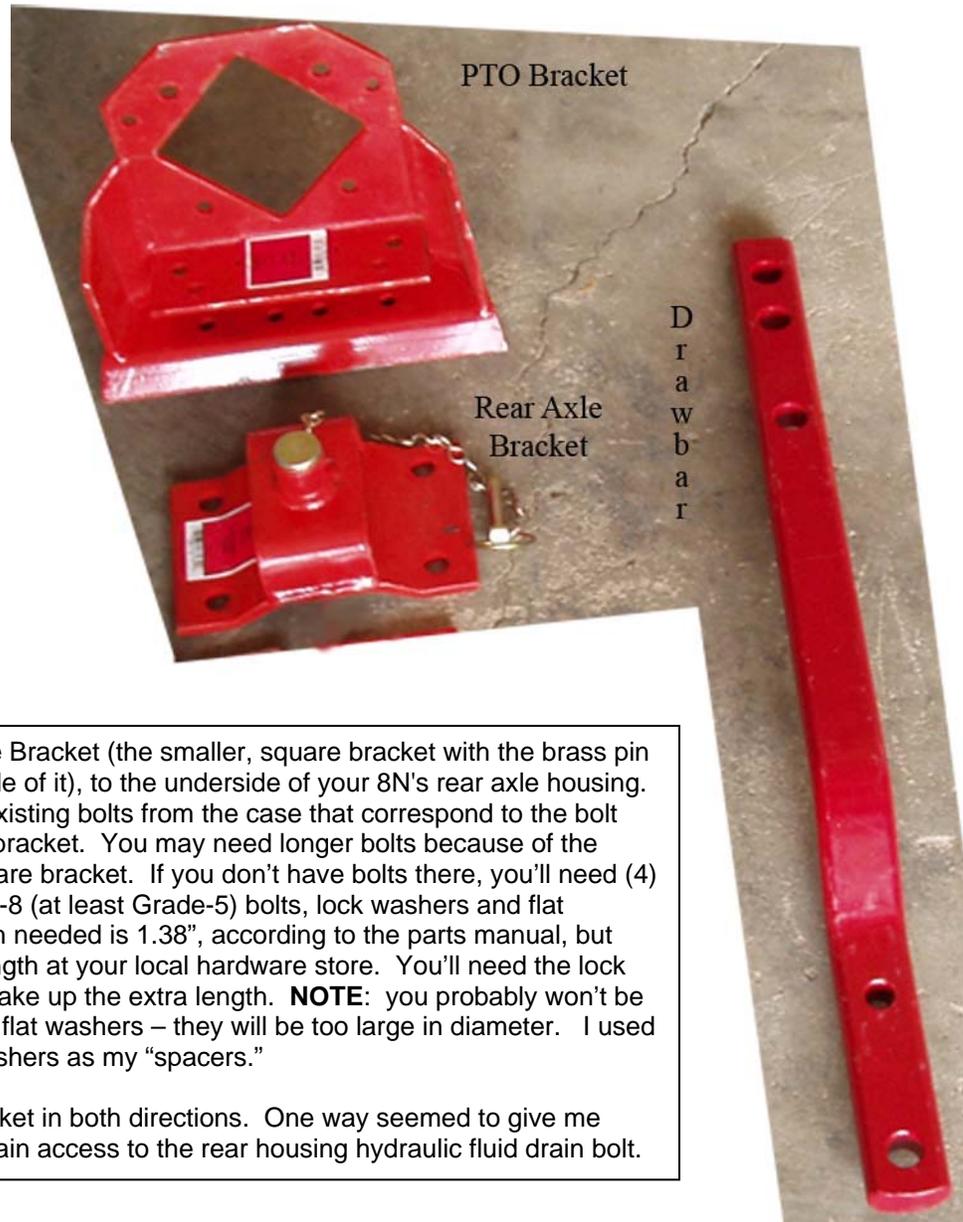


How to Mount a Generic Swinging Drawbar to Your Tractor

By: Ed Gooding

You may have just ordered one of these from your favorite tractor supply house, and got three pieces and no instructions. Here's what you need to know to install it yourself:

You should have three different components that look like this:

