

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

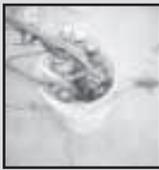
rods are made of the same material that is used in the space shuttle heat shield. This means they can withstand temperatures up to 4,000 degrees, so they won't stick to welds and will keep the holes open.

"The rods come in sets of 13 or 17, ranging from 1/8-in. to 2 1/2-in. in diameter. Both sets come in a carrying case. The 13-rod set costs \$79 and the 17-rod set is \$199."

Jack W. Griffith, Euless, Texas. "I got tired of pumping my hand sprayer during long jobs. So I decided to eliminate pumping by using air pressure. I installed a tire valve and simply fill it up with a compressor. As long as I don't overfill it, the sprayer works perfectly."



"Similarly, I needed a plastic carrying case to tote around a small oxy/acetylene torch. But the cheapest case I found still cost \$70. Instead I decided to put it in a five-gallon bucket and it still had room for a fire extinguisher."



George E. Adams, Sr., Williston, Fla.: "The old New Holland forage choppers have fan knives that are really hard to keep sharp and they have to be removed to be sharpened. Part of the problem is that you have to remove the housing to get at the blades in the first place. My solution was to cut the housing into two sections and weld two companion flange angles onto each section. So when I need to get to the knife blades, I just unbolt the two halves, sharpen up the blades and bolt the sections back together."

Otto Mildner, Kingston, Ill.: "To make rusty tools look like new again, I simply soak them in white vinegar for two or three weeks. Then I use a brush to remove any leftover residue and shine up the tools. When I'm done, I sometimes use the rust-colored liquid to stain furniture."

Steve Spiering, Milbank, S. Dak.: "Here's an easy way to put threads all the way through lengths of pipe or square tubing. Use a woodworker's dowling jig to make a centered, true pilot hole. Drill a hole and insert a nut. Weld around the perimeter of the nut (a wire welder works best) and grind flush. It's important to clean the threads with a tap before using. If you do a careful job you can make it look like threads cut into solid stock. I used this technique to put caster wheels on an object where there was no room for a nut on the other side."

"My Volvo truck is equipped with two large oil filters. Whenever I change the oil, I have to lie on my back directly below both filters to remove them. I didn't want hot oil splashing on my face so I came up with a solution. I pre-drain each filter by driving a pole barn nail into the bottom of each filter. The angle that I drive the nail in will determine the direction of the oil flow. A pan below is used to catch the oil."

"To cleanly bend light or medium gauge sheet metal without using a brake, I use a thin grinder blade and a guide to score a line half-way through the metal. After bending the metal to the desired position, I make a weld along the inside of the bend. The resulting weld bead will make the metal as strong as ever."

Cary Urka, Brethren, Mich.: "Pickup-mounted snow blades can be difficult to install. To make the job easier, I mount the blade on a pallet jack. I wheel the blade up to the pickup, then use the hand jack to raise the blade and install it. It works as well as a com-



mercial stand is a lot less expensive.

"I use a shopping cart to haul my wire feed welder and acetylene tank around my shop. The welder rests on a metal shelf, and the tank mounts on brackets that attach to the cart. I widened the front wheels to make the cart more stable."



"This 10-ft. wide stainless steel kitchen sink mounts along a wall inside the paint room in my shop and is used for mixing paint, storing paint guns, etc. Rinse material drains into an old paint thinner located under the sink. I hang paint guns on one side of the sink."

George R. Moser, Hardy, Va.: "Plastic wire spools - available free for the taking from motor or transformer shops - provide a neat and safe way to hang water/air hoses, extension cords, etc. The spools can be screwed directly to a wall or mounted on a center bolt for easy reeling of wire, cable or hoses. Motor and transformer shops buy magnet wire on these disposable spools, which range from 6 to 24 in. in diameter. The 24-in. spools work especially well for barbed wire."

Jim Relihan, Brunswick, Ga.: "To get more life out of a faucet seat, remove the seat and rub it back and forth on a metal file until the flaw is gone. You can more than double the life of a seat this way."

"A retractable extension cord made from an old vacuum cleaner cord mechanism gives me 25 ft. of cord for a drill."

