## Mike's Equipment Company 1-800-543-2535

## STEP 1:

Remove the gathering shields, the rotary knife drive chain, and loosen the left gathering belt.

## STEP 2:

Loosen the right side gathering belt. Mark and drill (through all three layers of the frame) the 7/16-inch mounting hole for the gathering belt tensioner. A pilot hole should be drilled first. The drill should be kept perpendicular to the frame (**Photo 1**) for "50" Series.

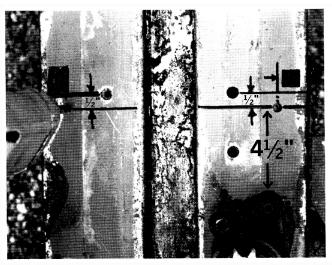
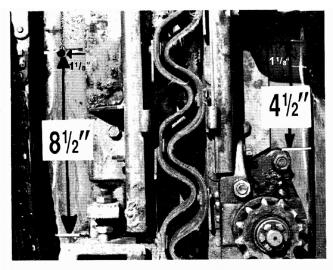


PHOTO 1

(Photo 2) for "A" Series. In photo 1 both chain rails have been removed for clarity. It is not necessary to remove the right chain rail to mount the belt tensioners. It may be necessary to remove the left chain rail depending upon the size and shape of the drill you are using. The base of the tensioner should be positioned as close to the edge of the rail as possible. The center of the hole should be 1 HES-inch from



**PHOTO 2** 

the edge of the chain rail. in this position a small portion of the tensioner base wilt hang over the edge of the frame. The tensioner should be located far enough to the rear of the rotary knife bearing block so that the mounting hole will be drilled through the horizontal brace on the bottom of the frame (Photo 3). Note, measurements are only approximate due to manufacturing variances in the row crop heads.

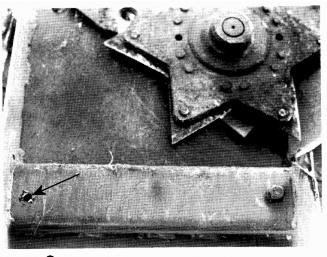


PHOTO 3:

#### STEP 3:

Mount the idler sprocket on the gathering belt tensioner (Fig. 1). (Use hole marked **normal**)

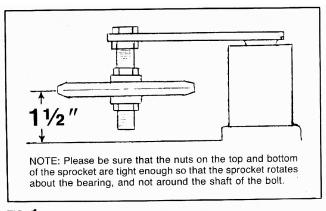
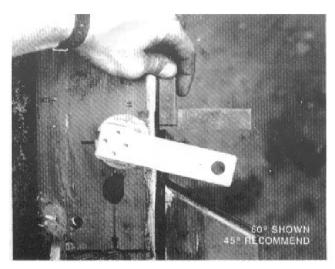


FIG. 1

## **STEP 4:**

Bolt the gathering belt tensioner loosely to the frame using the 10x75 mm bolt. It is recommended the arm of the tensioner be set at 45 degrees (**Photo 4**). The sprocket was removed in the photo for clarity. The tensioner is mounted at about 60 degrees in the photo. This is the maximum setting. We recommend 45 degrees if possible. See the last sentence in step 6 for further explanation.

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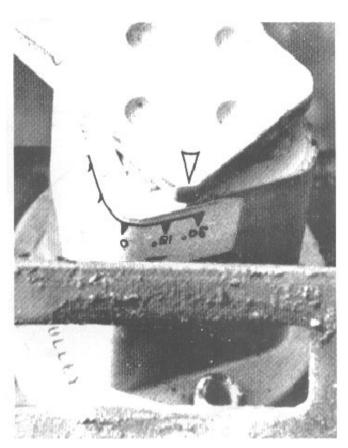
## **PHOTO 4**

## STEP 5:

Tighten the gathering belt tensioner to the frame (36 ft. lbs.). Note, at this setting it an overload should occur, the base of the tensioner will rotate instead of the arm of the tensioner bending or breaking.

#### STEP 6:

Use the John Deere adjustment to tension the gathering belt so that proper belt tension is achieved (between 15 and 30 degrees as measured by the



scale on the gathering belt tensioner) (Photo 5). It may be necessary to set the angle greater than 45 degrees to achieve the correct tension if your gathering belts are very badly stretched.

#### **STEP 7:**

The gathering belt tensioners are self-adjusting, but only to a point. Periodically it will be necessary to retighten the gathering belts. This should be done by using the John Deere mechanism and not byfurther rotation of the gathering belt tensioner base, unless you have reached the end of the John Deere adjustment, then the tensioner base can be rotated up to about 60 degrees.

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