped out the brush while leaving the soil intact, leaving no holes in the ground. He also recognized that a few modifications would increase its effectiveness, especially when removing larger coppiced stools and roots.

Garton has filed a patent. He made the implement's 3-pt. hitch from a discarded subsoiler, and the band was water-jet cut out of 1/2-in. steel at a machine shop and rolled to the desired shape.

When he builds the next one, Garton will make the band wider, have a sharper cutting edge, and add tractor weights to assist in cutting the roots of much larger brush.

After a year's use, Garton's pasture looks better, is healthier and grows more grass which means a larger stocking rate per acre. He believes the Brushband would have a short payback time and it could have other uses around the farm as well.

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Heron figures the bucket can easily handle up to 200 lbs. He made it by cutting an old 3-ft. truck toolbox on the diagonal and adding a pipe to attach the winch cable.

Bucket Built From Truck Toolbox & Winch

With a winch, an old toolbox and a little ingenuity, Mike Heron built a small bucket for his Suzuki 4-WD quad for garden and yard work.

The inexpensive 2,000-lb. winch hooks up to the quad's battery and the cable runs next to square tubing secured by brackets on the quad. An inner square tube is fixed, while the outer tube slides up and down when operated by the winch.

"As it lifts to a certain height, a plunger on the lifted square tubing engages a slot on the stationary inner tubing so when the winch is reversed, the bucket tips. When the bucket is lifted, the plunger disengages the slot by a switch-operated solenoid and the bucket can be lowered," Heron explains.

He stood in the bucket to test it and figures the bucket can easily handle up to 200 lbs. He made it by cutting an old 3-ft. truck toolbox on the diagonal and adding a pipe to attach the winch cable. The bucket attaches to a bracket on the bottom of the quad with four bolts.

Heron also made a blade from a curved piece of steel from his scrap pile, that also uses the winch.

Both pieces of equipment come in handy to scrape or move dirt or debris in his garden, Heron says.

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