

**SUPER TIP**

**Headache Rack Cuts Risk**

*By Darren Davis*

On June 2, we embarked on a significant renovation and upgrade of the irrigation system at Olde Florida GC. The contractor chosen to perform the job was Leibold Irrigation. With offices in Illinois, Ohio and Florida, owner and President John Liebold has more than 100 employees and a fleet of trenchers, dozers, trucks, backhoes, pullers, pipe wagons and utility vehicles, many of which are equipped with custom-made Toro "headache racks."

According to Liebold, the headache rack is intended to reduce the risk of items shifting forward and potentially injuring the operator, and prevent sand or other loose material in the cargo bed from inadvertently entering the engine area. Liebold credits Fred Roepsch, Leibold Irrigation shop manager for the

design and construction of the rack.

Roepsch, who has made more than 50 of them, estimates it takes him two and a half to three hours to build and install each rack. The price of each, excluding shop costs (grinding wheels, welding wire, paint, etc.) is between \$150 and \$175. His time and cost of materials drop considerably when he produces the racks in quantities of five or more.

The framing, which is 4 feet, 7 inches wide by 2 feet 7 inches deep, is made from 2-by-2-inch steel tube. Attached to this frame are six rectangular posts (two on each side and two in front), constructed from 1.5x2-inch steel tube cut in 6-inch lengths. The front and side pieces of the rack, which are strip-welded to the frame to avoid warping, are cut from 3/16-inch steel sheets.

When finished, the six posts welded to the underside of the frame are inserted into the two front and two side pockets of the Toro cargo bed. After insertion, Roepsch recommends tack



*Custom-made rack prevents loads from shifting forward causing injury or damage. Photo by Darren Davis.*

welding the six posts to the cargo bed for added safety.

Since the company's inception in 1987, Leibold Irrigation has completed more than 300 projects nationwide. Liebold admitted that some of his previous clients were so smitten with the custom-made headache rack that he had Roepsch build a few for them to purchase.

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