

Alex Mills (B.S. AE), Luke Kepler (B.S. ASM), Mitchell Newport (B.S. ASM), and Will Field (B.S. ASM)

Introduction

Problem Statement:

- Changing front end ballasting weights is a labor intensive and time consuming task. Thus, consumers neglect to properly ballast machinery.

Objectives:

- Design a quick exchange solution, utilizing the hydraulic front suspension's movement, to decrease the time required to gain proper ballasting weight.
- Provide an adequate storage rack for standby ballast weight.

Project Background:

- Current market demand is pushing for new agricultural equipment that provides less soil compaction and fuel consumption.
- The increasing age of farmers encourages the reduction of manual labor.

Target Ballasting

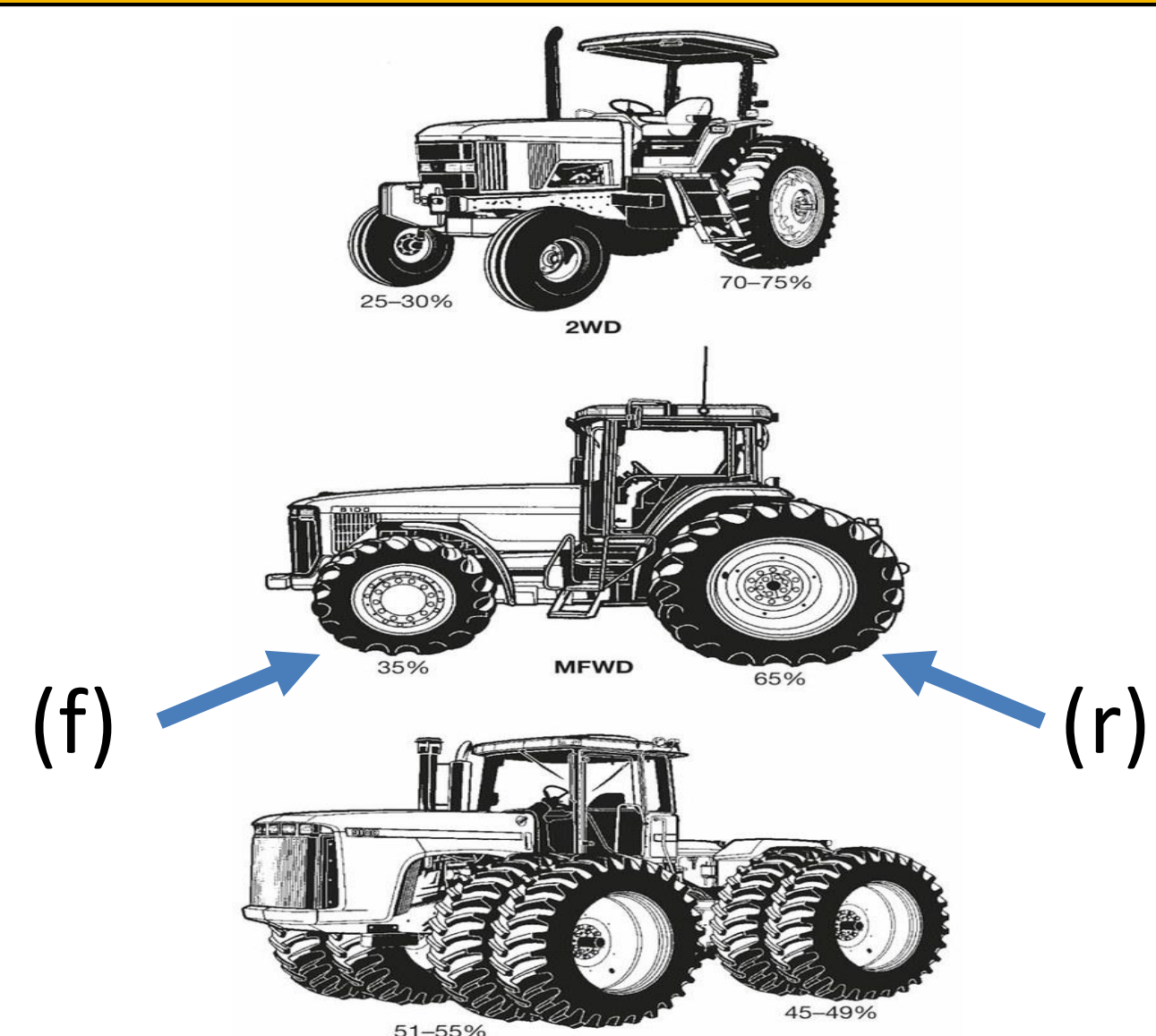


Figure 1: Recommended balancing proportions

Incorrect Ballasting

Over-ballasted(f):

- Greater Soil Compaction
- Increased Fluid Consumption

Under-ballasted(f):

- Potential for Wheel Slip
- Risk of Injury from Turnover

Simple Ballast Equation:

- $NF(f) \times D(f) = NF(r) \times D(r)$
 - NF= Normal Force
 - D= Distance from Fulcrum

Alternative Solutions

Decision Matrix:

PUGH MATRIX:

