

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

**Craig Froman, English, Ind.:** "I keep a bunch of golf tees in my toolbox for closing fuel or vacuum lines while during repairs. I also save all the plastic plugs and covers that come on new hydraulic hoses and fittings in order to put over hoses when doing repairs to keep out dirt and moisture. Small ones are especially useful for diesel injection pumps and lines.

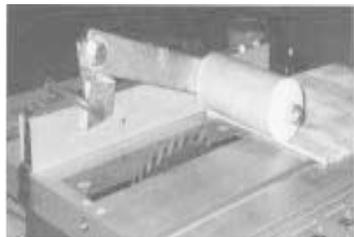
"When I have to change engines on a mower - push or riding - I turn the mower upside down and weld the engine bolts to the frame (unless it's aluminum or die cast) and take the nuts off on the top. Thereafter it's a lot easier to take the engine off for repairs.

"Damage to inner tubes by rusty tractor rims can be avoided by wrapping the rim with duct tape. It will seal them up. It's best to put two layers and make sure it's smooth with no wrinkles.

"I made a bracket to hold my large Handy Man jack on the back of my tractor. Now I always have the jack with me in the field or when building fence. Real handy for a lot of jobs.

"You can make a paper towel holder for the shop or garage using a heavy wire coat hanger. Just cut one corner and make a couple of interlocking hooks. They also work well to hold rolls of tape, hose clamps, small bearings, etc."

**Walt Behrens, Minot, N. Dak.:** Walt's company, Behrens Construction & Mfg., recently introduced this new patent-pending roller that attaches to the fence of a table saw



to hold wood securely in place.

The "Roller Holder" consists of an 8-in. long by 2 1/2-in. dia. smooth PVC roller and 10-in. long steel arm. The roller turns on lubrication-free nylon bearings on the arm and

### Rolling Stairway Handy In Shop, Farmyard

An Illinois farmer bought a set of metal stairs when a local manufacturer went out of business and reworked them for use in his shop, mounting them on wheels and adding a 4-ft. square platform on top.

John Imhoff, Roanoke, Ill., says the rolling stairway provides him with easy access to any part of his 50-ft. sq. shop. It can also be rolled outside to put the tarp on his semi truck, etc. "Climbing up the stairway is a lot easier than climbing up a ladder and it's easy to roll around," says Imhoff, who credits employee Dave Kindig (pictured) for most of the modifications made to the stairway. "I use it often to access a balcony on one side of my shop where I store parts. I also use it to change light bulbs in the shop ceiling."

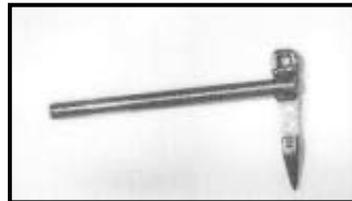
The stairway originally was equipped with a pair of vertical steel legs on back. However, mounting a platform on top required support so Kindig cut off the legs and repositioned them at an angle. The legs are braced by a pair of criss-crossed steel rods. Wheels at the back mount on a pivoting axle made from steel tubing. It pivots

the arm attaches to the table saw fence with a C-clamp. You position the roller as close to the blade as possible.

Sells for \$24.95 plus \$4 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Behrens Construction & Mfg., 7110 Co. Rd. 15 West, Box 227, Minot, N. Dak. 58703 (ph 800 659-1268 or 710 839-5643).

**Stanley Spohr, Avilla, Ind.:** "The best slag hammer I've ever used consists of half a com-



bine sickle guard welded to a 1-ft. long, 3/4-in. dia. rod.

"The guard is made from a real hard material that's ideal for knocking slag off welds. I've never had to sharpen it in the three or four years I've used it, unlike commercial slag hammers I've used in the past.

"It cost nothing to make and works like a charm."

**Glen Thompson, Traer, Iowa:** Glen came up with a low-cost effective way to keep water from leaking into the auger ports on his grain bin.

"I have a 6,000 bushel drying bin with three 4-in. dia. augers that go through the roof to storage bins. The flex of the roof often allows water to leak around the augers, damaging them when it freezes.

"I found that using spray-on Styrofoam insulation, the kind you buy for \$3 or \$4 a can at any hardware store, solves this problem. You simply apply the insulation 2 or 3 in. above the auger in a horseshoe shape that's bigger than the auger itself. This forms a diversion above the roof to stop the leak.

"I tried this on one auger a couple years ago and it worked so well I did the same to the other two the following year. Just for looks, I've trimmed up the excess insulation with a knife and painted it to match the bin. You can make diversions for three or four augers and have half a can of insulation left."



from side to side so that all four wheels carry an equal load on uneven ground. To reduce any danger of tipping, threaded adjustment cranks can be used to tighten down either end of the axle and make it rigid.

