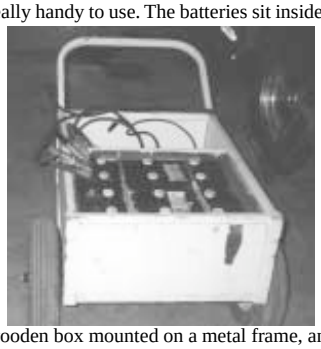
Rich Bednarski, 215 South Buffalo Rd., Washington, Pa. 15301 (ph 800 832-6350 or 724 345-3546): "I can supply all the parts necessary to rebuild mechanical-style torque amplifiers found on old International Harvester tractors made in the 1950's and early 1960's, and I can also rebuild them. My torque amplifier parts are less expensive than the ones sold by most implement dealers. If you want the unit rebuilt, most of the time I can rebuild it cheaper than you can buy a rebuilt unit from someone else.

"The tractor models include the Farmall Super MTA and models 300, 350, 400, 450, 460, 560, 666 and 686. The price to rebuild an amplifier depends on the parts that are needed and can vary from $110 to $400. Rebuilt units come with a 5-year warranty."

Joel Waldner, Lethbridge, Alberta: "We use a homemade, portable battery cart to jump start cars, trucks, and tractors. It eliminates the need to start up another vehicle and is really handy to use. The batteries sit inside a



wooden box mounted on a metal frame, and there's a handle at one end. The cart rides on two big rubber wheels which makes it easy to pull. A telescoping leg supports the front side of the cart. If we need a lot of power to jump start the vehicle, we can hook up both batteries at the same time. A compartment on front of the box can be used to store booster cables as well as a battery tester.

"We also came up with our own portable wood working table that makes it easy to clamp and glue together pieces of wood. The working area is 4 ft. off the floor which is much easier than working on the floor. An-

other advantage is that the clamps are held firmly in place by the table.

"The metal table is 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. long and mounts on four caster wheels. The 4-ft. long clamps on top of the table are spaced about 8 in. apart and fit through holes drilled into one side of the table. The handle end of each clamp has a hole drilled into it, allowing the clamps to be fitted over small metal tabs welded onto the opposite side of the table.

"A 3/4-in. plywood shelf below the top of the table is used to store extra clamps."

Leonard Seltzer, Manhattan, Ill.: "I used a couple of Army surplus wooden ammunition boxes and 2 by 4's to make a low-cost, double stacker toolbox. I bought the boxes

at a gun show for $5 apiece. The boxes measure about 3 ft. long and 1 ft. wide. I used screws to attach the legs to the boxes. The boxes came with hinges and a rope handle at each end. I screwed 1 by 4 wood spacers on the back side of the boxes, allowing me to raise the lids and prop them up with metal rods.

"I use the boxes to store heavier tools such as pipe wrenches, plumbing tools, big hammers - anything that would otherwise bang up an expensive commercial metal toolbox."

Ronald Lubke, Quality Metal Works, Inc., 101 N. Division St., Stanford, Ill. 61774 (ph/fax 309 379-5311): "I've recently begun marketing an electric cord winder that really works neat. The Wonder Winder is a heavy duty plastic housing equipped with a crank on one side, and a nylon net underneath

it for storing the cord. One end of the cord extends from the bottom of the net and plugs permanently into a wall outlet. To wind up the cord, you just wind it back up inside the net. You do that by pushing back on a lever on top of the housing and then turning the crank. The lever pushes the cord against a wheel inside the housing so that the cord comes out the bottom of the housing and winds up neatly inside the net. The crank can be mounted on either side of the housing.

"It keeps the cord up off the floor, stored neatly inside the net. The cord always stays plugged into the wall so you never have to unplug it. The net can store up to 150 ft. of cord. It takes only about 30 seconds to wind up 100 ft. of cord. It'll handle cord sizes from 16 ga. on up. It mounts with one pin to a bracket. By ordering more than one bracket you can easily move it from place to place. Sells for $22.95 plus S&H."

Duane McHenry, Rt. 2, Box 302, Clyde, Kansas 66938 (ph 785 446-3554): "I operate an irrigation supply business and also an aluminum welding business. To make it easier to straighten out gated pipe with dents

in it, I came up with a portable pipe straightener. It works on anything that has a round tube, including grain augers and combine unloading augers.

"My pipe straightener rides on four wheels and is about 25 ft. long. I started out with a scissors jack and welded two steel pans onto it, one at the top and one at the bottom. The jack mounts at one end of a 20-ft. length of sq. tubing that's mounted inside a pipe. The jack is operated by a hydraulic cylinder mounted at the other end of the tubing. I place one end of the bent pipe on a stand and slide the bent portion of the pipe over the jack, then use a 2-way control valve mounted just above the jack to operate it. One way pushes the top pan up and the other way pushes the bottom pan down. I can reach 20 ft. into a pipe. Most gated irrigation pipes are 30 or 40 ft. long so by turning the pipe around I can

Roll-Around Oil Changing Tank

Dave and Doug Miller find changing oil in cars, trucks and tractors more convenient and less messy since they made a portable oil drain tank.

The father-son team operates Miller Golden Acres near Donnybrook, North Dakota.

When they put up a new shop building recently, they installed a vehicle lift. To change oil, Doug converted an old 15-gal. water pressure tank into the oil drain tank by first cutting it open and removing the air bladder. Then he welded it back tight and added four casters to the bottom so it could be moved around easily.

On top of the tank, he cut a couple of holes - on in the center and one to the side - and welded short lengths of 1 1/2-in. steel pipe into them. "Both pipes are threaded on the outside end so I could put valves on them," he says.

The center pipe is the main drain and is fitted with a telescoping drain pan that he made by inserting a piece of 1 1/4-in. dia. pipe (attached to the bottom of the pan) inside a piece of 1 1/2-in. dia. tubing. He drilled a hole in the 1 1/2-in. pipe near the upper end, threaded it, and put in a bolt for a set screw so he could lock the drain pan in place.

His drain pan is made of an old disk blade. To keep oil from slopping over the edge of the disk blade, he fastened a 4-in. wide piece of rubber around the edge. "I welded a half in. rim around the outside edge of the disk blade and pop-riveted the rubber strip to that. Then I sealed it up on the inside with silicone so oil won't leak out," he says.

Finally, he added a flexible hose to the bottom of the tank to drain it out and an air inlet near the top. "I use a small amount of pressure to empty the tank into a larger used oil barrel in the shop," he says. "It's easier and less messy than trying to pour oil out of one container into another."

Contact: Farm Show Followup, Doug Miller, Miller Golden Acres, 32400 380th St. NW, Donnybrook, N. Dak. 58734 (ph 701 482-7873; E-mail: doumiller@hotmail.com).

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