

Add-On Stops Rocks At The Header

The Rock Dam from Trueline Manufacturing prevents rocks from reaching the header and damaging the feeder house drums. The Rock Dam and Rock Dam Pro fit 2021 to 2025 Deere, MacDon and Claas headers.

Walter and Albert Hover invented the header attachment after encountering too many rocks being picked up during harvest. The Alberta, Canada, brothers raise canola, barley and peas, and operate a custom metal fabrication business.

“We offer laser cutting and bending for everything from large production runs to small single parts,” says Albert Hover.

Their off-farm skills and equipment enabled the transition from identified need to product introduction to move quickly and smoothly. Work began with drawings and prototypes during the late fall harvest of 2024. With online marketing and a limited number of dealers, they sold their new products across Canada and the U.S., as well as in Australia.

The Rock Dam and Rock Dam Pro sit directly in front of the center canvas, using existing bolts where possible. Self-tapping bolts are provided for other headers. The header attachments take only moments to install.

Both products are laser-cut, weather-resistant, and built to last. The L-shaped Rock Dam provides a ridge that catches stones lifted by the cutter bar and quickly vibrated off the header. However, it also allows dirt to accumulate.

“The Rock Dam Pro is our flagship



Rock Dam Pro has welded fins that catch rocks but let dirt pass through.

product,” says Hover. “Instead of a solid ridge, it has fins welded to it that catch rocks, but let dirt pass through.”

Depending on the model, the Rock Dams measure 69 by 4 by 4 in. or 74 by 5 by 5 in. Prices range from \$400 to \$650.

“The Rock Dam and Rock Dam Pro can be ordered direct from our website or through our dealers,” says Hover. “Long term, we plan to sell only through dealers.”

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Rear forks lift a single bale into the chamber while supporting two additional square bales or one round bale, enabling quick processing and reducing trips to the bale pile.

Bale Processor Handles All Shapes And Sizes

Elmer’s Manufacturing of Altona, Manitoba, recently offered a new hay and straw bale processor to the cattle-feeding industry.

“Our Ravage bale processor is like no other as it handles both large square and round bales more efficiently than any other machine, usually in less than 2 min. per bale,” says Johnny Janzen, Elmer’s product support representative. “I’ve had feedlot owners claim to shred up to four bales in less than 1 min.”

The Ravage comes with an extra-wide 11-ft. stance that still fits through standard corral gates. Rear forks lift a single bale into the chamber while supporting two additional square bales or one round bale, enabling quick processing and reducing trips to the bale pile. Direct-drive gearboxes eliminate the need for belts and shear pins and are protected by an auto-torque-limiting clutch. The chamber is fitted with a live, hydraulically driven, variable-speed, reversible chain-link and slat floor. The feeding drum has forged flails for added strength.

“One of our unique features is a spring-loaded bale discharge door to eject unwanted or overly frozen bales without stopping the processing flow,” Janzen adds.

A directional chute and door slide system can be opened wide to spread straw up to 50 ft. across a large pen or closed proportionally to shred hay into a feed bunk.

The Ravage also offers an optional electric toggle switch for three hydraulic remotes, allowing switching between the loading forks and the directional chute, or for four hydraulic remotes, including the chute, forks, live floor and upper beater. This hydraulic conversion switch is mounted in the tractor’s cab.

The Ravage is manufactured in Altona and is available throughout North America through a dealer network covering Canada and many states, including Colorado, Montana, Washington, Texas, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Prices for the Ravage range are near \$65,000 CAD. Janzen recommends that interested parties check the Elmers Manufacturing website to find their nearest dealer to discuss pricing and availability.

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Harvester equipped with Stripper Saver.

Fire Suppression For Cotton Harvesters

As a custom harvester and third-generation cotton producer, Jon Pigg knows how fire-prone cotton stripper balers can be. When he bought a Deere CS690 cotton stripper round-bale harvester in 2015, he set out to protect it.

“Anytime you harvest cotton, the dust is like dealing with gasoline,” says Pigg. “It’s very dry, like grain dust, and very combustible.”

Combined with high heat and dry air, it’s no wonder fires account for most catastrophic cotton equipment failures. They can lead to higher insurance costs or canceled policies.

His Stripper Saver is designed to provide total coverage. It carries 200 gal. of Class A fire-suppressing foam, enough to cover the accumulator, baler, engine and transmission. In addition, a 50-ft. hose provides manual access to hard-to-reach areas.

Pigg notes that competitive systems often provide action that’s too little, too late, or produce false alarms. Standard heat sensors can miss rapidly rising temperatures, while smoke and gas detectors can trigger too late after combustion. Machinery heat, exhaust or static can all trigger false alarms.

The Stripper Saver uses AgTronics Thermal Vision, a combination of infrared imaging and uncooled bolometer sensors with no

moving parts and minimal maintenance. An AI fire-discrimination algorithm filters out non-hazardous heat. Radiometric imaging maps temperatures pixel by pixel. It uses a USB or Ethernet interface and integrates autonomously with the fire suppression system.

The Thermal Vision system is enclosed in an industrial-grade stainless-steel housing with shielded industrial cabling. It’s dust and vibration-resistant and includes mechanical mounting brackets.

“As a farmer, I’m always looking for a better solution,” says Pigg. “One of the additional features of Stripper Saver is that it can be recharged in the field for a fraction of the cost of other systems.”

Since developing the Stripper Saver for his own use, his company, AgTronics, has marketed it throughout the Cotton Belt, Mexico and Australia. Stripper Saver with Thermal Vision is priced at \$20,500. Thermal Vision, by itself, is priced at \$4,000 for retrofitting earlier versions of Stripper Saver.

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Jossund used his 3D printer to print a dozen teeth for each section.

3D-Printed Pedal-Scale Harrow Teeth

With his first child on the way, Andrew Jossund was already looking ahead to the day he would climb onto a pedal tractor. He began thinking about building implements for it and settled on a harrow. Long before his son was born this past spring, the harrow was finished.

“I had no plans and took no measurements off a real harrow,” says Jossund. “I had my pedal tractor in the shop and tried to find a happy medium between what was accurate to scale, what parts I had available, and what I felt would make a fun toy.”

When finished, Jossund’s harrow was 5 ft. wide, with five 3-bar sections held on with chains like the real thing. He estimates it at about 1/5 scale. The wings fold up into transport position using a crank on the front.

“I got wheels at a local hardware store and fabricated the rest,” says Jossund. “My biggest challenge was the harrow teeth. I wanted something realistic that could make marks in the gravel, but not sharp enough to scratch concrete.”

Jossund’s solution was to use his 3D printer to produce a dozen teeth for each section. He designed them to be held in place with a small machine screw but also snap onto the harrow frame.

“I really enjoyed building this and have more pedal tractor implements in the works,” says Jossund.

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