

# Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

flush with the concrete to be poured. We put caps over the anchors when not in use.

"Each anchor cost just \$25 in materials and took about 30 min. apiece to set up."

**Arvin De Cook, Sully, Iowa:** Arvin mounted a powerful 300-watt floodlight on rolling frame made from bike parts into order to have good light anywhere in his shop



or farmyard.

He used a junk bike frame and three bike wheels, joined together with scrap steel. The light mast mounts at the center. A hand-cranked screw jack is used to raise and lower the light, which also pivots back and forth as needed. A hinged handle on front makes it easy to pull around. Two 40-ft. extension cords hang from the side of the frame.

**Rick Mabeus, Winfield, Iowa:** "I got tired of always untangling my extension cords so I came up with the idea of putting them in empty plastic buckets. I now have



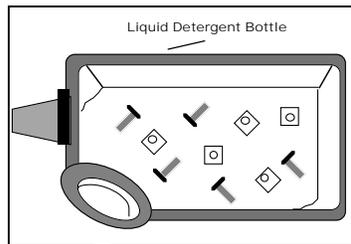
five different cords in buckets. They're easy to carry around and it's easy to coil the cord back into the bucket. I use 5 and 1-gal. buckets, depending on the cord. The male end of the cord sticks out a 1 1/2-in. hole cut in the side of the bucket. It's a very handy idea that saves a lot of hassle."

**Don Moss, Tallula, Ill.:** He built a hydraulic-powered press to use to straighten out longer items like wagon tongues, planter markers, fence posts, pipe, and so on. The press has a 5-ft. long bed made of a heavy piece of plate steel supported by a V-shaped base. A 20-ton cylinder applies down pressure to a 4-ft. long section of 4 by 4 heavy-



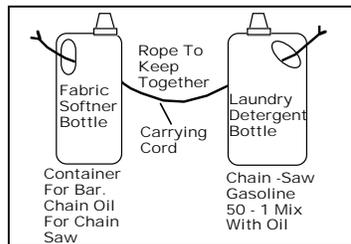
walled pipe. He attached a ring to the top of the press so he can pick it up with a tractor loader to move it. He says there's nothing on the market like it that's priced reasonable and he built it mostly out of scrap parts. (C.F. Marley)

**Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.:** "You can make a large sorting tray for bolts, nuts and other small parts using a large plastic laundry detergent bottle. Just remove one side



and lay it flat. After you've found what you want, you can screw off the top and pour the parts back into a storage jar. Handy and quick.

"I also use detergent bottles to carry oil and mixed gasoline for my chainsaw. I put a 50:1 mix of gas and oil into a larger red bottle and chain oil in a smaller blue bottle. Then I tie the handles together with a length of cord to



make them easy to carry out to the woods. These types of bottles now have built-in pouring spouts so no funnel is needed. Very handy."

## New "J-Wrench" Reaches Into Tight Spots

This might be the handiest tool since the crescent wrench.

"Response has been tremendous. The demand for a tool like this is unbelievable," says David Lund, inventor of the new "J-Wrench" which is essentially an extension for ratchets or power drills. It makes it possible to reach into tight spots that wouldn't be accessible any other way.

It simply fits over the ratchet or drill on one end and you fit a socket or screw drive to the other end. There's a gear-drive system enclosed inside the wrench that drives it.

Two models are available. One has a socket drive and the other has a 1/4-in. hex-style drive for screw tips.

Sells for about \$55 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dakota Tools, Inc., Box 261, Orford, New Hampshire 03777 (ph 888 597-3624; fax 603 353-4836).



## Heavy-Duty Shop-Built Metal Roller

"Commercial units are real hard to come by and you have to pay through the nose if you ever find one," says Bruce Barnes about a heavy-duty metal roller he and his employee Chad Burnett built out of components Barnes collected over a period of five or six years. It handles sheet metal up to 8 ft. wide and 1/4-in. thick and will roll any diameter necessary.

The Girard, Ill., welder has used the machine to roll snow plow blades, grain bin hopper bottoms, auger troughs, replacement buckets for backhoes, and barrels.

It features three solid steel rolls weighing 1,000 lbs. apiece. They're made out of a salvaged industrial size machine bolt cut into three 8-ft. long sections. Originally 6 1/2 in. in dia., the giant threaded bolt sections were turned down flat to exactly 6 in. on Barnes' lathe, which took a month. The rollers mount together in a triangular configuration, held in place by side panels made out of 2 in. solid plate. Four cross-braces made out of 1/2-in. thick pipe hold the unit together.

A 5 hp electric gear reduction motor drives the bottom roller mounted using a

double #80 roller chain and sprocket. A 1 hp electric motor at each side of the machine moves the rear roller up and down to vary the finished diameter of the material being rolled. The two motors are wired to run independently or together.

The machine is fitted on the left side with a cam latch made out of pipe to open the side to remove large dia. pieces.

A control panel, also mounted on the left side, swivels to permit operating the machine from the center or off to the side.

Altogether, the roller weighs 5,200 lbs. and stands about 30 in. tall.

"The trickiest part was getting the rollers wired to run independently or together. It took an electrician quite a while to figure that out," Barnes says. "We've used it for several jobs since completing it in January and it works beautifully."

Out-of-pocket expense was \$1,500, including \$500 in new parts, compared with commercial units that cost \$20,000 or more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce's Welding, 302 S Third, Girard, Ill. 62640 (ph 217 627-2241).

**Gary Max Busler, Blaine, Tenn.:** Gary had problems from the get-go with an early 1980's Deere 510 baler he bought used three years ago.

"The belts would cross and lock up in the front of the baler when I started to make a core in light hay. I had to stop, pull out the hay and uncross the belts whenever I started to make a core in light hay, which got extremely aggravating in short order.

"To solve the problem, I made a guide for

side of the belts, then bolted the other section of pipe to it. I bolted the assembly horizontally into the baler just above the roller.

"I haven't had a problem with belts crossing since. The biggest expense was \$25 for the bolts I used, with all other components coming from scrap I had on hand."

**J.R. Tucker, Tucker Tire, Dyersburg, Tenn.:** "Here's a recipe for 'flatless' tractor tires several of my customers at Tucker Tire swear by.

"The recipe is simply a mixture of anti-freeze and shredded newspapers. You mix up the two ingredients in a bucket so that a thick paste forms. Then you pour a half-gallon or so inside a tubeless tire so it coats the entire inside. Let it dry thoroughly and put the tire back on the rim. When the mixture has hardened, the newspaper fibers will automatically seal small holes, up to 1/8-in. in dia., made by brush or thorns.

"I also sell a variety of 8-ply tractor tires that last longer than 2 or 4-ply tires. Prices start at about \$45 for 15-in. tires, the equivalent of what Firestone and Goodyear ask for 4-ply tires of the same size. As we like to



the belts to run in. I cut a 10-ft. long highway stop sign post. I used the round bushings out of a GM car's brake calipers as spacers between the two sections of sign posts, which keeps them 2 or 3 in. apart. To install the guide, I placed one section of pipe on one

(Continued on next page)