	Weight	Weight	Weight	Weight
Cost Efficiency	S	S	-	S
Reduction of Time	S	-	-	S
Ease of Operator Use	S	-	-	S
Reduction of "Mangover"	S	S	-	S
Simplicity of Overall Design	S	-	-	S
Complexity of Holding Rack	S	-	-	S
Interchangeability Between Brands	S	-	-	S
Ability of Current Design Incorporation	S	-	-	S
Consistency of Operation (Repairability)	S	-	-	S
Ability to Overcome Accumulate Obstacles	S	S	-	S
Total	0	3	3	3
Total	0	3	7	4
Total Score	0	-2	-4	-2

Baseline Score: S
Better than Baseline: +
Worst than Baseline: -

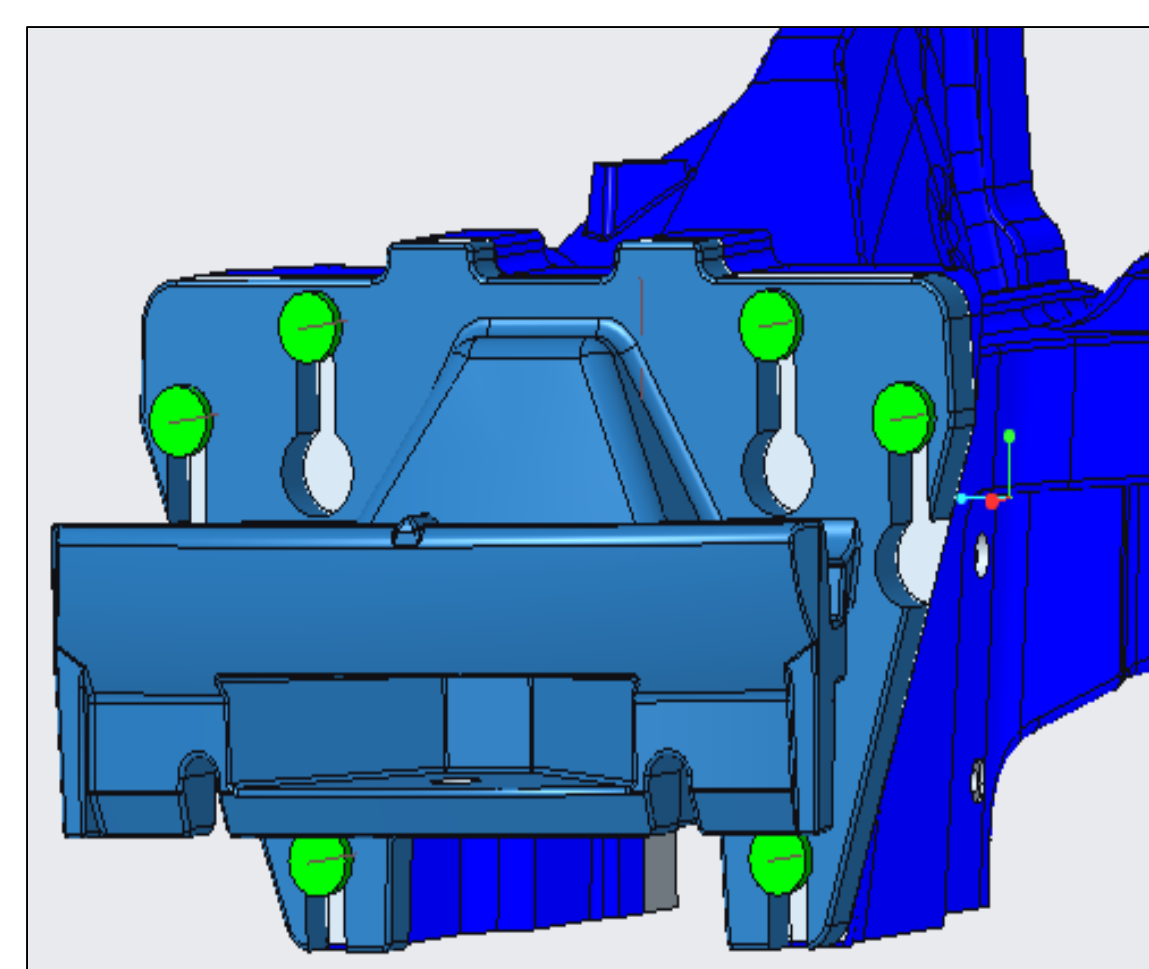


Figure 2: Isometric view of hydraulic suspension accumulators discovered within the frame rail