The platform at the top of the stairway consists of a metal frame covered by plywood.

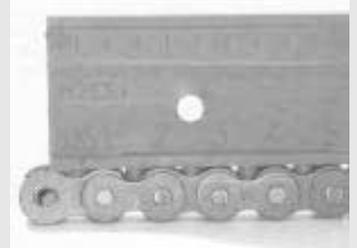
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Imhoff, RR 2, Box 52, Roanoke, Ill. 61561 (ph 309 923-7345).

### "Roller Chain Ruler" Takes The Guesswork Out Of Broken Chain Repairs

If you've ever had to replace a broken chain roller, you know it can be a pain to get the chain sized right. This new "Roller Chain Ruler" has pegs on one side that hold the chain in place and large numbers on both sides of the ruler that tell you how many chain links you'll need. The ruler can also be read in millimeters and inches.

"It's a lot faster than counting individual links and also eliminates the possibility that you'll miscount the links," says Kent Zimmerman, John Day Co., Omaha, Neb.

The ruler is made from recycled plastic so it isn't affected by gas, solvents, or oils. A hole at each end of the ruler lets you hang it from a wall or mount it on a bench. Comes in a set of three different rulers for No. 40, 50, and 60 chain.



Sells for \$35 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Day Co., 6263 Abbott Drive, Omaha, Neb. 68110 (ph 800 767-2273 or 402 455-8000; fax 402 457-3811) or Roller Chain Ruler, Rt. 1, Box 85, Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531 (ph 218 685-4604).

**Rodney D. Reese, Port Matilda, Pa.:** After mounting a Gandy applicator on his Case-IH 8750 forage harvester, Rodney decided to make the applicator, which he uses to apply granular inoculant, automatic rather than manual.



"I mounted an industrial switch (Allen-Bradley 800T-B6B) under the upper feed roll on my forage harvester to operate the two-tube drop applicator. The applicator, which has extensions for a total capacity of 100 lbs., mounts ahead of the cutterbar and behind the feed roll to drop inoculant on silage as it enters the cutterhead.

"I used a regular trailer plug between the tractor and machine to supply 12-volt power. A pilot light in the tractor cab monitors operation.

"When silage raises the upper feed roll, the switch is on and the applicator runs. When the feed roll is down, the switch goes off and so does the applicator. That way, you're only running the applicator when material is coming into the machine so you're applying inoculant more evenly than if you were controlling the operation by hand.

"This principle would work on any forage harvester. Any industrial 'normally on' switch, which you can buy at a good electrical supply company, would work."

**Fred Lewton, Valley Grove, W. Va.:** "I had rotator cuff surgery on my right shoulder in 1988, which made it even more troublesome than usual to reach behind me to operate the manual tie arm on my Massey Ferguson 560 round baler.

"So I came up with a 'poor man's' automatic tie system from a variety of old parts I had around the shop. It cost nothing to make yet works as well as comparable after-market or optional factory-built systems that cost hundreds of dollars.

"I used a 12-volt rear window motor out of a 1978 GMC Suburban. I used two U-bolts to mount the electric motor on the 1 1/2-in. dia. bar which runs from one side of the baler to the other and on which the manual tie arm pivots. I welded a piece of 1-in. dia. rebar, which I bent into a 90 degree angle, into the eyelet that originally held the rope that engages and disengages the tie arm. The rebar extends the arm so that travel is exactly 70 in., enough to tie my 60 in. long bales.

"I next ran electric wires back inside the tractor cab along the hydraulic lines and connected them to the window motor switch which I mounted inside a 2 by 4-in. metal electric box. I simply mount the box wherever it's handy in the cab with a magnet.

"Now, the only manual operation in baling remains cutting the twine. Saves a lot of time and aggravation, and a lot of strain on my shoulder."

**Roland Schild, Greenfield, Ill.:** Roland mounted a big fluorescent light on top of his 10-ft. long shop boom to provide light for

(Continued on next page)

### Oil Saver Empties Quart Bottles

Every last drop of motor oil out of plastic quart bottles can be collected with this new recovery unit that can be set up on your workbench or hung from your shop or garage wall.

It consists of a plastic collection unit that holds five 1-qt. bottles upside down so that every last ounce of hard-to-get oil drains out. The oil runs down a channel to another quart bottle positioned below.

Sells for \$7 plus \$5 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Auto Accessories of America, Route 322, Box 427, Boalsburg, Pa. 16827 (ph 800 458-3475 or 814 364-2141; fax 9615).

