

Bars 101 – Stay Bars vs. Stabilizer (Anti-Sway) Bars

When and Where to Use Them

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There is often confusion among new tractor owners regarding the difference and recommended usage of stay bars and stabilizer (aka anti-sway) bars. This tutorial will try to remove the mystery from both of these useful components.

Drawbar stays are intended to be used with a 3-point, 11-hole cross-drawbar for pulling/towing purposes. Since the N's don't have down pressure on the lift arms, a towed wagon going over hilly ground, for example, could force the drawbar and maybe the rear of the tractor skyward, causing one to lose control and maybe roll over.

Here's what the drawbar stays look like, and you'll also note that part of the kit is a wedge to lock your lift control lever down so that you don't inadvertently use it to raise the 3-point lift. If you attempt to raise the lift with the installed drawbar stays, you will either bend the stays or damage your hydraulics:

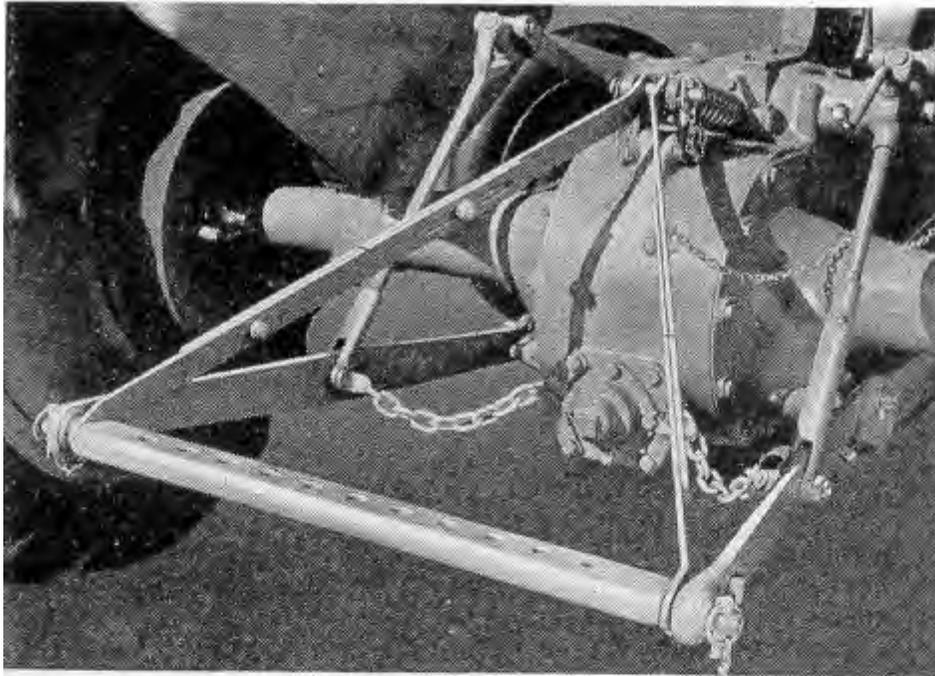


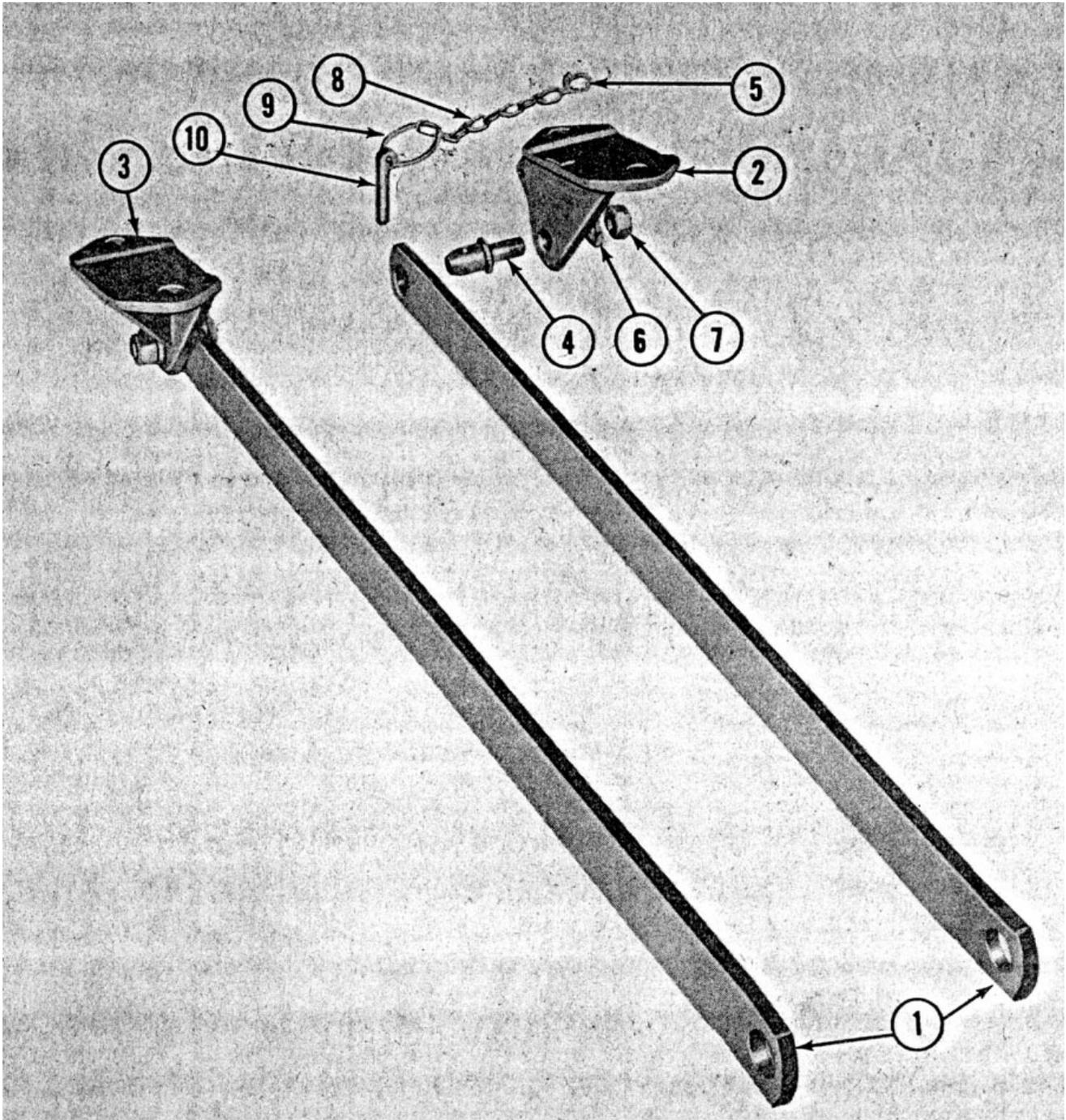
Fig. 156 — Adjustable Drawbar



Fig. 157 — Safety Lock and Chain

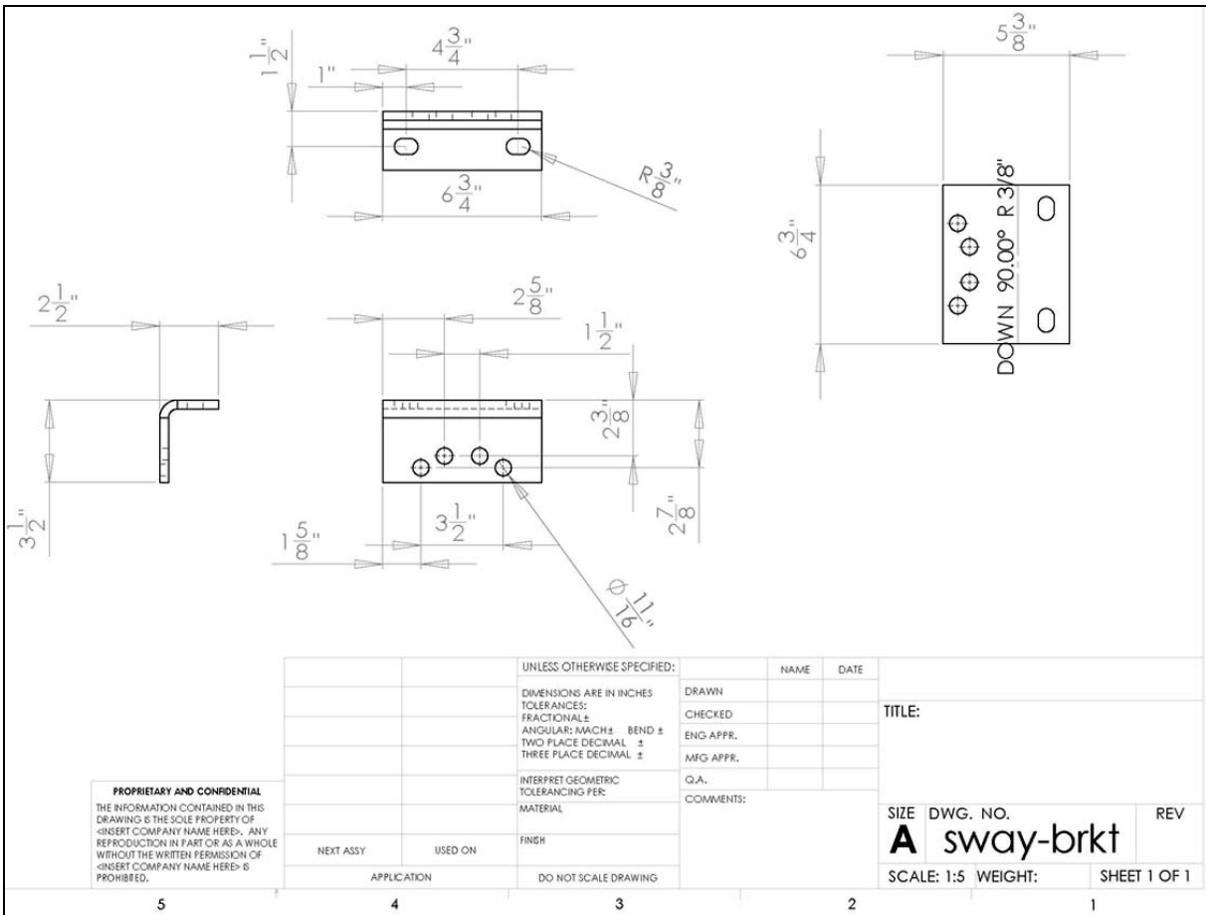
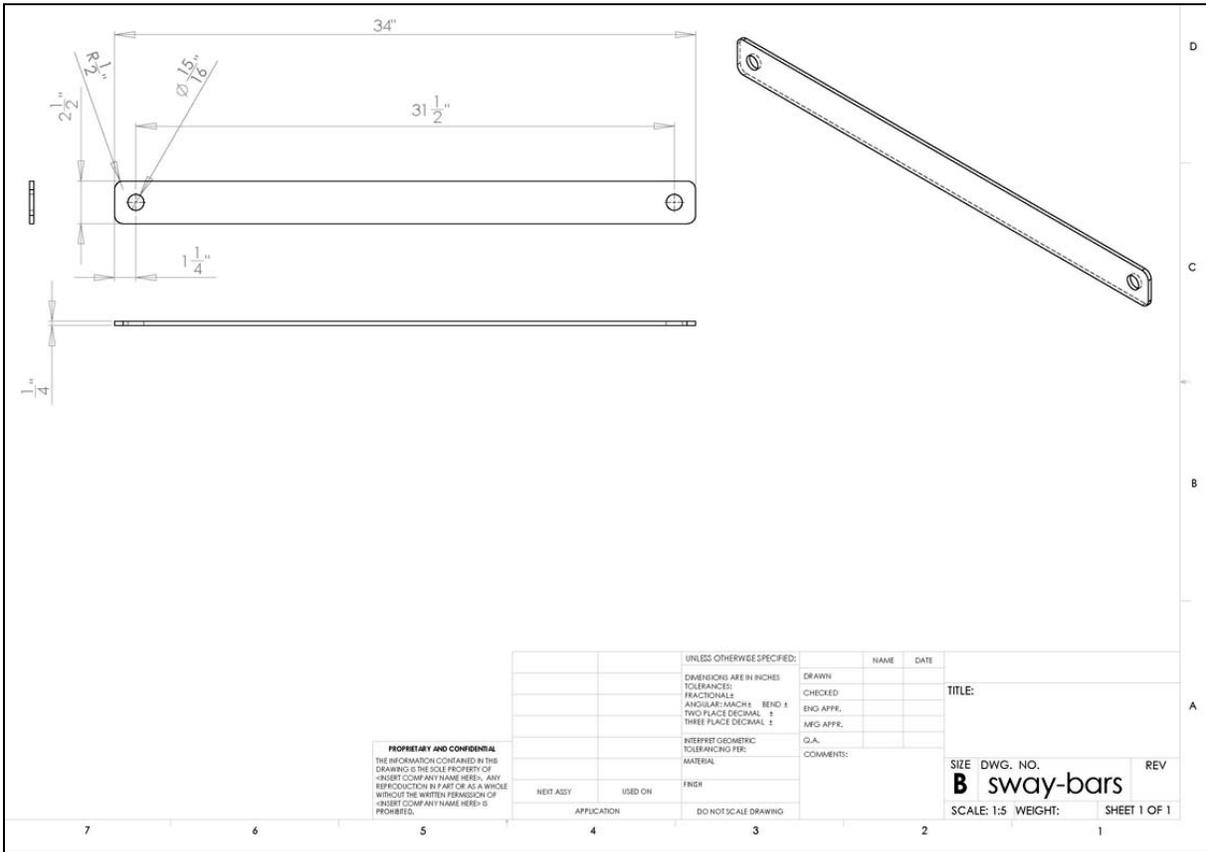
You should **not** use these stays with **any** implement other than the 3-point cross drawbar.

Stabilizer bars (aka anti-sway bars) attach to the rear fender mounting flange on each axle and then to both lower links. Their purpose is to prevent side-to-side sway of implements and keep them lined up directly behind the tractor. I use mine for every implement that I own, with the exception of my plows and my cultivator - they have components that control the "tracking" of these implements. Stabilizer bars look like this:



Note from the photo below that **both** stabilizer and stay bars are installed and being used with the 3-point cross-drawbar on this tractor. The stay bars will keep the drawbar from lifting, and the stabilizer bars will keep the drawbar lined up directly behind the tractor and not swing out on turns:





In summary, stabilizer (anti-sway) bars would be a good thing to use with a carry-all, grader/box blade, bush hog, finish mower, post hole digger, etc. Stay bars would *not*, because you would not be able to raise any of those implements without breaking something.



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