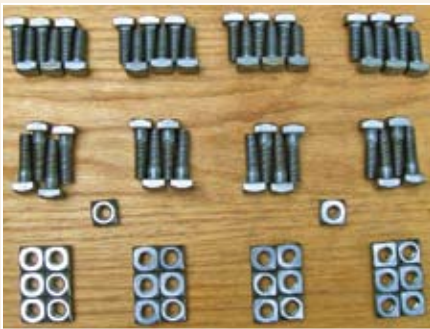


PRODUCT REVIEW

Radiator bolt sets now offered

While many of the parts you can get from your local John Deere dealer will fit and function properly on your tractor, most experienced collectors know that often times these parts just don't look right. We often tend to make fun of decal sets, but the problem is the same with many other parts—one of them being bolts.

A classic example is A3232R, called out in all of the styled tractor catalogs as replacement for the original A2189R round head Phillips head machine screw (5/16 x 1/2 inch). The Deere drawing of A3232R is, however, a hex head cap screw (HCS) that will in fact function and fit, but does not have original form. An HCS type hood fastener was never



Unstyled "B" radiator bolt set.

factory-installed on any of these tractors. The restorer cannot rely on parts catalogs for historical accuracy.

The widespread practice of cutting corners in both sheet metal and radiator bolt sets led to research and design with the theme that fasteners should be fully duplicative of originals. For dedicated tractor restorers, *restora-*



Model 50 radiator bolt set.

tion is the operative word, not *repair*! Restoration demands, at minimum, exact replacement fasteners in size, shape, appearance, fit and function. The discerning restorer demands 100 percent compliance.

All of the lettered series tractors have SQHD bolts with lengths of either 7/8 or 1-1/8 inch and finding these commercially available is no small task. Many must be handmade or procured at a premium price. Radiator bolt sets typically have many bolts that turn into blind holes for which length is a critical issue. Those 50 to 70 year old tapped holes aren't getting deeper! If bolts are too long, they tighten before achieving the tension needed, resulting in failure. And, if too short, valuable thread bite is lost. Over-length fasteners interfere with installation of shutter assemblies—space is limited. Mainly, fasteners that are too long just don't look right!

Pat Browning of New Braunfels, Texas is now offering radiator bolt kits for most two cylinder tractors.

Kit prices range from a low of \$30 to a high of \$60. One kit contains over 100 pieces of hardware.

Kits use low carbon steel fasteners with plain (P) finish, lightly oiled before packaging for shipment. All fasteners are of Grade A steel, or in the case of HCS, Grade 5. Some pieces may come zinc-coated in place of plain finish—a matter of availability, but will be equal in quality to those with plain finish. Hardware grades equal or exceed specifications contained in Deere documentation.

Kits are packaged in 6-mil plastic bags; product insert sheets (folded)



520 and 530 radiator bolt set.

are included in each kit bag to define fasteners included and where they go—using relative Parts Catalog page and item reference numbers. The bag when sandwiched using cardboard is easily shipped in a Priority flat rate envelope. Items are delivered FOB New Braunfels, Texas. To learn more, call Pat at 830-627-0430 or visit www.jdhpubs.com.



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