Robert Siefert, Bennet, Neb.: "I find that placing an asphalt shingle with the tar side up underneath a battery will greatly reduce corrosion and discharge of batteries on tractors and combines that sit idle for long periods of time. I've also found it's best to clean and repaint corroded areas where batteries mount. You'll be amazed at how clean your batteries will stay."

Marvin G. Ling, Peebles, Ohio: "The Briggs & Stratton gas engine on my riding mower came with a short, clear length of plastic hose to use when changing oil. I took the plug out of the engine and replaced it with a short pipe, then installed a valve on the end of the pipe to connect up to the clear piece of hose. Makes it easy to change oil."

Robert Chase, Platteville, Wis.: "To put hydraulic oil in difficult-to-reach places I use a jug with a plastic pipe in it. A hose is hooked up to the top of the pipe. Then I use an air nozzle placed inside the jug hole to force oil up the pipe, out the hose, and into the tractor."

John F. Wohlwend, Foxboro, Wis.: "If you have a tubeless tire that goes flat and is still on the vehicle, and the tire won't take air because the bead is off, take the valve out of the stem and then jack the trailer up so the tire is off the ground. Squirt ether into the tire, being careful not to use too much. Spin the tire to distribute the ether, then light it through the valve or the tire's loose bead."

Joe G. Eilert, Jewell, Kansas: "Deere tractors with 6-volt batteries will start much better if you convert them to two 12-volt batteries. The tractor will crank much faster.

"The press wheels on International Harvester 7100 drills are known for having the center break. You can repair them by welding a small plate to either side."

E. "Woody" Johnson, Osakis, Minn.: "To fix leaking radiators on tractors and vehicles, I've had great luck using Silver Seal heavy duty stop leak (www.AutoBarn.com; ph 888 484-9560). It stops leaks quickly, inhibits rust, and lubricates the entire cooling system. It builds a quick, permanent seal that won't clog or damage radiators. Mixes with any kind of anti-freeze."

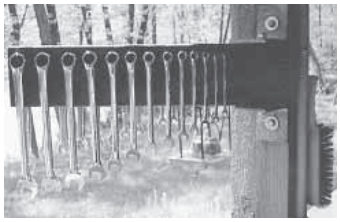
David Novotny, Fargo, N. Dak: "I built a nice little bench grinder using a two-speed

Westinghouse washing machine motor, some 2 by 12s, an old Chevy fan belt, a couple of pulleys, and a chuck from an old drill. The motor belt-drives the chuck, which is mounted right in front of me as I sit on a bench. I use my wire brushes and grind stones for my hand drill and clamp them in the chuck. The chuck is at just the right height when I'm sitting on the bench. I have a lot of hand drill accessories that work well. I put a long cord on the grinder so I can move the grinder around my shop and still reach an electrical outlet. I also put an outlet on the bench so I can plug in other things like lights or saws. I plan to mount a guard on the grinder so I don't get my fingers caught in the belt."

Dennis D. Hartman, 8198 Cram Rd., Williamsburg, Mich. 49690 ph 231 267-5107: "I have a 1975 Bolens 20 hp garden tractor that's equipped with a front mount snowblower, and I came up with an easy way

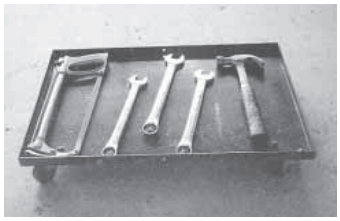
to hold the tire chains tight on the rear wheels. I just use a tarp strap with a hook added to the middle part of the strap. The three hooks form a triangle that keeps the chains tight."

Dan Jacobson, 8913 Weaver Lake Dr., Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472: "My two-sided wrench rack puts both metric and standard wrenches at my fingertips. The rack swings from right to left with ease. It's highly vis-



ible and saves time and energy. It lets me grab the right wrench the first time and every time. I sell them for $30 plus S&H.

"A rolling tool tray works wonders when I'm working close to the floor. I just roll it along as my project progresses. It measures 17 by 24 in. I custom build them for $40 plus S&H.



"This hydraulic welding table raises from 35 in. to 7 1/2 ft. high and will lift up to 1,100 lbs. To raise the table all I do is pump a foot pedal. To lower the table, I depress a smaller pedal and the table comes down. The table measures 21 by 36 in. and has a 1/2-in. thick working surface. If ever there was a backsaver, this is it - I'd never part with it.

To build a hydraulic welding table like this from scratch I'd charge about $1,200."

