

### Hard-To-Find Parts For Tinkerers

Ever started a project and found yourself looking for a small motor, sprocket, gear or other part? If so, you'll want to check out West Coast Inventory Supply.

It's a great online source of all kinds of parts from gears and shafts to motors, circuit boards and actuators. The company has both new and surplus parts. They cater to model builders, electro-mechanical designers, and just plain tinkerers. It's a great place to find parts for motorized robotics or school projects.

Staff are happy to advise you if you don't know quite what it is you need. Best way to order from them is online, but you can also order by mail order, fax or phone. Write or call for a free catalog if you can't access the catalog at their Website. The Website also includes links to other product and information sources.



West Coast Inventory Supply is a great source for all kinds of parts, from gears and shafts to motors, circuit boards and actuators.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, West Coast Inventor Supply, Box 80515, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif. 92688 (ph 949 858-7251; fax 949 858-7819; E-mail: service@wciisupply.com; Website: www.wciisupply.com).

### Chrome Liners For Forage Choppers

"These chrome liners will last three to four times longer than any other liner on the market," says Craig Talbot, R & H Machine, Inc., Caldwell, Idaho. The company specializes in chrome alloy wear parts for tillage tools and planters.

The chrome alloy liner bolts onto the blower chute and consists of 6 1/2-in. wide overlapping sections that vary in length and shape, depending on the chopper brand and model. The individual sections bolt together. To install them, the operator drills holes in the blower housing.

"It's a popular liner with custom forage choppers. In fact, some New Holland dealers in the San Joaquin Valley of California won't sell a new chopper without our liner in it," says Talbot. "If a crack develops in one of the liner sections, you can replace just that section."

"You can put the old liner back in with no problem when selling the machine. When installing the liner, it's a good idea to apply silicone between the liner and the housing, which greatly reduces vibration."

The chrome liner sells for 10 to 15 percent



Chrome alloy liner bolts inside the blower chute. It consists of 6 1/2-in. wide overlapping sections that vary in length and shape, depending on chopper brand and model.

more than conventional high-wear liners.

The company also sells long-wearing chrome alloy skids for forage chopper heads as well as swathers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R & H Machine, Inc., 115 Roedel Ave., Caldwell, Idaho 83605 (ph 800 321-6568; Website: www.rhmachine.com).

### Press Powered By Upside-Down Jack

"It gives me a much better view of what I'm doing because there's no base plate in the way," says Clifford Brandenburger, Beecher City, Ill., who built a small hydraulic press equipped with a 1 1/2-ton hydraulic jack placed upside-down.

The jack's 1 1/2-in. dia. ram can be extended up to 4 in. downward to press out bearings and bushings, etc.

"Normally, you can't use a hydraulic jack upside down. But I feed this some extra oil from an outside reservoir to keep the jack mechanism constantly bathed in oil," says Brandenburger.

He simply bolted a small oil tank to the top of the press frame and then ran a length of 1/4-in. dia. copper tubing from the tank to the jack. Oil in the tank flows by gravity down to the jack. He made another bracket for the jack and bolted it on upside down next to the tank. By pulling a pin from the bracket, he can slide the jack back and forth and center the jack over the object to be pressed. A horizontal metal platform below the jack can be raised or lowered up to 1 ft. by changing the position of two steel pins.



When he built this small hydraulic press, Clifford Brandenburger figured out a way to mount a 1 1/2-ton hydraulic jack upside down, resulting in a better view.

"The oil tank measures 1 ft. long and 1 1/2 in. in diameter, but any size tank would work as long as it's mounted above the jack," says Brandenburger, noting that he used steel pipe and 2-in. sq. tubing to build the press itself.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clifford Brandenburger, Rt. 2, Beecher City, Ill. 62414 (ph 618 487-5247).

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Replacement front bumper and grill protector folds down into a work platform. When folded down, work platform is bumper height and runs the full width of vehicle.

### Fold-Down Bumper Makes Engine Work Easier

Routine engine maintenance, like checking fluids or replacing spark plugs, can be difficult on pickups, trucks, vans or recreational vehicles. Otis Huff, Little River, Texas, found a way to make those jobs easier.

He designed a replacement front bumper and grill protector that folds down into a work platform.

"It's an idea I've had since I was 19 or 20 years old," says the 69-year-old retired farm equipment mechanic.

When he retired a few years ago, Huff began working out the details in his shop. Since then, he's made several prototypes of his bumper, using mostly scrap steel.

When folded down, Huff's work platform

is bumper height and runs the full width of the vehicle, about 20 in. wide. It's built strong and there's plenty of room to set tools and parts on it. For larger vehicles, the bumper can be fitted with wings that fold out along the sides of the truck.

Huff has applied for a patent on the idea and the design of some parts of the fold-down bumper. "I'd like to talk with someone who owns a small manufacturing company or machine shop that would be interested in manufacturing it," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Otis Huff, Box 455, 1306 W. Mesquite St., Little River, Texas 76554 (ph 254 982-3402).



Grip-Buddy handle replaces the knob. You tighten and release the jaws with the screw-in handle, not with the spring-loaded lever.

### Screw-In Handle For Vise Grip Pliers

If you own a set of Vise Grip-type "locking pliers", you'll be interested in this new screw-in handle that makes it easier to tighten down the jaws.

The Grip-Buddy gives you more control and more clamping power, says the Mastertool Co. It works like the handle on a bench vise.

Once the handle is installed, the Vise Grips work totally different. You tighten and release the jaws with the screw-in handle, not with the spring-loaded lever. So you can work in much tighter spots and get a tight fit on a nut or bolt much more quickly.

"If you want to use the release lever, you still can. But it's a lot easier and faster to turn the handle," says inventor Dan Mintz. "It gives you 20 percent more gripping power."

"One of the biggest advantages occurs when you want to reposition two pieces of

metal that you've clamped together. With a conventional vise grips you have to open the jaws all the way, readjust the pieces and then re-clamp the jaws. With the Grip Buddy, you just loosen the jaws grip a little, then use a hammer to tap the pieces into a new position and turn the handle clockwise to re-tighten the jaws."

"Another advantage is that there's no need to guess how big the jaw opening should be. You just put the jaws around the object and use the handle to tighten it down. There's no chance that you'll make a mistake and have to adjust the jaws again."

Sells for \$9.95 including S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mastertool Co., Box 2021, New York, N.Y. 10013 (ph 212 504-3293; fax 212 504-3293; E-mail: Mastertool@gripbuddy.com; Website: www.GripBuddy.com).