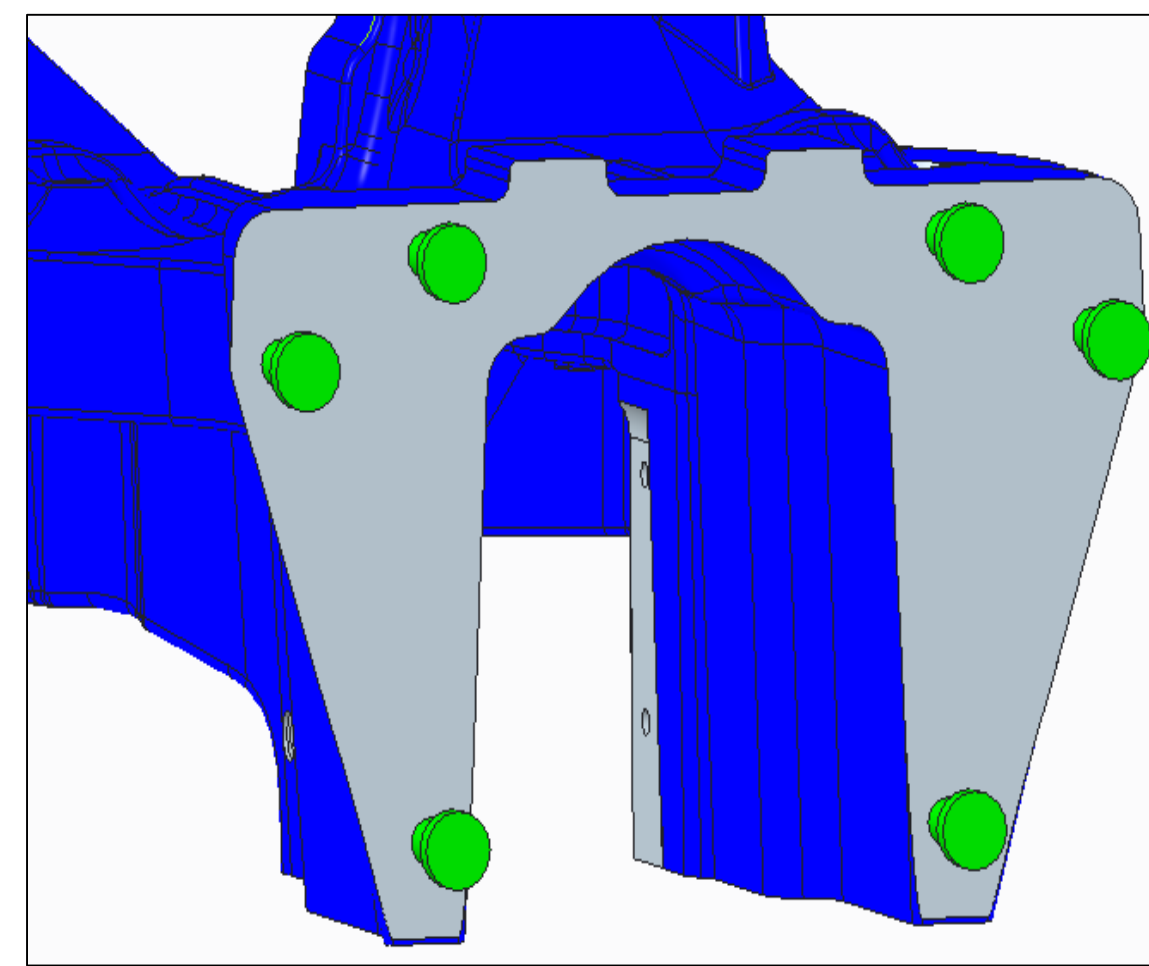


Figure 3: Initial design of sliding keyhole bracket and cast frame rail studs

Complete System

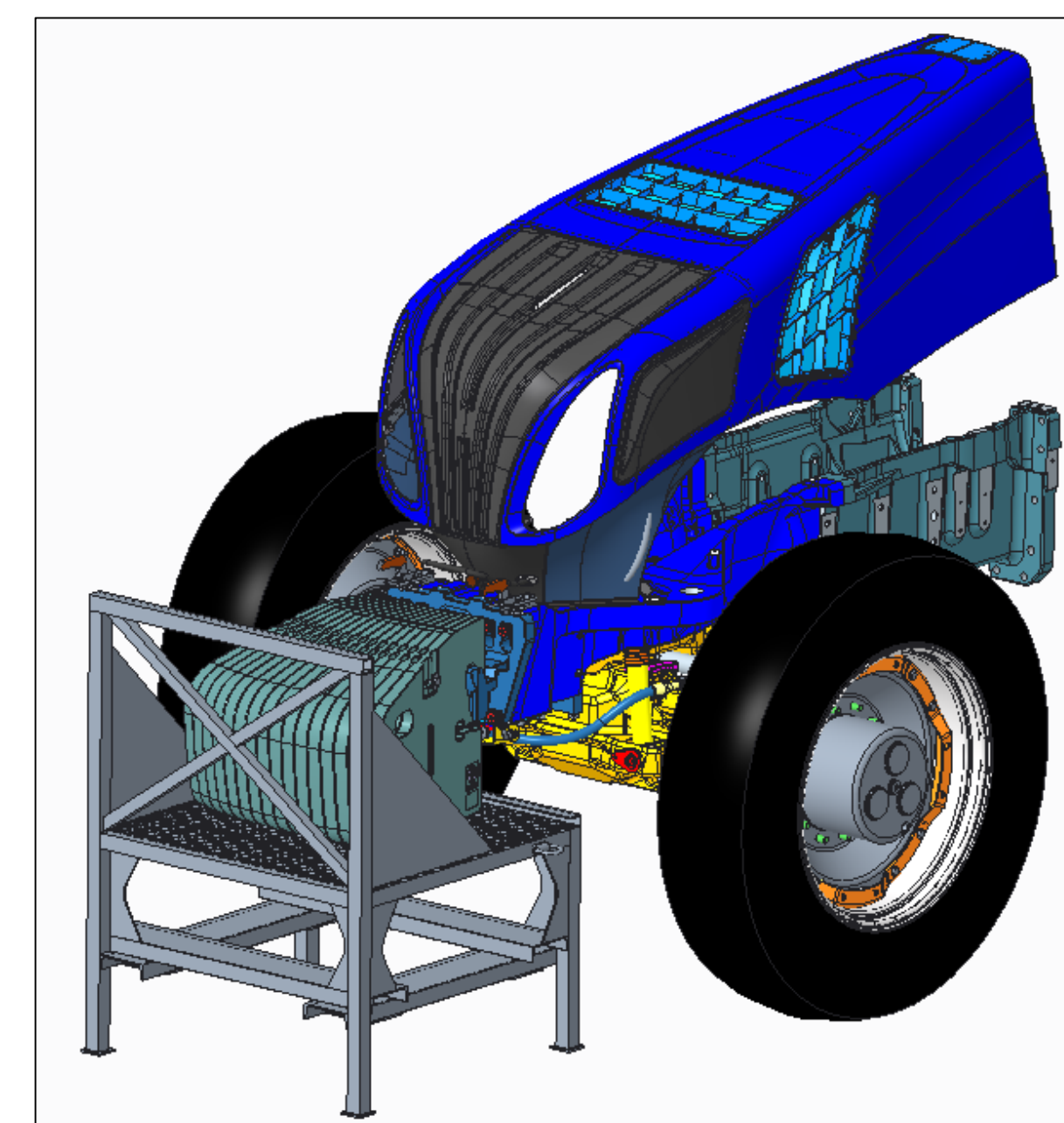


Figure 4: Isometric view of finalized design



Figure 5: Completed weight rack prototype

Final Design

Project Deliverables:

- Class 10.9 M20 Shoulder Screw
 - Six screws to be anchored in frame rail
- Redesigned Weight Bracket
 - Keyhole slots to allow easy attach / detach motion
- Updated Front Frame Rail
 - New hole locations created to accommodate weight bracket design
- Weight Storage Rack
 - Used in quick attach process
 - 4000+ lb. capacity
 - Movable from all sides

