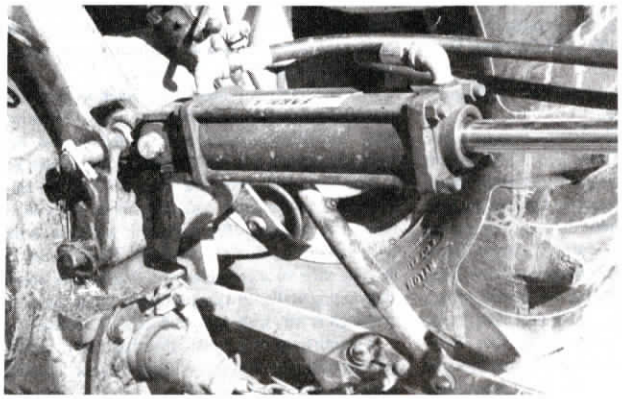


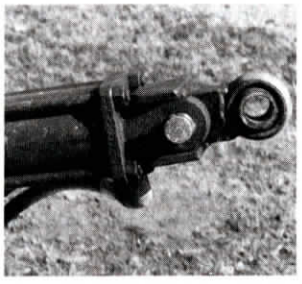
Hydraulic Cylinder Replaces Top Link On 3-Pt. Hitch

An 8-in. hydraulic cylinder that replaces the top link on his 3-pt. hitch lets William Griessler, Delanson, N.Y., automatically change the pitch of the hitch right from the tractor seat.

Griessler removed the conventional screw-type top link and replaced it with a modified cylinder, attaching one end to the 3-pt. and the other to the tractor using special fittings he designed.

"It's one of the handiest ideas I've ever come up with," says Griessler, who's made the conversion on his Ford 4000 and 4100 tractors. "It eliminates the need to get on and off the tractor to change the pitch of the top link. Works great to change the angle of my 3-pt. bale fork, especially when a bale is on a slope. It also works great for dropping bales on end into a bale feeder. I also use it with my 3-pt. mounted dirt scoop. I retract the cylinder to tip the scoop so it bites into the dirt as I back up. By raising the 3-pt. hitch and extending the cylinder I can dump the dirt out.

"I also use it for skidding logs - it lifts the log while I chain it - and for digging out rocks. I tilt my 3-pt. rock digger at a



45 degree angle to get under the rock. Then I back up and keep pressure on it while retracting the cylinder to lift the rock out of the ground. I've moved tremendously big rocks with it."

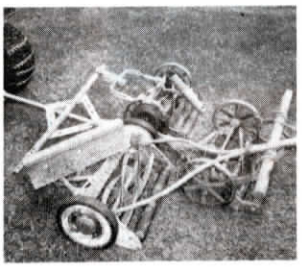
Griessler made special adapters to fit each end of the cylinder. He pinned a steel block between the prongs on the end of the cylinder, then welded a flexible ball hitch - the kind that normally secures the ends of drawbars - to the steel block.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Griessler, RR 1, Box 280, Delanson, N.Y. 12053 (ph 518 895-2561).

Three Push-Type "Reel" Mowers Hitched Together

Pat Slaney, Lone Rock, Wis. put together an inexpensive 4-ft. wide tow-behind mower by hitching together three 18-in. push-type "reel" mowers. "I got the idea when I saw a big pull-type reel mower being used on a golf course," says Slaney, who hitched the mowers together three years ago. "I was able to get the mowers at no cost. I had been using a 38-in. riding mower on my 1/2-acre lawn. I still use the conventional mower deck to mow along roadsides where the reel mowers would get plugged up by sticks and rough ground.

"The advantage of the reel mowers is that they aren't as rigidly mounted as the deck mower so they 'float' over uneven ground without skinning the lawn on high spots like the deck mower does. They also spread the grass clippings out straight behind without leaving windrows. Even if the grass gets a little long I never have to rake anything up. Each mower in front overlaps the rear mower by about an inch so the total cutting width is about 46 in. It's fun to use, but it's definitely home-built. My wife won't go outside while I'm using it because



someone might see her."

Slaney used 3/4-in. sq. tubing to make a tongue and 4-ft. long cross bar that pulls the two front mowers via scrap iron hitches. He used strips of flat steel to make a diamond-shaped brace between the tongue and crossbar to keep all three mowers turning together.

Slaney used weights made out of railroad track and steel rollers to keep the mower cage assemblies from flipping forward.

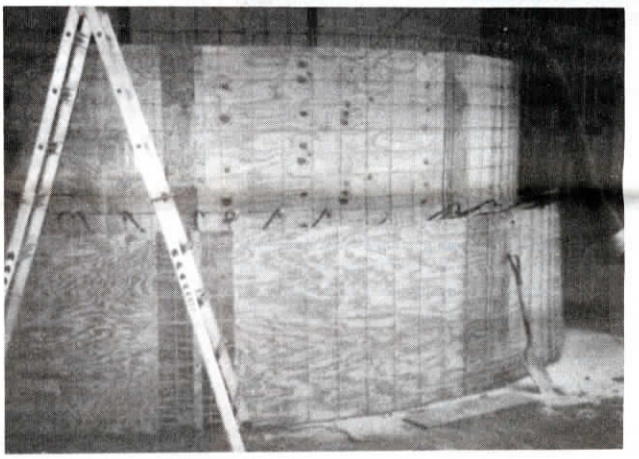
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pat Slaney, RR 1, Lone Rock, Wis. 53556 (ph 608 583-4941).

FARM SHOW

"Made It Myself"

Some of the best new products we hear about are "made it myself" innovations born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new invention or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so, where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? (Send to: FARM SHOW, Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044)

Harold M. Johnson, Editorial Director



Easy-To-Build Temporary Grain Bin

"I have used this temporary grain bin for five years. It's made out of materials that are easy to work with and that have other uses once the need for the bin is gone," says Richard Riessen, Walcott, Iowa.

"Materials include 4 by 8-ft. sheets of plywood, 6-in. wide plywood strips, wire cattle panels, carriage bolts, staples, and 1/4 in. cable clamps. The plywood panels are bolted together in a circle with the wood strips overlapping the ends. A ring of wire cattle panels runs around the outside to provide reinforcing. The cattle panels are tightened on the wood ring with a small come-a-long, similar to tightening fence wire, and then stapled to the wooden inner ring.

"To raise up a second 'wedding cake' layer of panels inside the first ring (you should build the inner ring first, then the outer ring), I use common rubber tarp straps 15 to 20 in. long. Raising the inner ring is a gradual process. First I hook the straps to the top edge of the outer ring and as far down on the inner ring as possible, hooking to the wire cattle panels. Then I keep going around the rings, raising the inner ring gradually as I go by moving the tarp straps farther and farther down the inner ring. When I reach the bottom of the inner ring, then I can start moving the hooks down the outside of the outer ring, if necessary.

"The bin shown in the photo uses 19 sheets of plywood and holds over 2,000 bu. of soybeans. I once built another bin that used 25 sheets of plywood and held about 4,500 bu. of corn. When I removed the corn, I used the livestock panels elsewhere and was able to store the stack of plywood sheets in a small area until needed again.

"I fill bins by auger and empty them with a grain vac. Care must be used when filling and emptying the bin, because its only strength is its circular shape. If grain pressure becomes too uneven, walls may fold or bend. I've been careful and never had a problem."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Riessen, 21100 50th Ave., Walcott, Iowa 52773.