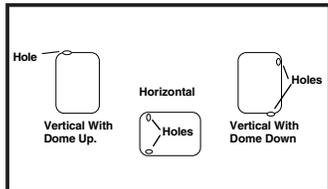


**Walter Ray, Warsaw, Ontario:** "After we heard about problems farmers have had with Ford-Versatile 276 bi-directional tractors burning up, we inspected our own 276 which has front and rear hydraulics and 3-pt. hitches. I'm convinced that the problem farmers have had is that there are too many electrical and hydraulic lines running through the center articulation joint. The hydraulic lines wear through and then an electrical spark starts a fire. We think we've eliminated the problem permanently by wrapping a piece of thin plastic sheeting around the hydraulic lines. We simply used a snow sled that people up here call a "lazy carpet". There's a 5/16-in. steel loop in the articulation joint that rubs on the line. The plastic goes between that and the line. We just wrapped it around the line several times. Provides peace of mind."

**R.E. Charlton, Jr., Dillwyn, Va.:** "Here's a tip that works well for me when lacing together replacement baler belts. I first melt the cords then press the cut ends together. It keeps the laces from pulling out later."

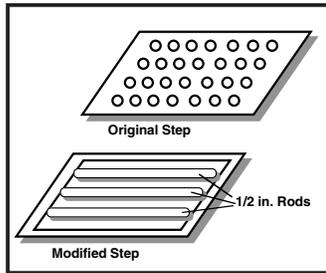
**Ken Turbett, Winnipeg, Manitoba:** "I have a 20-ft. wide solid frame cultivator. Somehow, the rockshaft got twisted so there was a 4 to 5 in. difference in cultivating depth from one side to the other. To solve the problem, we mounted 14-in. car tires on the high end. The diameter difference between the car tires and the regular implement tires is just right to fix the problem. I saved about \$2,500 over the cost of making a repair or switching cultivators. To fine tune tillage depth, now I adjust air pressure in the tires."

"To make spin-on oil filter changes less messy, I use a nail to make air and drain holes



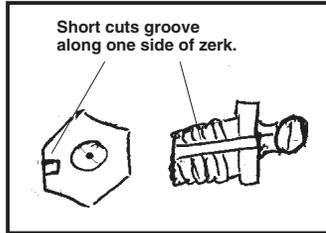
in the filters before taking them off. The drawing shows where I make the two holes."

**Sam Lambert, Pontiac, Ill.:** "A small problem with our White 160 tractor was the round holes in the cab steps. They weren't large enough for dirt thrown up by the wheels to fall through. The dirt would build up and make a round, slippery mess. To solve the problem, we cut out the perforated part of the steps and welded two 1/2-in. dia. rods across the hole so dirt can fall through. Makes



a good solid, non-skid step."

**Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo.:** "Hack-sawing a groove in the side of grease fittings to relieve pressure as you fill bearings with grease is an easy way to prevent damage to grease seals. You just cut a groove along one



side of the threads. This lets air out as you pump in grease. When grease starts to come out, you stop. It keeps grease from pushing out on the bearing seals.

"I make many of my own replacement parts in my shop. They say inflation is low but it seems the cost of parts goes up 50 to 100 percent a year. Parts which were \$4 to \$5 three or four years ago now cost \$35. One part I recently made cost \$75 at the dealer yet cost me only \$3.50 to make.

"To do work like this, I've outfitted my shop with lots of metal working equipment. My latest acquisition is a forge, since I need heat for various parts. The forge saves money over using acetylene."

**Marlon Steinwand, Edgeley, N. Dak.:** "I have only one gripe with my late 1980's Hesston 5580 round baler. The pickup and throat are positioned so close together hay has a tendency to wrap and plug around the squeeze roller, resulting in excessive clutch wear and frequent broken chains.

"To solve the problem, I bolted a 6-in. dia. piece of pipe right above the pickup to keep even the longest stemmed hay moving through with ease. It runs the length of the entire squeeze roller.



**Slip rings built into shaft maintain constant electric contact so cord remains "hot" as you roll it out.**

Minneapolis, Kan. 67467 (ph 913 392-3520).

# FARM SHOW

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

*Have you come up with any unusual money saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of farm equipment and how you solved it.*

*These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665)*

*Mark Newhall, Editor*

"I made the modification at the beginning of baling season last year. I made more than 1,000 bales, many of them sweet clover and long-stemmed ditch hay. Didn't slip the clutch or break a chain once."

**Marion L. McGee, Columbia, Mo.:** "I built an 'equalizer hitch' to make my 1984 Ford F-150 steadier under load by allowing weight to be transferred back onto the trailer. It consists of half a leaf spring off a 3/4-ton International truck. It extends out the back of the pickup and connects to the trailer neck.

"The spring U-clamps in a box, made from 1/2 by 3-in. flat stock, that pivots on a 1-in. dia. pin centered directly under the ball



hitch. A recessed spacer under the ball nut provides clearance between the pin and hitch for a roll or cotter pin that secures the 1-in. pin. A 3/4-in. dia. Grade 8 bolt secures the front straps to your receiver tube while a chain provides vertical adjustment. A 3-in. channel cleat works on V-neck trailers; a U-clamp works on tubing tongues. To unhook a trailer, you simply loosen the 3/4-in. bolt. One caution: the trailer neck must be able to handle the added loading, so you may need to reinforce it."

**Randy Henson, Rt. 1, Box 195, Wheeler, Texas 79096 (ph 806 826-5665):** "You don't throw away a pocket knife just because the blade gets dull, so why throw away sickle sections when they get dull?" says Randy, a custom harvester who's come up with a unique method of sharpening sickles.

"In our area, we cut a lot of short dryland wheat and a sharp sickle bar is a must or you

have to slow your ground speed way down. I use a small hand-held Dremmel grinder that you can buy at most hardware stores to sharpen blades on my Deere 24-ft. sickle. I fit it with a wafer thin cutting disk about 3

**Henson cuts 1/8-in. deep slots in sides of worn sickle sections with this hand-held grinder.**



in. in dia. You can buy them for about \$3 apiece at a machine shop. To fit the disks to the grinder's shaft, you'll have to get a machine shop to custom-fabricate an adapter mandrel, which shouldn't cost more than \$10 or \$15.

"To use, you simply make 1/8-in. deep cuts into the sides of the dull blade, skipping two or three of the original serrations between cuts. It takes only a minute or two per blade and two cutting disks should take care of a 24-ft. sickle bar. The easiest way to sharpen the blades is to remove the sickle bar from the header. However, you can leave the sickle bar in place to do the job. You can cut into two blades at a time. No need to unbolt the blades.

"The tool costs only about \$70, including the adapter mandrel, which is a drop in