

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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the snap ring so it can't open enough to come off. The cap is held in place by a stud, which we drilled holes in to allow oil to go through. We also tapped threads inside the shaft for the stud to screw in. This fix worked."

John B. Lott, North Bay, Ontario: "Here's a simple way to protect axle handles. I weld a 4 to 6-in. long piece of angle iron to the axle head, in front of the handle. Greatly extends the life of the handle."

Gary Bakken, Detroit Lakes, Minn.: Gary hadn't taken a track off his late 1940's Cat 5T for years, until the right final drive pinion and a couple of ball gears dropped out.

"When I tried to remove the master pin in the rail, the pin was so seized up I couldn't budge it," Gary says.

"So I made a pin press out of scrap metal and a 30-ton bottle jack. The 6-in. sq. base is made out of 3/8-in. steel plate. I made two 18-in. side braces out of 1/4 by 6-in. strap and a top grid out of 3/8 by 2-in. strap. I mounted the jack on the base and then bolted the base, braces and grid together. The grid fits over the pin boss on the links of the rail



to keep it in exact alignment with the jack ram. I wedged a steel shaft slightly smaller in dia. between the ram and the pin to apply force to the pin.

"After a little pumping, the pin popped



loose and I was able to tap it out fairly easily. "I haven't found another use for it, but it works real slick for this repair and was easy to put together and much cheaper than renting a commercial pin press."

Joe Mader, Mid-West Thermoplastic Welding Products, Winchester, Ind.: Joe's company handles a new generation of state-



of-the-art plastic welders that's ideal for repairing everything from plastic ductwork to car and pickup bumpers.

"They feature an operator-safe barrel that remains cool to the touch and pinpoints the heat through the tip, rather than heating a bigger area," he says. "Front venting blows fumes away from the operator and air filters provide longer element life."

A new 29-page instruction booklet on thermoplastics welding is available, as is an instructional video tape.

Eighteen models are available starting at \$249 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mid-West Thermoplastic Welding Products, 4660 N. 300 E., Winchester, Ind. 47394 (ph/fax 765 584-0050).

Arthur Koehler, BLH Electronics Inc., Canton, Mass.: BLH manufactured the draft sensing pins used on Case-IH tractor 3-pt. hitches - Magnums up through Steiger 4-WD's - until Case recently took its business overseas. The two clevis-like pins sense the draft on the lower two 3-pt. arms and keep the load on the tractor constant by electronically and hydraulically adjusting implement height which, in turn, keeps tractor speed at



Equipment Ladder Makes Repairs Safer

Using a conventional ladder to make repairs on big equipment can be awkward and non-productive. Not to mention unsafe.

That's what led Illinois farmer Albert Stier to build a rolling, heavy-duty ladder for use in his shop and farmyard.

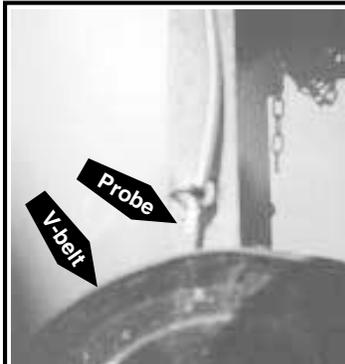
He picked up the ladder as salvage from a local business. It consisted of the ladder, platform and frame. The problem was that it was too heavy to move around. So he added a couple wheels.

They mount on an axle positioned at the balance point. It's fitted with a lift bracket

so that when he needs to move the stairs, he simply raises the bottom crossbar onto the bracket and uses a handle attached to the axle to pull them around the yard. With one hand on the top platform and one on the handle, he can easily roll the steps anywhere needed.

He also added a fold-down step that hinges to the edge of the top platform. It folds up onto the platform when needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Albert Stier, Rt.2, Box 37, Petersburg, Ill. 62675 (ph 217 632-2339).



Household Thermometer Used To Detect Belt Slippage

"The main drive belt on my sugar beet defoliator costs about \$400 so I came up with a simple belt slip monitor that tells me if there's a problem before a belt gets ruined," says Earl Riopelle, Argyle, Minn., adding that he thinks the idea would work to protect any expensive drive belt.

He bought an inexpensive indoor-outdoor thermometer and taped the sensor wire to a threaded rod that's clamped onto the machine's frame. The sensor is positioned about 1 inch above the belt and is protected by a plastic hose that Riopelle slid over the rod. The wire runs to the thermometer's digital display mounted inside the cab.

"It's a simple idea that can save a lot of money and time," says Riopelle. "The 4-grooved belt on my defoliator is 20 ft. long and 5 in. wide. Normally it will operate 30 to 40 degrees higher than the outdoor temperature due to friction. If the belt starts to slip the temperature rises rapidly and I should shut down the machine as quickly as possible. I think the same idea could be used on any machine equipped with expensive drive belts.

"I paid \$10 for the thermometer."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Earl Riopelle, Box 11, Argyle, Minn. 56713 (ph 218 437-6481).

a constant level.

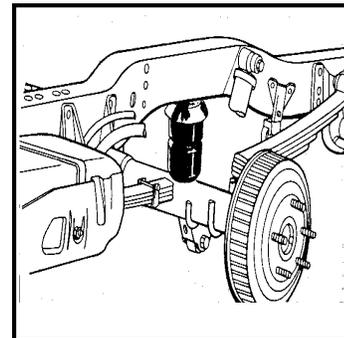
"BLH now has a surplus of sensor pins," Arthur says. "We're selling them direct for \$356 apiece (retail), compared with around \$600 for the same part from Case-IH."

Pins are warranted for a year, and the company delivers overnight.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BLH Electronics Inc., 75 Shawmut Rd., Canton, Mass. 02021 (ph 781 821-2000; fax 828-1451; Web site: www.blh.com).

Steve Hogue, Schuling Hitch Company, Ames, Iowa: "The big difference between the load boosters for pickups we sell and other systems on the market is that ours never needs adjusting once it's installed," says Steve about his Timbren "Little Rubber Load Booster" kits.

They consist of a pair of 4 to 5-in. dia. hollow rubber springs that bolt to existing holes between the frame and axle. They do not take



the place of the existing leaf spring but flex in conjunction with it to improve the ride of the truck and protect the springs against overloading.

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New Device Greases Sealed Bearings

A regular grease gun can be used to lubricate sealed bearings in pulleys, sprockets, or wheel hubs, says R & R Distributing, Tribune, Kan., about its new tool called the "Grea-Ser".

It consists of a threaded bolt that clamps into a vise. You place the bearing on top of a nut that's screwed onto the bolt. Then a tapered fitting is set against the bearing with a grease "barrel" over that. A large nut cap holds everything in place. A grease gun is then used to force grease into the bearing.

"It lets you grease various sized sealed bearings from 3/8 to 1-in. shaft size. The tool sells for \$49 plus S&H so if you save just two sealed bearings you've already paid for the unit," says Roy Mai. "It can even be used to add grease to brand new sealed bearings before you use them. The zerk barrel has a large side and a small side to match the bearing size. Optional tapers can be used to match various bearing sizes."



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R & R Distributing, Rt. 1, Box 35, Tribune, Kan. 67879 (ph 800 292-7692 or ph and fax 316 376-4039).