



Before and after of damaged auger and repair. Repaired auger is still in use 10 years later.

Salvaged Seed Cart Auger Saves Big Bucks

Roger Gutschmidt fixed a neighbor's smashed-up seed cart feeding auger for less than a tenth of the cost of replacing it. The cart hit a washout, breaking the front double-caster wheel axle. At the same time, the fill auger hopper bounced out of its cradle and dropped to the ground. The auger jammed between the cart's duals.

"I had to lift the cart, which was filled with wheat, with a payload," recalls Gutschmidt. "We blocked it up, pulled out the axle, and replaced it with a new one."

At the same time, the fill auger was removed. Gutschmidt's neighbor used the cart all season without it, taking it home for refills.

When the neighbor told Gutschmidt he would either buy a new fill auger or trade in the cart, Gutschmidt said he could fix it.

"I love a challenge," he says.

While he figured the auger could be repaired, the hopper had to be replaced. Gutschmidt upgraded it with a hinged cage and a magnetic latch, allowing it to be lifted

out of the way.

Attacking the auger repair required removing and repairing or replacing (as needed) bent and twisted brackets and mounts. A 6-ft. section of the flighting and tube had to be cut off and replaced with parts from local retailers.

"Luckily, I had another drill and seed cart in my machine shop with the same fill auger," says Gutschmidt. "I was able to take measurements from it to use for welding things back in place."

Gutschmidt estimates having to weld nearly a dozen brackets and mounts in just the right places. His accuracy paid off.

"A new auger would have cost the owner \$10,000 at the time," says Gutschmidt. "My repairs were less than \$1,000, and he's still using it 10 years later."

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"It works amazing pushing gravel off the grass. It would be great for cleaning entry areas in sheds where equipment is driven in," says Gutschmidt.

Blade-Mounted Broom For Skid Steer

Roger Gutschmidt gave an old rotary broom new life by mounting it on a skid steer blade. He fabricated brackets from channel iron, with a base plate curved to match the push blade's curve. The broom can be quickly mounted or dismantled by removing a few bolts.

"I picked the broom up at an estate sale," says Gutschmidt. "The seller had no idea where it came from but had intended to mount it as a cattle rubber. It was just bristles on an 8-ft., 8-in. dia. steel tube. The bristles were worn, but they looked like they still had some life in them."

Gutschmidt fabricated steel plates to match the tube's inside diameter. After center-drilling them for a shaft, he welded them in place about 6 in. from the tube's ends. He then mounted the broom on its shaft in the brackets on the blade.

"I bought a hydraulic motor for \$300 at a

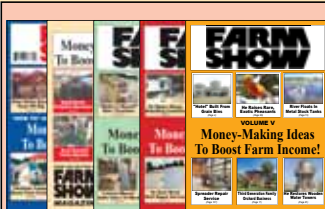
salvage yard," says Gutschmidt. "I looked for one that matched the output on the skid steer. I knew that if too small, the hydraulic pressure could blow the seals on the motor."

Gutschmidt mounted the motor to the shaft and put the broom to work.

"The big push blade is heavy for my skid steer, which is a smaller machine," he says. "However, when it's sweeping on the ground, there's no strain on the skid steer. It works amazing pushing gravel off the grass. It would be great for cleaning entry areas in sheds where equipment is driven in."

The curvature of the blade protects the operator from flying material. The rubber belting that came with the blade provides even more protection.

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