



**CIH Precision-500 Closing Bracket**

## Case-IH Precision 500 /NH 2080, 2085 air drills



*Exapta's closing bracket kit creates 7-degree toe-out to the direction of travel.*

*by Matt Hagny, consulting agronomist for no-till systems since '94.*

We've been waiting for a very long time for some significant improvement in no-till drills — something low-disturbance, with the accuracy of a gauge-wheel opener, and not a trailing press wheel doing the depth control. Something better than Deere's 50/60/90-series.

Thus, it was sad when I got a sneak-peek at a CIH Precision 500 ("P-500") a couple years ago, and saw that they had once again neglected to provide a seed-lock wheel, which is a deal-killer for no-till. However, the rest of the opener is 'right' in terms of seed boot & tube shape & location, blade size and angle, gauge wheel position & shape, effective range of travel, etc. (most of which was foreshadowed by the Flexi-coil FSO, with Case-New Holland having bought Flexi-coil ~ 15 yrs ago). On the P-500, I'm not sure how long some of the linkages, etc., are going to hold together, but the ability of this opener to cut very heavy blankets of mulch perfectly is a sight to behold!

With so much potential, I undertook to fix the firming and closing problems on the Precision 500 drill (which I had also done with ill-fated FSO some 15 yrs ago). First, we engineered a Keeton bracket and Mojo Wire for the drill Keeton to go onto the P-500. The Keeton on Exapta's bracket is entirely compatible with the OEM packer wheel. So, with the Keeton + Mojo, you at least have the seed firming 'in the bag' if the OEM packer fails to firm the soil around the seed -- which is typical in long-term no-till where the soils have some structure.

The packer wheel's shortcomings for furrow closing are quickly apparent to farmers demo'ing or buying these drills. Indeed, the packer wheel is so ineffective that enormous spring pressure is often applied, which is robbing well over 100 lbs of downforce from the opener itself — a big problem in tougher soils where the P-500 doesn't have nearly enough frame weight anyway (and if you want the drill to work, you'll have to greatly exceed the OEM specs of 6 weights per wing on a 30-ft drill).



*Mojo Wire for Drill Keeton*



Steel bracket for Keeton on CIH P500 drill



Drill Keetons + Mojos greatly enhance CIH's Precision-500 drill performance.



Now, Exapta offers a major upgrade to the closing system, with a bracket to hold a Thompson wheel (or other spoked closing wheel) at the correct location and angle. Whereas the OEM packer wheel runs perfectly straight, our bracket creates a 7-degree toe-out to the direction of travel, so the T-wheel actively pulls soil back into the furrow. A great many observers, including from CIH dealerships, are really enthused about our improvement to this drill's firming and closing.

Our closing bracket kit (\$65) includes a lighter torsion spring for the arm (OEM is much too stout for spoked closing wheels), the bracket, and all the hardware needed (T3X Thompson wheel not included). Installation is easy, with only two bolts — no drilling, cutting, or welding required. A special roll-pin punch (available from Exapta) makes it a breeze to remove the closing arm to swap torsion springs.

**For the complete upgrade on an opener (Keeton + Mojo + Keeton mounting bracket kit + closing bracket kit + T-whl) the price is \$223.**

*“It is amazing to me and the other farmers observing, in how well the Thompson wheel closes the furrow while the OEM packer wheel does nothing—and we tried all different spacing and pressures on the OEM to try to get it to work. Your bracket and the Thompson wheel was night-and-day different. I’m totally sold on your setup, including the Keeton and Mojo.”*

—Talal Hamadah, 30-ft CIH P-500 owner, Clay Center, KS