Loading empty cases onto the shellplate of a Dillon Precision RL 550 press has been long recognized as a somewhat less than ergonomic activity … especially when the press is on a Strong Mount. It would be nice if a bin of empty cases could be positioned closer to Station 1 so you wouldn't have to move your hand so far to pick up a case and then load it onto the shellplate.

Dillon Precision finally designed a product to do this (the Cartridge Case Bin & Bracket) but I'd rather save the $26 and put it toward buying more powder, primers or bullets. Besides, I really like DIY projects!

The Project:

AkroBins® have a lip on the back for hanging, and a ridge around the rim so bins can be stacked. If you turn one bin 90 degrees you can hang it on the side of another bin. So, in theory, you could hang a bin for empty cases on the side of the cartridge collection bin. This would place it the perfect location when loading.
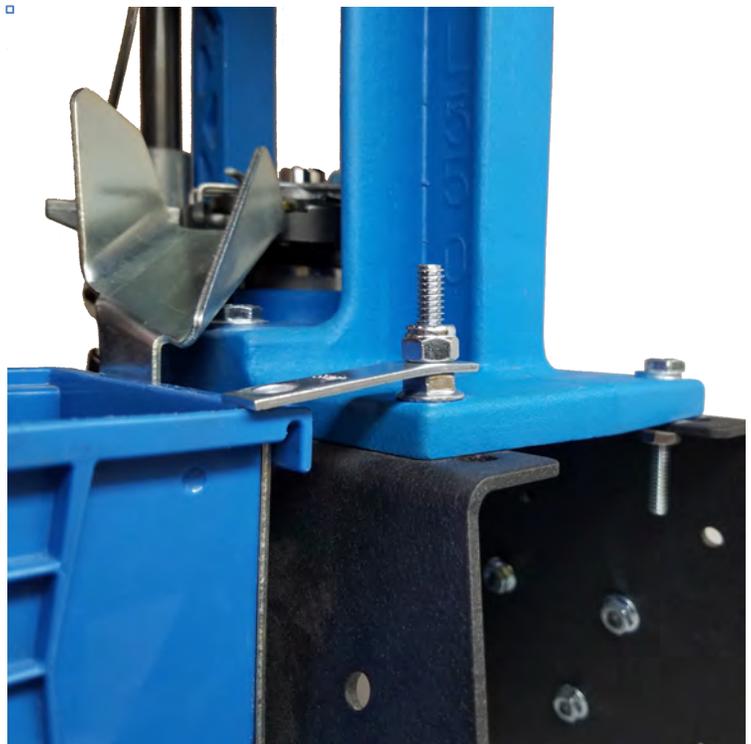
Unfortunately, the weight of the empty case bin will cause the cartridge collection bin to tip. However, all that would be needed is some type of latch to keep the bin from tipping. It didn't take me long to noodle an easy way to make a latch with just a few dollars wort of parts. Here is what I did.

Parts Needed:

- 2" x 1/2" Mending Plate (Qty. = 1) — [ACE Hardware #5292057 / $1.59]
- 1/4"–20 Nyloc Hex Nut (Qty. = 1) — [ACE Hardware #??????? / $0.15]

Installation:

1) Remove the right rear press mounting bolt and reinstall it with the bolt head under the press and the threaded end sticking upward. Tighten the nut.
2) Install the Mending Plate over the bolt. You will notice that once the mending plate is clamped into position with the Nyloc Hex Nut, it will be about 1/4" above rim of the cartridge collection bin, allowing the bin to tilt a bit. Remove the Mending Plate, bend it downward slightly to eliminate the gap. You may need to adjust it a few times to get the angle just right before proceeding.
3) Install the 1/4"–20 Nyloc Hex Nut. Screw the nut down until it is just tight enough that you can still move the Mending Plate.

Using It:

1) Swing the Mending Plate counter-clockwise so that it is out of the way of the cartridge collection bin mounting bracket.
2) Hang the cartridge collection bin on the mounting bracket.
3) Swing the Mending Plate clockwise so that it extends over the corner of the cartridge collection bin.
4) Hang the empty case bin on the rim of the cartridge collection bin.

You will notice that the side of the cartridge collection bin will tend to flex a little under the weight of a full empty case bin. This can be minimized by keeping the empty case bin as close to the press operating handle as possible. You can minimize it by using a shorter bin (AkroBin® #30-240) as shown in the photo. I also prefer the shorter bin as it keeps your hand closer to the shellplate.

Closing Thoughts

Is this a perfect solution? Well, no. For one, it isn't as strong as Dillon's Cartridge Case Bin & Bracket. But, for less than two dollars cost in parts and a few minutes of time to install, it is a workable solution!

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