John R. Clouser, Wolsey, S.Dak.: "I recently installed platinum plugs in my pickup and increased gas mileage by 2 miles per gallon. The plugs are not that expensive and you can get them at most parts stores."

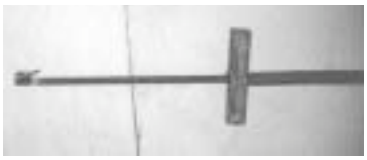
Paul Fox, Prospect Harbor, Maine: "To keep track of maintenance chores, I made a list of each engine I have – car, truck and tractor – with oil capacity and filter number. I cover the list with a piece of plexiglass and note the date and hours or mileage of each oil change using a grease pencil. That way I can rub it off each time. Makes it easy to tell at a glance what needs servicing."

Pete Peters, Osler, Sask.: "Here's a vise I made for sharpening saw chains. To build it, I mounted a small vise on a stand and ex-

tended the width of the vise jaws to 10 in. by welding two pieces of flat iron, 1/2 in. thick by 1 in. wide and 10 in. long, to the existing jaws. This 10-in. wide clamp holds a large section of chain which can then be sharpened easily.

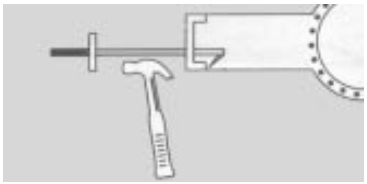
"I also made this bearing race removal tool. It consists of a 3-in. piece of 3/4-in. steel rod and an 8-in. piece of 2-in. sq. tubing. I drill a hole in the piece of tubing and stick the rod through it and weld it in place about 10 in. from the end of the rod.

"Next, I weld the tip of a steel chisel to the



end of the rod, positioned at a backward angle. Now you're ready to go.

"Slip the rod into the race and hook the



chisel tip onto the inside. Then pound on the sq. tubing with a hammer to pull it out."

Richard Bergman, Gleason, Wis.: Do you have trouble keeping the nozzle clean on your grease gun? Richard has a simple solution. He covers the tip of his gun with an empty 20-ga. shotgun shell.

Buddy Hoopes, Beloit, Ohio: "When my gas barbeque grill wore out, I discarded the grill and turned the rolling stand into a por-

table miter saw table.

"I left the side shelves on and built a table to fit on top. At each end, I attached 6-in. wide boards that are level with the surface of the miter saw to provide extra support. I fastened the saw down with just two bolts so it can be removed easily. The shelf below carries spare parts and tools.

"Being portable, it's now easy to roll the saw outside the shop to cut down on dust inside."

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 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 or e-mail us at: Editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

Raymond Thomas, Edinburg, Ill.: "A lot of guys use plastic oil and anti-freeze jugs to store parts and hardware. One thing I've

learned is that lighter-colored jugs - yellow or white - work better than black jugs because it's so much easier to see inside them.

"I use yellow 1-gal. jugs. I cut the top off each jug and use a permanent marker to indicate on the jug the size nuts or bolts that it holds. I used old 2 by 6 wooden boards to make shelves for the jugs.

"The jugs are easy to use - whenever I want a part I can either reach into the jug or grab the handle and pull the jug off the shelf and take it with me."

Samuel Wurz, Vulcan, Alberta: "We came up with our own 'no spill' oil recycling

tank. We started with a 700-gal. tank and bolted a 1 1/2-ft. sq. metal container on top of it. The container has a 2-in. dia. opening at the bottom that allows oil to drain into the tank. The container's hinged lid is held in place by a length of chain. The big advantage compared to using a funnel is that we can pour an entire 5-gal. pail of oil into the container without having to wait for it to drain. And, you don't get the mess you get with a funnel. Everything stays nice and clean."

Stan Knafelc, Watson, Sask.: "A friend of mine who worked in a bakery gave me some bread pans that they were planning to

discard. I decided to convert the pans into a Lazy Susan rack which I use in my shop to hold bolts, nuts, and small parts.

"The metal pans came connected together in trays, with four pans per tray. Each tray measures about 1 1/2 ft. wide by 3 ft. long. There's an opening between each pan. The Lazy Susan consists of a 7-ft. length of sq. tubing that rotates at the bottom on a front wheel spindle off an old tractor. The spindle mounts on a big truck wheel rim that serves as a base. To mount the trays, I welded a series of steel rods at right angles to the tubing to match the openings on the pans. The pans

Straightener Tool Takes Bends Out Of Auger Flighting

Rocks can put some impressive bends in the flighting on combine header augers. There aren't many effective ways of straightening them out unless you count hammers, vice grips, adjustable wrenches, or even pipe wrenches.

But bent flighting isn't much of a problem for Montana grain farmer Bob Lassila since he came up with a simple straightener tool.

"I started with a 4-ft. length of used 7/8-in. square bar stock. It's high tensile steel from an old rod weeder, so it makes a good lever because it won't bend," he explains. "I used the bar stock because I had it on hand, but you could make a lever from any kind bar, rod or pipe, as long as it won't bend."

Lassila simply cut a hole in a 4-in. length of 3 1/2-in. angle iron so that it slides up and down the bar. To use, he simply sets the bar on the side of the flighting away from the bend and slides the angle iron piece down over the flighting. "The bar is long enough that it gives me plenty of leverage to straighten the bend easily," he says. "We keep the tool in our truck when we're combining so it's right there if we need it. When we have to run the header low to the ground, we use it a lot," he says.

To straighten out a bend, Lassila sets 4-ft. long bar on side of auger flighting away from the bend and slides angle iron piece down over flighting.

The straightener works on any size flighting. "It's just a simple thing, but it works great. Several times, we've been able to straighten out a bend that might have otherwise required us to replace an auger," he says.

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