



1:64 scale ZR5 self-propelled baler is the result of a collaboration between Vermeer and SpecCast.

SpecCast Offers First Self-Propelled Baler

It may be only 3 1/2 in. long, but a new model by SpecCast Collectibles should catch the attention of collectors. It's the first manufactured self-propelled baler.

The 1:64 scale ZR5 self-propelled baler is the result of a collaboration between Vermeer and SpecCast, says Steve Von Handorf, VP of sales and marketing.

"It has a detailed cab, authentic decals, steerable front end with swivel front wheels, and an opening rear end with a bale in it that rolls out," he says of the die-cast model. "It's an industry first for Vermeer too."

The baler can be purchased through Vermeer dealerships, the Vermeer Store, and farm stores that sell collectibles.

The self-propelled baler pairs well with the 604R baler, also made by SpecCast. Other specialty models include a fleet of six 1:64 scale 1980's International S1954 forage trucks with dump boxes working with B&B Farm Toys, based in Joplin, Ill.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, SpecCast Collectibles, 428 6th Ave. NW, P.O. Box 368, Dyersville, Iowa 52040 (ph 563-875-8706; <https://speccast.com/>).



White Horse Sulky Plow features a leaf spring reset.

Photo courtesy of Len Miller, Small Farm Journal

Sulky Plow With Leaf Spring Reset

"A sulky plow with a leaf spring reset is the modern horse-drawn plow," says Melvin King, White Horse Machine.

White Horse made the switch from hydraulic reset to leaf spring on their 1-bottom plow about 10 years ago. The concept quickly spread to larger plows as an increasing number of farmers moved from conventional to organic systems.

"Hydraulic resets were fine for conventional farming, but organic farmers needed something that fit their rotation from sod to row crop," recalls King. "We designed a plow to carry the KB style plow, which has a longer and more gradual bottom. At the same time, we went to the leaf spring reset. It delivers less shock to the horse's shoulders, has a better release system, and is more economical with less maintenance."

White Horse made its first prototypes in 2010, introducing the first-ever sulky plow with auto reset. King notes that the friction-free bearings and unique engineering incorporated in the plow improved on older designs. The new mechanical lifting system uses helper springs to lift the plow. When striking a buried rock, the plow lifts up and over before returning to its working position.

"We took a look at old sulky plows from various manufacturers and built select and

updated features into one improved system," he says. "These aren't plows from 100 years ago. It's the same concept with a modern material design and new tripping, lifting and reset systems."

King says the improvements made to the 715 Sulky Plow soon made their way into a 2-bottom trailer plow, the 725, which requires a forecart and the 748, which was a new tongue direct hitch design. They added the 732 with its 2-way plow.

"We call the 748 the Freedom Plow," says King. "It has less draft and is safer for the operator. It offers more freedom for the operator and the horses because it pulls easier."

The 748 has two hand cranks for easily adjusting the depth and tilt of the plow. The foot-activated clutch lift raises and lowers the plow into the ground.

"With its lever steering and torsion suspension seat, it's really stable," says King. "Having the operator and platform on top of the plow makes it a more stable down-draft plow."

Prices start at \$4,586 for the 750 Sulky plow with leaf spring reset.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, White Horse Machine, 5566 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gap, Penn. 17527 (ph 717 768-8313).



Precision Manufacturing makes grapples that fit smaller tractors and skid steers.

Big Mouth Grapple For Compact Tractors

New Big Mouth Grapple Rakes from Precision Manufacturing are designed for compact and smaller utility tractors. More than simply a grapple on a bucket, the rake tines gather as well as haul brush and other material while sifting out dirt.

The Big Mouth 320 and 322 Mini Grapple Rakes have a 48-in. wide mouth and fit 40 hp. and less compacts. The 327 fits 40 to 70 hp. tractors and has a 54-in. mouth.

"The Big Mouth 327 Grapple Rake is available with universal skid steer brackets, as well as Deere brackets. We can fit them to brackets for other brands as well," says Bill Reid, Precision Manufacturing. "It comes fully plumbed with couplers of your choice."

The 320 comes with Deere brackets only. The 322 can be equipped with both Deere and universal skid steer brackets. The 320 is 50 in. wide, while the 322 is 59 in. wide. The 327 is available in either 60-in. or 72-in. widths.

All three grapple rakes feature a similar design for hydraulic components. Cylinders and lines are concealed behind steel plates. This keeps them out of sight and protects them from being snagged on limbs and brush. The double grapple design ensures that uneven loads are held securely in place.

"The 327 is a couple of hundred pounds heavier than the 320 due to its 3/8-in. AR400

material," says Reid. "It's built heavier to handle the increased lifting power of the utility tractors. The 320 and 322 are fabricated from 1/4-in. AR400 steel."

Rake tines on both models are reinforced with gussets. "The outside rake tines are more likely to be bent, so we reinforce them on both sides with gussets," says Reid. "As far as capacity, both units can handle anything the tractor can lift."

The Big Mouth 320 Grapple Rake weighs 255 lbs. The 322 is 276 lbs. with Deere brackets and 264 lbs. with universal skid steer brackets. Both feature seven rake tines and six grapples, all on 9-in. centers.

The 60-in. width 327 with Deere brackets, nine rake tines and eight grapples weighs about 438 lbs., while the 72-in. width with 11 rake tines and eight grapples weighs 486 lbs. The universal quick-attach versions are about 40 lbs. heavier.

The manufacturer's suggested retail prices for the mini grapple rakes start at \$2,995. The 327 list price starts at \$3,995.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Precision Manufacturing, P.O. Box 24426, Overland Park, Kan. 66283 (ph 913-362-9244; info@precisionmfg.com; precisionmfg.com).

Multi Spindle Drill Triples Output

For Tim Ojala's concrete forms and stakes business, drilling thousands of holes in wooden stakes used for concrete form support requires efficiency, safety and speed. Ojala had been drilling the holes with a press drill one stake at a time. To speed up the process, he installed a multi-spindle drill head that allows him to drill three holes at the same time.

He set up a 3/4-hp. "C" Face electric motor coupled to an electric clutch and a "C" Face compatible gear reduction with a sprocket, chain drive and cam to engage the drill lever that's normally pulled down by hand.

"It's spring activated to come back up," says Ojala. "It works great for us as we're doing thousands of stakes. We put them under the drill, push a button to activate it and it does one cycle and then stops. Then we repeat to go again."

The steel cam measuring 10 in. to a foot in diameter, along with a pair of lobes, one shallow and one higher, allow the bits to drill halfway through, then retract to clean out the hole before going back through. Bungee cords are used to pull the multi-head drill back up when the holes are completed.

"We drilled about a thousand stakes the first day we used it," he says. "It could easily be used to drill steel as well. It would just have to be adjusted to slow it down."

Ojala is considering modifying the unit to work with six bits in the future to shorten drilling times even further.



Drill press modified to drill three holes at the same time.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tim Ojala, Ojala Farms, 185 Thayer Road, New Ipswich, N.H. 03071 (ph 603-878-2024).