

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

tire, then remove the cap with the valve stem in it and pour in the proper amount of tire sealant.

Harvey Wasson, Wasson's Service, Perry, Mo.: "My hands don't work as well as they used to, so when carrying heavy objects around my shop I simply wrap an old serpentine belt around the object. This idea



works especially well on cylindrical gas tanks. It also works great for carrying metal or plastic pipe that's wet or muddy because the belt won't slip like my hands might. Serpentine belts can be found on most late model cars and trucks. I've used this idea for 10 years. Before serpentine belts came along I used conventional V-belts."

Bob Batteen, Box 401, Urbana, Iowa 52345: "In a recent issue of FARM SHOW someone complained that the disc brakes on their Super "M" and Super "MTA" tractors don't last very long. Maybe this idea will help. Whenever you're replacing the brakes on these tractors, be sure to clean all rust, etc. The reason is that the brake housing butts up against the brake drum, which butts up against the transmission housing. So make sure these surfaces are super clean. Then apply a thin coat of gasket maker to all the surfaces and reassemble everything. The brakes should be set according to instructions in the operator's manual, and new boots should be installed. My Super "MTA" is a loader tractor and it sets outside all year long, yet the last time I installed new brakes was four years ago."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "Lawn tractors usually get used only for mowing and maybe for towing a small cart or trailer. To make my new Sears Craftsman 17 1/2 hp riding mower more versatile, I removed the hood and installed a bumper equipped with a ball hitch. The bumper has an I-bolt on top



of it that allows me to lift the front end of the tractor. As a result, I can sharpen blades without having to remove the tractor's 42-in. mower deck or reach underneath it. I place a safety stand under the deck so it can't fall.

"To charge more than one battery at a time I line up the batteries so that the positive posts are aligned, and then use a vise grip to clamp a wire to all the positive posts. The negative posts are also hooked up in the same way.



This idea allows one charger to charge several batteries at the same time.

"When using a grease gun, I find an old sock works good to wipe the grease fittings clean before I attach the hose/fitting. A hole



in the sock can serve as a 'thumb hole.' This idea keeps my hands free of grease and dirt, too."

Roy Breighner, Heidlersburg, Penn.: "Years ago, I rescued one of those old-time, manually-operated tire changing machines from a service station that switched to using air-operated machines. It sits out of the way in a corner of my shop until it's needed. I inserted a length of pipe with a stop welded onto it up through the bottom center part of the machine. I use a chain hoist to lift the machine into a matching pipe that's cemented flush with the shop floor."

Brian Hageman, Decorah, Iowa: "I found an easy way to drain oil out of my Cub Cadet riding lawn mower. The frame doesn't have a cut out to get at the quick-drain port, so I take a 90° sparkplug boot and put it over the drain port. I attach a 1/4 in. hose about a foot long that I run into a jug for disposal. It gets the job done with no mess."

Douglas Hall, Wilson, N.Y.: When the gear-shift cover on my David Brown tractor became cracked I knew it would be hard to find the replacement parts. So I made a new cover using old rubber boots from the universal drive shaft of a front wheel drive car.



They didn't quite fit watertight so I used two stainless steel clamps to secure them to the gear shifter. The best part is I didn't spend more than \$15.

Pete Peters, Osler, Saskatchewan: "I made a nut and bolt organizer out of old discs from a disc tiller. I put a 6-ft. piece of pipe through the holes in the center of the discs and welded them 10-in. apart. I can fit about five discs on a 6-ft. section of pipe. The base is another disc flipped over to provide stabil-

Radiator Cleaning Tool

At least half the work of thoroughly cleaning out a radiator is removing it from the vehicle so you can get at it. Harvey Wasson of Perry, Missouri found "a way around that," by making a tool that allows him to do a good job while it's still on the vehicle.

Wasson operates a local radiator shop and has plenty of experience bringing radiators back into tiptop shape. The tool consists of a 30 in.-long piece of flexible 3/8-in. hydraulic hose with a 2 1/2-in. long piece of 3/8-in. copper water pipe at one end. The open end is soldered closed. Wasson then welded a flat washer on the side of the copper pipe and drilled three very small holes through the washer and the pipe.

"The holes are bigger than a toothpick and smaller than a matchstick," Wasson explains. "They cause the water to come out at a very high pressure. The flat washer is necessary to slide the tool in next to the radiator without damaging the fins."

At the other end of the hydraulic hose, Wasson installed an adapter to fit a garden hose and an on/off valve.

"I've used this tool on radiators in tractors, combines, bulldozers and cars. It works well because it pushes the water straight forward onto the radiator fins so they don't bend like they would if you tried doing this with a regular 400-lb. pressure hose where you would have to spray the water at quite an angle because you couldn't reach in properly," he says. "I wash one side of the radiator, and then go around and do the other side. This



Homemade tool allows Wasson to clean out a radiator while it's still on the vehicle.



Tool consists of a 30-in. long piece of flexible 3/8-in. hydraulic hose, with a 2 1/2-in. long piece of copper water pipe at one end. A large washer welds to pipe

tool was cheap and easy to make."

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Kenneth Aller, Louisville, Ohio: "For years we handled material on pallets by hand. We needed an easier, inexpensive way to do the job so we decided to use the loader bucket on our Deere 2555 tractor. We welded a bracket onto each side of the bucket, then mounted a set of forks onto a length of steel

pipe that fits into the brackets. It lets us quickly switch from loading and unloading dirt, sand or gravel to loading and unloading pallets of material - without ever leaving the tractor seat. The bucket can handle up to a 3,500-lb. load."



ity. For smaller items you can put on more discs or discs of different sizes."



Dave Cook, 28800 Cook Road, Washburn, Wis. 54891 (ph 715 373-2092): Deere's popular 420 garden tractor, made from 1954 to 1961, could originally be fitted with an optional foot throttle assembly. The company doesn't make the foot throttle kit any more, so Dave Cook, Washburn, Wis., decided to produce a remanufactured version. The kit also fits the Deere 430 model.

"We copied castings from the original," says Cook. "The foot throttle assembly comes in handy for working in tight spots and for doing loader work. It operates in conjunction with the hand throttle and provides foot control of engine speeds."