Phillip L. White, Murfreesboro, Ark.: "My son and I welded chain hooks to the top of our front end loader bucket and hay fork. The hooks come in handy for all kinds of pulling and lifting jobs. We also welded a short length of chain to a piece of flat steel with a 'T' cut out of it, which we use to pull up T posts. We just slip the steel piece over the post and then fasten the chain to the chain hook."

Craig Froman, English, Ind.: "When the magneto goes dead on an old tractor, I convert the magneto to a distributor by using the coil and condenser from an old car, which I get cheap at a junkyard. I hook the distributor wires up to the coil and then install the condenser on it. This way I'm using the coil for a spark off the battery. Some people claim older tractors run better off a battery than they do off a magneto."

"I've even used this idea to convert an old outboard motor when the magneto went bad. I installed a coil on each set of points. In fact, any vehicle that has a magneto on it and a set of points can be converted to run on its battery. This method is a lot less expensive than trying to fix it, which is often very expensive."

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Laue's dream of a souped-up tractor was realized when he dropped a Chevy V-8 into an Oliver 1950T.

Chevy V-8 Powers Oliver Tractor

"Oliver is tradition in my family and was the tractor of choice for my father, grandfather, uncles and cousins. We worked on our own equipment," says Steve Laue. "I always dreamed of putting more horsepower into an Oliver tractor so, years later, when I found an Oliver 1950T with a blown engine, I knew it was the perfect candidate for a transplant."

Dropping a 454 cu. in. Chevy engine into an old tractor took a lot of modification. "The first step was trading the long axles and housings out of the 1950T for those out of an Oliver 1755, which narrowed the tractor by 18 in. A 6 1/2 by 19-in. section was removed from the frame, reversed and welded back into place, making room for the starter and oil filter," says Laue.

"A new center plate was fabricated to mate the new engine to the Oliver bell housing and the over-under drive. The flywheel was also

machined for the Chevy crankshaft. The hydrostatic steering mechanism was taken from an 1855 Oliver and the new grill belonged to a 1955. I also custom built the radiator and set it back 5 1/4 in. from the previous location," notes Laue. The headers on the engine were built from a Speedway Motors kit.

Laue had help and encouragement from his wife as well. "The 23.1 by 34-in. tires for the rear and the 11L-15s on the front were a gift from my wife Chris on my 50th birthday," he says. In order to make the tires fit, the rear rims had to be split and have a 4-in. spacer welded in.

"The final touch was updating the lettering to read '1950 L/E.' The 'L/E' stands for Limited Edition," says Laue.

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"Caddy" Makes It Easy To Work On Big Vehicles

You can access any area of a big vehicle's engine compartment easily and comfortably with this new, portable "caddy."

The Truck Caddy consists of a 6-ft. ladder made out of 1-in. dia. tubing, with a padded, angled support arm at the top where the operator lays. The ladder is foam-padded where it rests against the vehicle. The bottom part of the ladder is held secure by a pair of safety chains, which fasten onto the vehicle's tow hooks or bumper. A tool pouch slips over the top of the support arm.

"It allows you to work with both hands in a comfortable position without back pain or fatigue," says Jim Terveen, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. "What sets it apart from other commercial caddies on the market is its simple, lightweight design, which makes it easy to set up and use. My friend Earl Muelling made this tool years ago for use in his repair shop. He built it after he got tired of bending over the top of engines while trying to find a way to brace himself in a somewhat comfortable position. His design allows you to reach even the back side of the engine compartment without any problems."

"If you want to work on a lower profile vehicle, you can remove the bottom rung to shorten the ladder by 15 in. Or, you can simply angle the ladder out a little more. The unit weighs only 15 lbs. so when you're done using it you can toss it in a corner of the shop or hang it on a nail."



"It allows you to work with both hands in a comfortable position without back pain or fatigue," says Jim Terveen about his company's new Truck Caddy. It consists of a 6-ft. ladder made out of 1-in. dia. tubing, with a padded, angled support arm at the top where the operator lays.

Sells for \$125 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jim Terveen, 46911 W. 57th St., Sioux Falls, S. Dak. 57106 (ph 605 361-1584 or 605 929-8177).