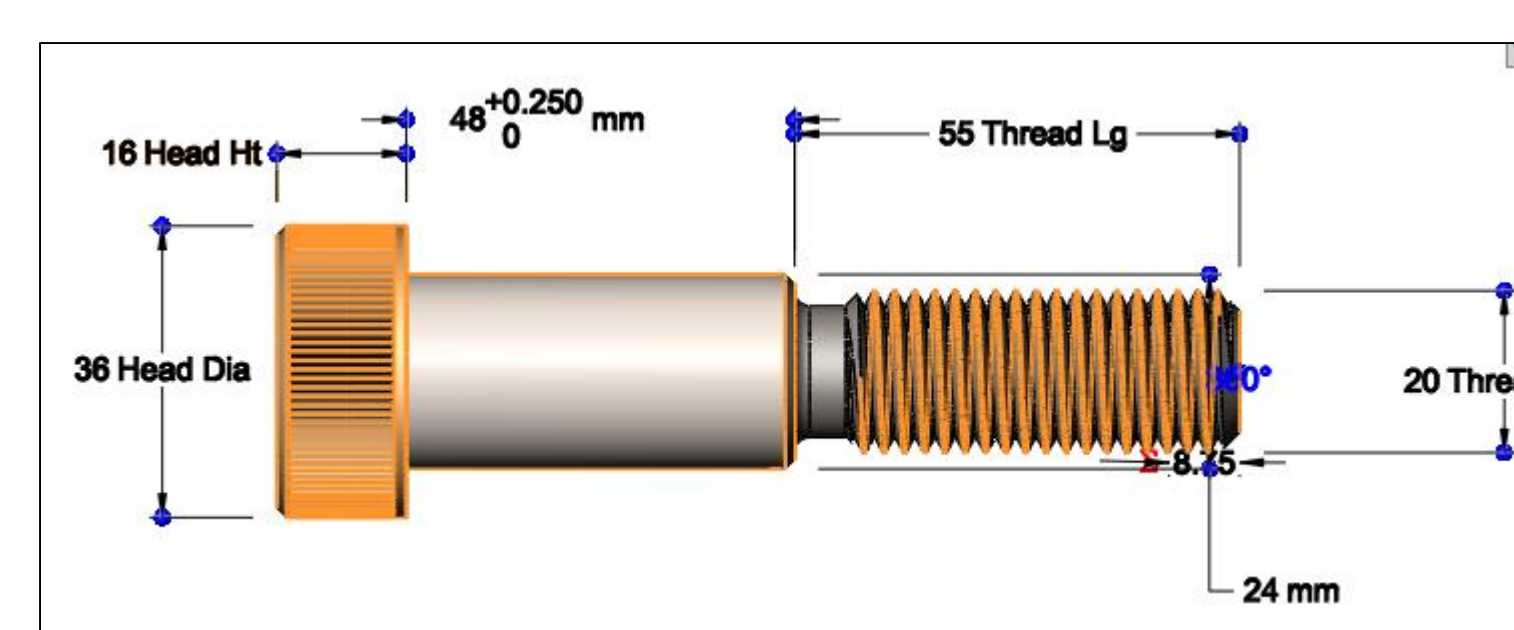


Figure 6: Proposed M20 shoulder screw

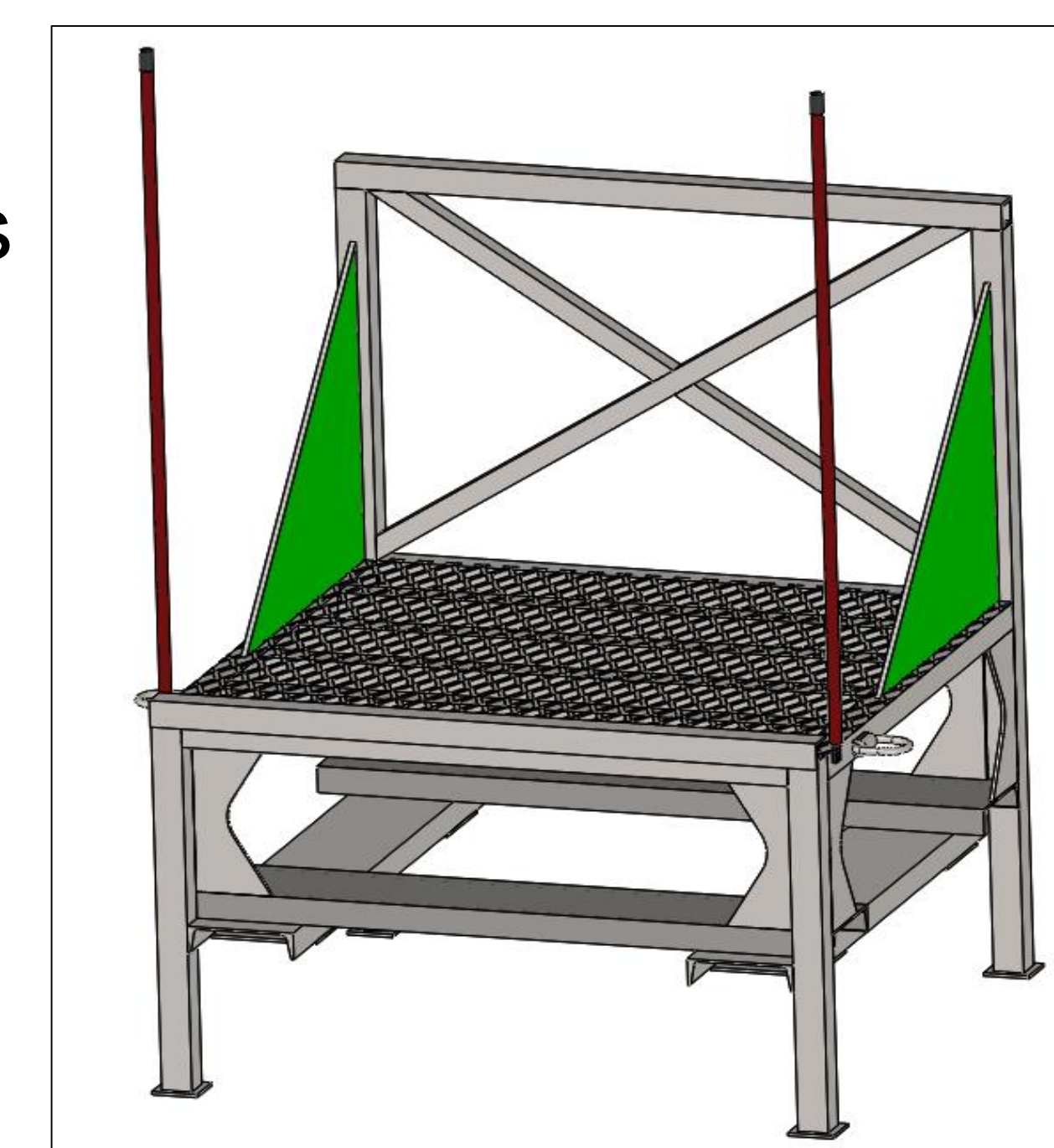


