

Nebraska

"YOU SHOW US – 2000"

Ron's Blade Holder
Kearney County, Nebraska

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Problem Statement

Changing cutting blades on motor graders is difficult and at times dangerous. Motor grader blades wear out, and depending on the use, the road material, and the grader operator, cutting blades may be changed out several times a year. The typical cutting blade on a grader is sharp and heavy. Changing a blade usually requires two persons to wrestle the blade into position. Once close, the process can become difficult when trying to align holes. Dropping the blade is not uncommon, and when dropped, parts of the body may get under the blade, or a hose or other tool may get damaged.

Discussion of Solution

Our solution to the problem of lifting and changing motor grader cutting blades is Ron's Blade Holder. We now have a lightweight stand mounted on wheels with a cable and winch. Any cutting blade we handle can now be placed on the blade lifting device and safely wheeled around under the grader and up to the moldboard. One person can now remove the old cutting blade, take it to the scrap pile, load up a new blade and easily align it for mounting.

Labor, equipment & materials

Most all of Ron's Blade Holder was made from scrap iron around the shop. We purchased the wheels, cable and winch. The blade holder was designed and built by Ron Russell of the Kearney County Road Department.

Cost

Not counting the labor which was supplied in-house, the cost of Ron's Blade Holder was about \$60.

Savings/benefits

The greatest benefit of Ron's Blade Holder is added safety. Workers have reduced the possibility of turning or straining their back or muscles, and feet and hands are at less risk than before the device was constructed. Fewer tools, such as air and gas hoses, will be damaged by a falling blade. One other benefit is the cost saved by needing only one person to maneuver the blade in position rather than two.



