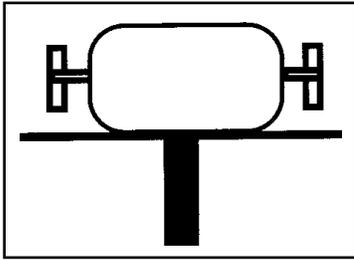


## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

bench. The 1 1/2-in. dia. pipes at the bottom of the tool-holding plate fit into the 2-in. dia.



Shop tools bolt to the top of 1/4-in. thick metal plates that have a short length of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe welded to their bottom side. The pipe fits into sockets on Henderson's work bench and pickup hitch.

pipe tool. I use a set screw to lock the two pipes together to hold the tool rigid.

"I also welded a 40-in. length of 2-in. dia. pipe into the hub of a car tire. I can turn the tire on its side and roll it around anywhere I want, then lay the tire flat and mount a tool on the pipe. I also fastened a 2-in. dia. pipe to the side of a wagon that I use to haul 20-ft. lengths of plastic irrigation pipe. I carry my portable generator and chop saw on the wagon. Once I get to the field I mount the chop saw on the side of the wagon, hook it up to the generator, and cut pipe right in the field.

"I also welded a 2-in. dia. pipe to one end of a 28-in. length of box tubing that fits into the receiver hitch on my pickup. The box tubing extends beyond the pickup tailgate when it's in the down position. The tool mounts on top of the pipe at the same level as the pickup bed."

**Bruce's Welding, 302 A 3<sup>rd</sup>, Girard, Ill. 62640 ph 217 627-2241:** An Asian timber

known as Apitong has become a favorite building material at Bruce's Welding whenever there's a call for extremely tough wood that will be slow to rot. Apitong was used for



the deck of this trailer which is intended for a concrete contractor. Bruce says it's a situation demanding the ultimate in tough.

According to importer Bill Schaffer, Mobile, Ala., Apitong is produced in such places as Melanesia and Indonesia, as well as in some other south Asian nations. He says Apitong has become the standard for flatbeds in North America simply because it's such a dense hardwood and is relatively free of defects. It is expensive, though. The deck for this trailer will cost about \$600. But it is cheaper in the long run because it performs so well.

**Jim Kopriva, Raymond, S. Dak.:** "Those little scissors jacks that come in small cars work slick with an air impact wrench. They jack up light implements in a jiffy or spread bent iron better than expensive hydraulic jacks."

**Vic Stratman, Argyle, Mo.:** "The tie rod ends on my Deere 2440 tractor are built in

(Continued on next page)



Liles cut an 8 by 10-in. hole on back part of deck. Sliding door allows access to blades.

## Easy Way To Sharpen Bush Hog Blades

"I got behind with my mowing so a friend of mine, Tommy Floyd, came over to help me get caught up. Tommy's mower had a good sized hole in the back of the deck, where it had rusted and then busted out," says William Liles, Jr.

"He told me he was in no hurry to fix the hole because it made the blades so easy to sharpen. He said he would just stick a 4 1/2-in. grinder under the back of the deck and then look through the hole to sharpen the blades.

"I thought it was a pretty good idea so I promptly cut a hole in my 6-ft. Rhino cutter. I cut a hole about 8 by 10 in. on the back of

the deck, and then welded pieces of L-iron around the edges of the hole to form a track. I put a handle on the piece I cut out of the deck, and then welded four pieces of 1-in. flat iron around the edge of the hole to hold the cover up when it's closed. I put a 1/2-in. bolt on one piece of the track to act as a set screw.

"This makes sharpening blades much easier. Many thanks to my friend and his rusted out mower."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Billy Liles, 1069 Collins Rd., Natchitoches, La. 71457 (E-mail: lilesn@sp-tell.net).

## Simple Device Converts AC Welder To DC

"A friend asked me to do some DC welding on rather thin steel. He thought I could arc weld the material. I knew I could do it but I wanted to do the neatest job possible so I wanted a way to TIG weld the material rather than arc weld," says Stan McDonald, Foxboro, Ontario.

"The problem was that I only had an AC arc welder at the time and therefore needed to modify my current welder to allow me to do DC welding. I couldn't justify buying a new machine for a one-time job.

"So I made a converter that allows me to do DC tig work in my shop. Total cost of the converter was \$165. It worked so well I now sell the converter for \$230 Canadian (about \$150 U.S.).

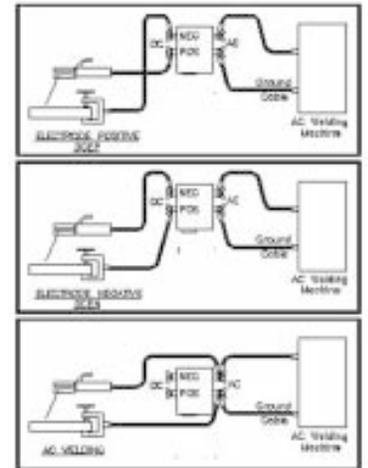
"DC welding gives you better penetration, better out-of-position welding (vertical and overhead welds), and it's better for hard-surface cladding. It also gives you a more stable arc and, once established, the arc won't extinguish as easily as an AC arc. You'll get better looking and more consistent weld beads. It will also let you weld thinner metals and you can stick weld automotive sheet metal with a little practice. You can also weld stainless steel and aluminum, and use a greater selection of electrodes.

"My DC converter was designed for small shops or hobbyists who already have an AC welder. It's an economical way to add DC capability to your shop. It has a 200 amp rating and is rugged and simple. It rectifies the output of your AC welding machine to provide full wave DC output unlike manufactured units, which use single diodes and only produce a 1/2-wave rectifier which give you 1/2 the rated output of the AC.

"It's easy to connect to your welder. Just cut the cables and add cable lugs to each of the cut ends. Depending on how you hook



Converter simply has hookups on both sides for welding cables to attach to. Diagrams below illustrate how various hookups let you do different kinds of welding.



the cables to the converter, you can switch easily from AC to DC, and back again.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stan McDonald, 402 Rosedale Ave., Foxboro, Ontario, Canada K0K 2B0 (ph 613 968-9516; E-mail: smcdonal@kos.net).



Short T-shaped sleeve fits over drill chuck, allowing you to hook up a shop vac hose.



Unit keeps drill dust from falling onto furniture and carpet.

## Vacu Drill Can Save Project Clean-Up Time

Hate cleaning up after drilling holes to install wall anchors or ceiling fixtures?

Vacu Drill™ can save you a lot of time chasing drill dust around the floor or trying to get it out of carpeting. If done right, you won't need to put down a drop cloth.

Vacu Drill, the brainchild of Ron Baker, Baker Innovations, Alva Oklahoma, is a short T-shaped sleeve that fits over a drill chuck. It allows you to hook up a shop vac hose. "You just fasten the hose to the Vacu Drill and drill away," Baker says. "There's no need to move

or cover furniture and no mess when you're finished."

Besides walls and ceilings, you can use Vacu Drill on floors or on items being drilled in a drill press, too. Baker says Vacu Drill is available for under \$10. He's hoping it will soon show up in retail stores and home centers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Baker, Baker Innovations, 612 4th Street, Alva, Okla. 73717 (ph/fax 580 327-3097; E-mail: Bakerinnovation@webtv.net).