Figure 7: Heavy duty weight rack

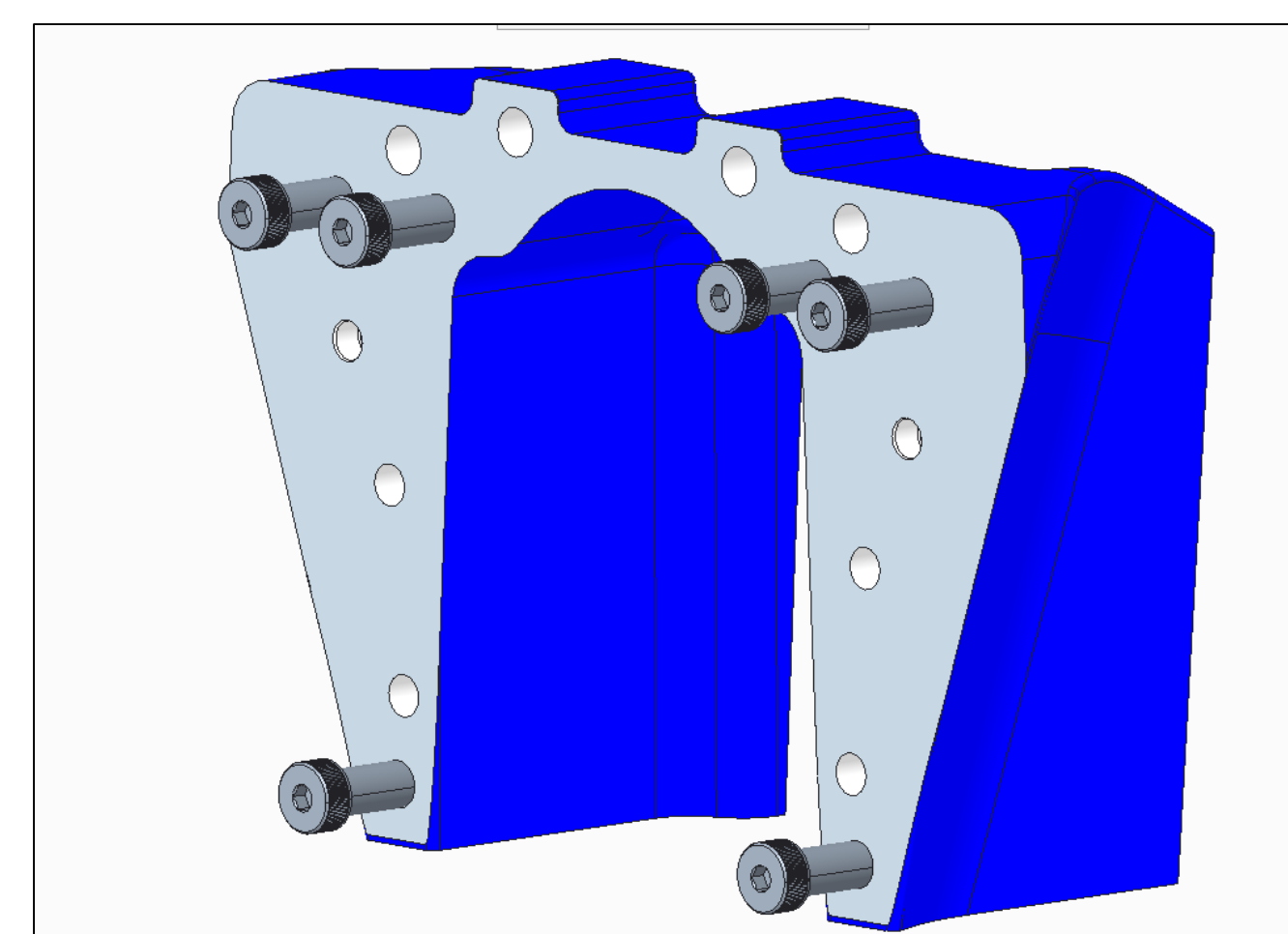


Figure 8: Tractor frame rail