Pat Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn.: "I came up with my own space-saving work island by butting several big shop tools together back to back. The tools include a milling machine, iron worker, shear, and drill press. By placing the tools back to back I can get all of them into a smaller area without taking

Generator Runs Off Garden Tractor

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

I've never had a standby generator at my place so I always felt a bit vulnerable about power outages. I decided to mount a generator on our garden tractor, and we couldn't be more pleased with it. It lets us produce portable electric power any time and any place we need it.

Lloyd Meffert is a lawn mower and small engine expert at Hettick, Ill. I asked him if he could mount a generator on our old Ford garden tractor, which is powered by an 8 hp engine.

We bought a NorthStar 2,900-watt, belt-driven generator from Northern Tool (ph 800 221-0516; website: www.northerntool.com). It requires at least a 5 hp gas engine and sells for $299.99 on the company's website.

Meffert extended the front part of the tractor frame, then welded a vertical steel plate onto it which allows the generator to be mounted in a vertical position. He positioned the generator to line up perfectly with the tractor engine pulley, allowing enough space to install a belt tightener.

Our son Joe is a journeyman electrician. He set up our home so we can still have heat and water in the event of a power outage. First, he set up the furnace and the water pump so they can be plugged directly into the generator. Then he rigged our home so we can pull out the main fuse coming in and plug in the generator.

We've been cautioned never to operate the standby unit without first disconnecting from the power company's incoming line. That's because standby power can be fed back out into the power line and could endanger anyone working on the line.

We use the generator to power electric tools

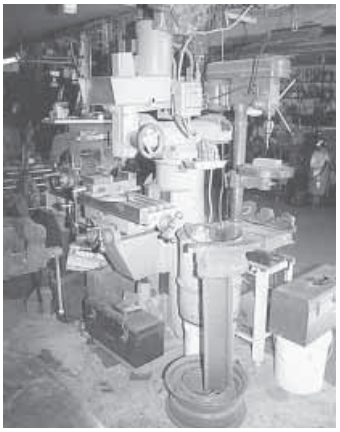
C.F. Marley uses the engine on his garden tractor to belt-drive a generator, which he mounted on front of tractor. It lets him power electric tools such as chain saws and hedge trimmers.

such as chain saws and hedge trimmers. We also use it to provide power for emergency flood lights, and to do repair work anywhere in our yard or out in the field.

Something Joe insists is necessary is the use of a ground fault eliminator - a small yellow accessory that plugs into the generator. It eliminates any danger of electrocution when using electric-powered hand tools.

The generator that we use is designed to deliver 2,600 continuous watts and produces 21.7 amps at 120 volts, and 10.8 amps at 240 volts. It has two 15-amp, 120-volt outlets and two 15-amp, 240-volt outlets.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.F. Marley, P.O. Box 93, Nokomis, Ill. 62075 (ph 217 563-2588).



up as much wall space. I keep a portable anvil nearby that I made out of an old wheel rim and a length of railroad track.

"I have a shop cart that's equipped with four separate toolboxes. I made the big tool cabinet shown at one end of the cart. The tool cabinet at the other end is a Sears model. The entire cart was originally mounted on four small caster wheels. To help absorb all the weight, I removed two of the end wheels and

replaced them with bigger wheels that I mounted about one third of the way in. Two thirds of the weight is now on the big wheels, so the smaller caster wheels don't get overloaded."

John Porter, Albion, Mich.: "Probably one of the handiest inventions of all time is the aerosol paint can. Aggravation sets in, though, when you try to pry the cap off. When I first get a cap off, I take my sidecutters and clip the inner cap in three or four places. The cap will still stay on good, but will come off much easier the next time. Also, once the can is empty I slot the bottom of the can with a hack saw and dribble all the leftover product into a paint can. By mixing a bunch of different colors together, some surprisingly neat colors will appear. I dab this paint onto freshly welded things or things that I don't want to rust. Also, I save the marbles inside the cans and give them to my grandkids."

Herman Vander Vos, Bozeman, Mont.: "I own a 1968 Ford pickup with the fuel tank behind the seat. The design makes it very easy to insert a hose to siphon out gas, which I suspected someone was doing.

"To prevent this, I took a compression spring from an old grease gun and heated one end up and curled it into a couple of small loops.

Then, I inserted the spring into the fuel tank's filler spout. It was a tight fit and took some manipulating to get in but now it's impossible to get a siphoning hose into the tank, yet it doesn't affect the flow of fuel into the tank."