

No Mounting Headaches With Stand-Alone Doors



Tri-Leg Stand-Alone doorframe eliminates the need for builders to incorporate a truss or header to support the bifold or hydraulic doors on the structure.

An innovative door design from Schweiss Doors eliminates side column supports and headers, cuts building costs and makes installation a breeze. The Superstructure Triple-Leg Stand-Alone Door comes pre-assembled, pre-welded and pre-hung in its own pre-squared subframe. Simply frame in the opening and slide in the door system. Available in both bifold and hydraulic doors, the new design is a Schweiss exclusive.

“The sides and ends of the door are

supported in all positions,” says Mike Schweiss, Schweiss Doors. “The subframe header provides structural strength that carries the weight of the large moving doorframe. Door loads are transferred to the concrete footer during operation, not to the building.”

The new design works equally well with bifold doors. Heavy-duty hinges that connect the doorframe to the subframe header support the doorframe in all positions, whether being

lifted by straps or hydraulic cylinders.

Schweiss explains that the Tri-Leg Stand-Alone self-supported doorframe eliminates the need for builders to incorporate a truss or header to support the bifold or hydraulic doors on the structure. That eliminates costly structural steel from the cost of a building. It also reduces installation labor and time. Equally important, the doorframe supports the structure instead of the structure supporting the doorframe.

“Installation is easy,” says Schweiss. “Just lift the framework and door into place all in

one step.”

The stand-alone design can be added to new or existing buildings without costly retrofitting. Base price is \$8,500, but Schweiss notes that each door is custom built to customer needs and price varies by size.

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Stand-Alone Door comes pre-assembled in its own pre-squared subframe. Just frame in the opening and slide the door in.

Grass Drills Adapted For Skid Steers

“The drill I bought to seed prairie grass nearly 50 years ago was a hunk of junk, with spiral telescoping seed tubes that I had to unplug every few feet with a clothes hanger,” says Jim Truax. “I put that bad experience behind me and designed a drill that did what I needed, and I’ve been building Truax seeding equipment ever since.”

Most Truax drills now have a tongue or 3-pt. hitch mount, but special customer requests have him building equipment that works on skid steers.

“I built the first skid steer model for a contractor in Salt Lake City who was seeding the banks of an extremely rough and irregular canal built to drain overflow from the Great Salt Lake,” Truax says. “That model had caster wheels to keep the drill running level, because his skid steer didn’t have self-leveling lift arms. Later we built drills for customers with a self-leveling loader, learning there are critical locations for lifting points on the drill and how it relates to the skid steer,” he adds.

Truax skid steer-mounted drills are now used by pipeline contractors, solar and windmill installers, road contractors, maintenance companies, vineyards, orchards and pollinator habitat developers. Most skid steer customers use the Truax end wheel models from the Flex Drill Series, which has a special frame to handle twisting exerted by the weight of the drill hanging in front of the skid steer. Models that seed 4 ft., 5.3 ft. or 8 ft. are the most popular, although Truax says a Texas customer mounted a 10.5-ft. wide drill on a large Deere tractor with a skid plate.

Truax says “another advantage of the Flex Series skid steer configuration is versatility. A drill can be converted to a tongue style, or to a 3-pt. version, by installing pins in the tongue bolt holes.” Truax Flex Drills are available as 2 or 3-box grass drills or 2-box grain drills, setups that let a single implement plant turf grasses, wildflowers, forbs, native grasses, legumes or cover crops.

The Truax Utility Series, which doesn’t have end wheels, also works on skid steers.



Truax skid steer-mounted Flex Drill also can be turned into a pull-type or 3-pt. mounted drill.

“The implement width is 3 ft. less than a wheeled model, which is great for working in tight and restricted areas such as solar installations or vineyards,” Truax says. “This model can’t be converted to a tongue-style drill.”

Truax sells and services his equipment direct to customers. “We’ve been successful

with this approach from the beginning and have satisfied customers in 49 states and many foreign countries,” he adds.

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Hay Testing Device Still Going Strong

Augie Kooistra says the Lightning B Hay Moisture Monitor that his company sells is more important today than it’s ever been in its 37-year history. Kooistra started selling the units in 2009 to accompany his dry hay inoculant and applicator business and says “nowadays producers have larger fields, bigger equipment, and want to get their crop harvested at optimum moisture as quickly as possible. The Lightning B provides continuous ‘on-the-go’ monitoring and can automatically power up an inoculator, so you’ll get consistent, high quality hay.”

FARM SHOW first wrote about the tester in 1983 (Vol. 12, No. 2) after it was invented by Grover Black, a Cheney, Wash. hay farmer. Kooistra, who bought the company in 2016, contacted us recently about product improvements that have been made to the original model. The device is now available as a manual or automatic model. It has an in-line replaceable fuse, heavier gauge

wire, and a new toggle switch for choosing moisture readings in instant or average mode. Lightning B can detect hay moisture levels from 5 to 37 percent. A 3-year warranty is standard, although Kooistra points out that many original units are still performing extremely well.

“A farmer in North Dakota started using a Lightning B in 1994 and ran 45,000 bales in 22 years without a problem,” Kooistra says. “A Washington farmer installed a unit in 1986 and ran 32 years with the same sensor pads, so I know the product really holds up. I just filled an order for 5 monitors for a large hay farm in Arizona that’s been buying these units for their new balers since 1985.”

Lightning B sensors mount on the inside of bale chambers and measure moisture by determining the electrical current resistance between the two sensors. Moisture readings are shown on a monitor in the tractor cab. “Knowing the exact moisture of the hay

you’re harvesting gives you optimum quality and prevents leaf loss if hay gets too dry,” Kooistra says.

The standard Lightning B sells for \$795. The automatic model, which can switch an inoculant applicator on or off when hay moisture reaches a pre-set level, sells for \$1,295. Kooistra says either unit is way more economical than having an OEM monitor that could be priced from \$500 up to nearly \$10,000.

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Lightning B Hay Moisture Monitor provides continuous “on-the-go” monitoring, with moisture readings shown on a monitor in tractor cab.