with shoulder screws

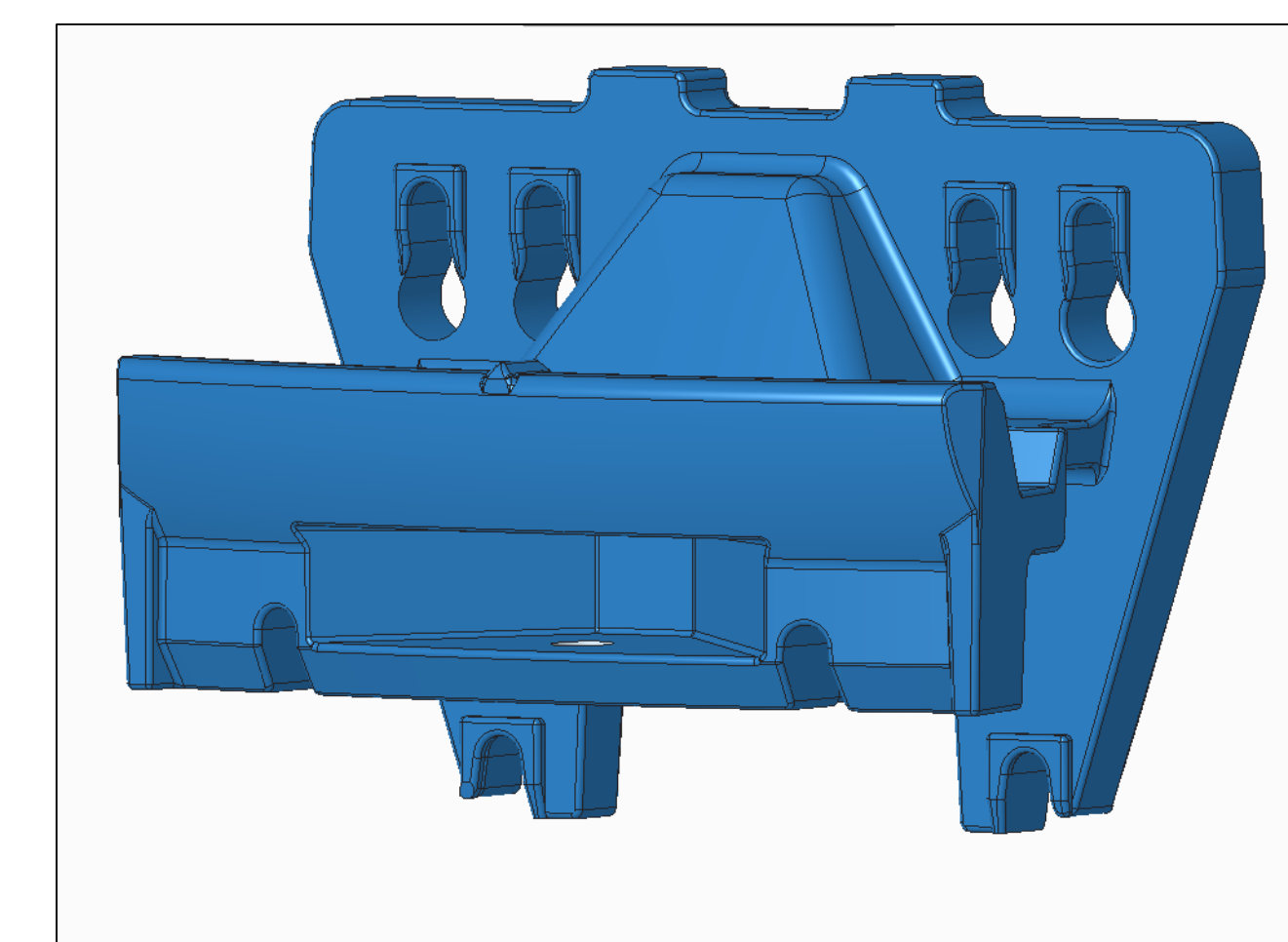


Figure 9: Redesigned weight bracket

Design Analysis