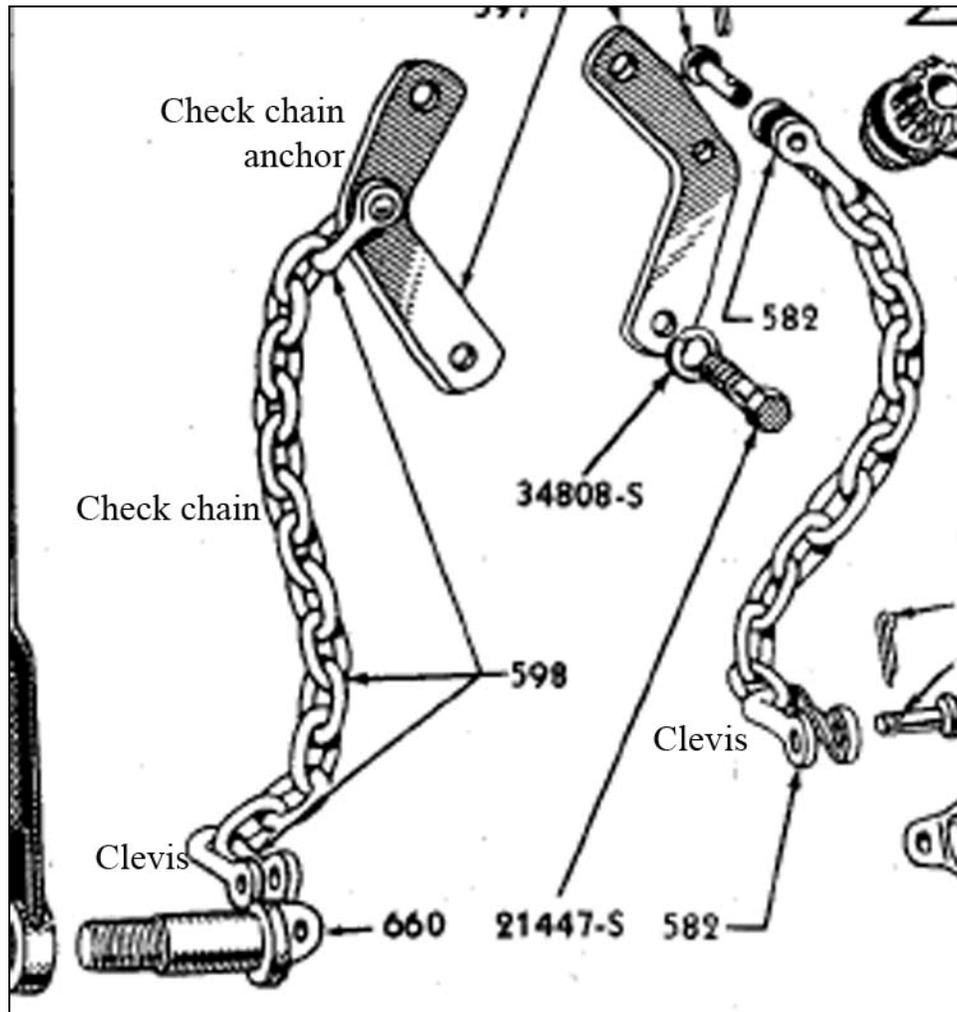


Mount the Rear Axle Bracket (the smaller, square bracket with the brass pin up through the middle of it), to the underside of your 8N's rear axle housing. You'll remove four existing bolts from the case that correspond to the bolt holes in the square bracket. You may need longer bolts because of the thickness of the square bracket. If you don't have bolts there, you'll need (4) 5/8"-11 x 1.5" Grade-8 (at least Grade-5) bolts, lock washers and flat washers. The length needed is 1.38", according to the parts manual, but you can't get this length at your local hardware store. You'll need the lock and flat washers to take up the extra length. **NOTE:** you probably won't be able to use Grade-8 flat washers – they will be too large in diameter. I used Grade-2 5/8" flat washers as my "spacers."

NOTE: Try the bracket in both directions. One way seemed to give me more clearance to gain access to the rear housing hydraulic fluid drain bolt.

Remove the check chain clevis and check chain from the two check chain anchors that are attached to the PTO housing (see parts diagram below).

Remove the two check chain anchors that are attached to the PTO housing. Save these in case you ever remove the drawbar. The swinging drawbar's PTO bracket has "ears" to which you will attach the check chain clevis and chain for both lift arms.



Next, you attach the PTO Bracket (the largest bracket with the large, diamond-shaped hole in the middle). It goes around your PTO plate, again with the holes in the large bracket corresponding to existing bolts around the PTO shaft housing.

You now have installed all the components that secure the actual drawbar. You push the straight end of the drawbar through the slot in the big bracket around your PTO housing and, after first removing the round, brass pin in the middle of the smaller bracket under the rear axle, continue pushing the drawbar halfway through the smaller bracket until one of the two holes (depending on how far up under your tractor you want to store it when not using it – less likely to impede an implement like a rear scoop) in the drawbar line up with the hole in the smaller bracket. You then re-insert the round brass pin and lock it in via the lynch pin on the end of the chain. Whether or not your lynch pin has a safety chain on it, position the head of the lynch pin facing forward, which will cause the clamp on it to snap towards the rear. It will be less likely to be opened and lost by contact with things you drive over.

To control the swing of the drawbar, or to lock it to one side to force a towable implement to track to the outside of the tractor instead of directly behind it, you insert bolts and nuts through the holes in the large bracket around the PTO housing.

Here are some pictures of one that is installed:

Note the shiny new bolts purchased to mount the Rear Axle bracket.



The most practical thing about the generic type of swinging drawbar setup is that you can leave it on, (most of the time anyway), and still hook up other 3-point implements. I only remove mine when using a PTO-driven implement (mower, post-hole digger, etc.).



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