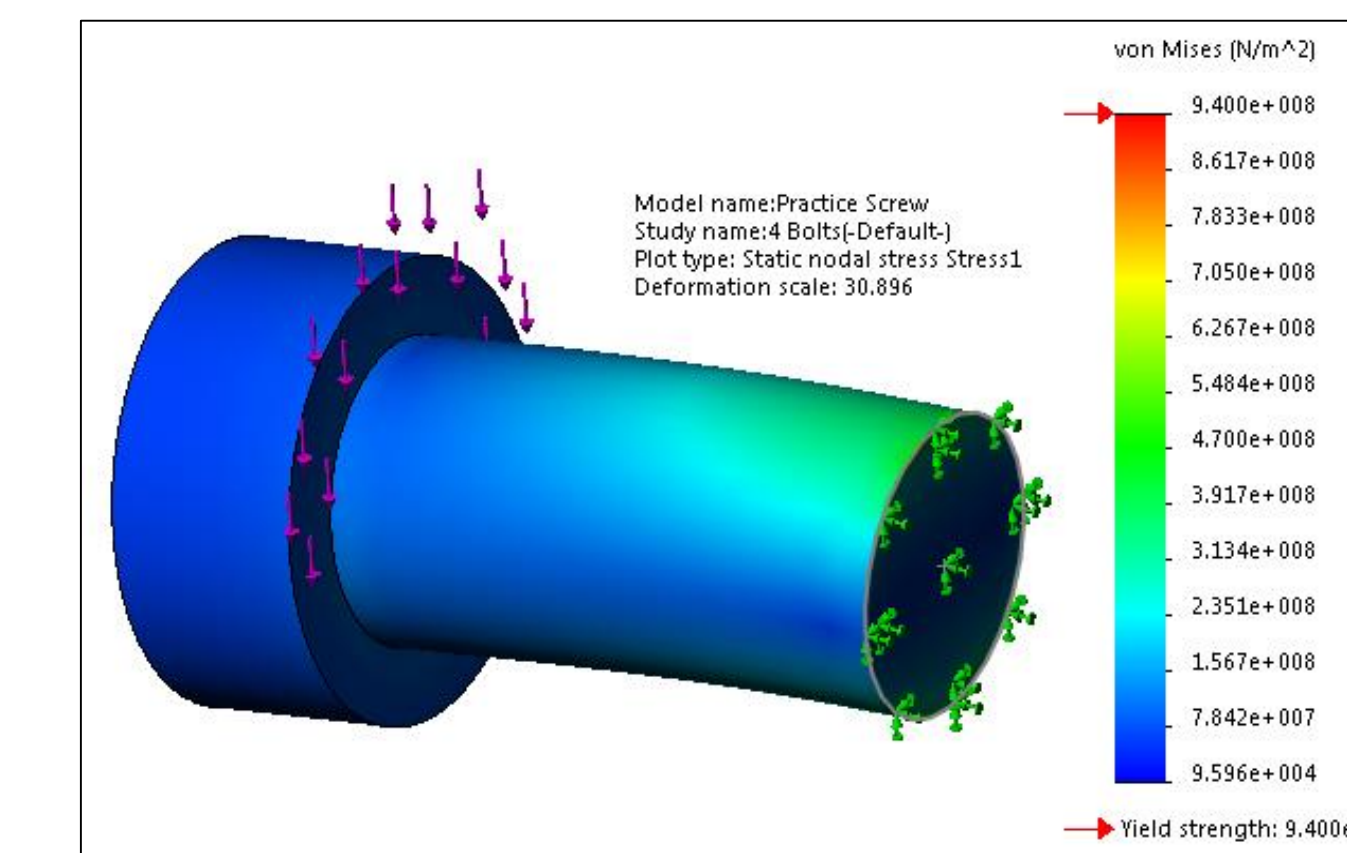


Figure 10: FEA of 3G on four load bearing bolts

Four Bolt Scenario:

- Maximum Stress – 499.3 MPa
- Maximum Deflection – 0.2185 mm
- Factor of Safety – 2

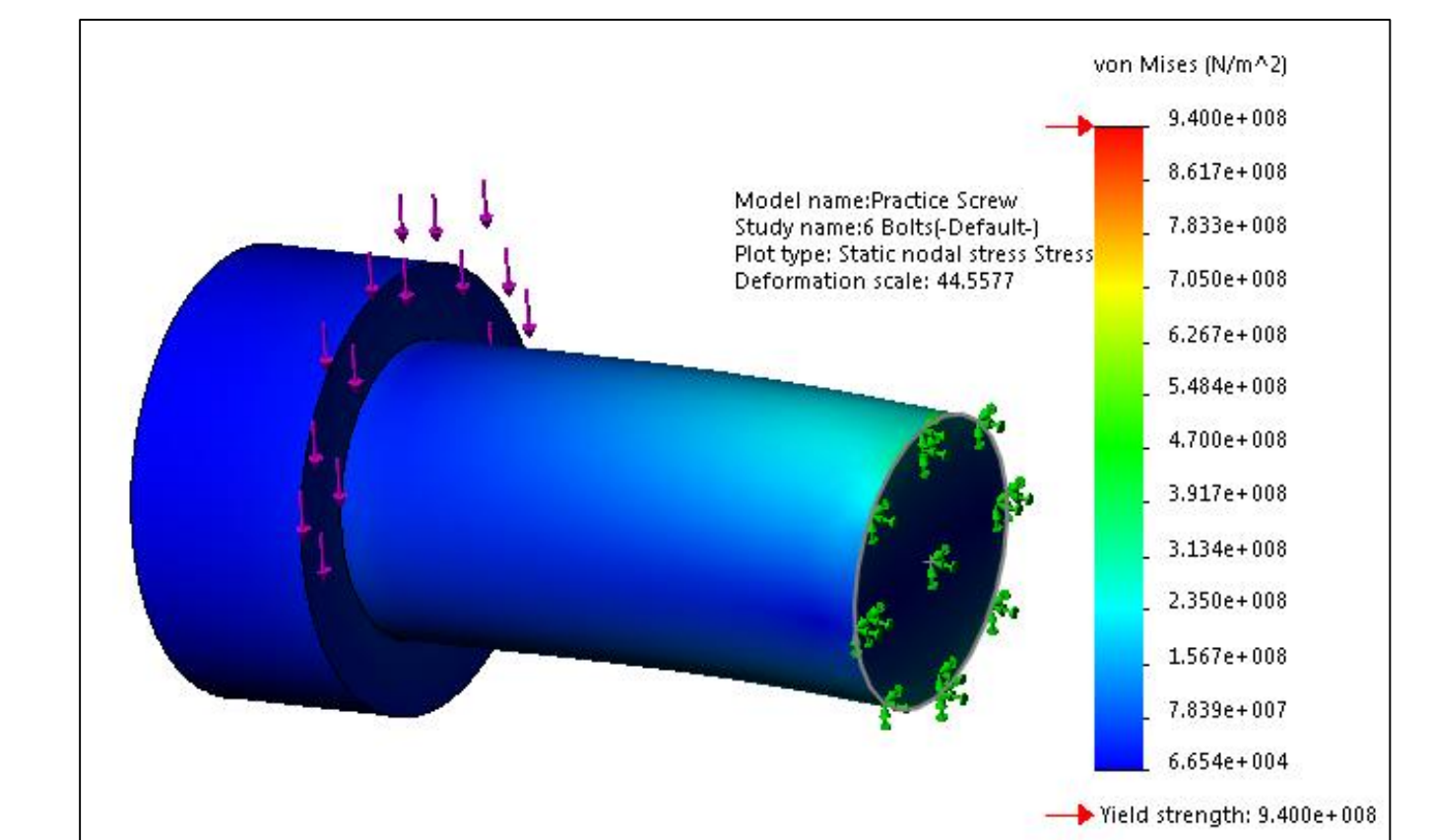


Figure 11: FEA of 3G on six load bearing bolts

Six Bolt Scenario:

- Maximum Stress – 346.2 MPa
- Maximum Deflection – 0.1515 mm
- Factor of Safety – 2.9

Impact

Benefits:

- Gives the consumer another tool to help manage compaction and fluid consumption.
- Improve overall ballasting efficiency
- Provides consumers with a low cost alternative to a front three point hitch system
- Reduces operator fatigue and improves customer satisfaction.
- Simple design changes should streamline the retooling of the assembly line

Disadvantages:

- Additional storage room is required
- Stud bolts may become damaged and require replacement
- Added cost to consumer compared to standard equipment
- Rusting of steel, especially bolt holes in mechanical designs, may decrease the overall durability of the product

Economical Analysis

Table 1: Projected cost of system

Cost of rack material:	\$468
Estimate of quick exchange:	\$330
Cost of machining:	\$70
TOTAL cost of system:	\$868

Recommendations

Testing:

- Further FEA testing to ensure safety and reliability
- Prototype trials to prove repeatability

Future Improvements:

- Latching Mechanism
- Weight Rack Height Adjustability

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