

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

(Continued from previous page)

3-pt. hitch. The pump can be raised or lowered by turning a 2 1/2-in. long bolt that connects the bracket to the flat plates."

Steve Devaney, Merkel, Texas: "I cut the caster wheels and handle off an old hydraulic floor jack that didn't work any more and



use them to move my table saw around my shop. Two wheels and their adjoining support brackets are permanently bolted to a square wooden base that's bolted to the bottom part of the table saw's legs. A small steel ring is bolted to the front side of the base.

"The bottom part of the jack handle has a metal bracket with two small caster wheels and a hook on front. By inserting the hook into the ring and prying up on the handle, I can raise the front part of the base off the floor and then pull or push the table saw wherever I need it. It really works good. Another advantage is that the base catches a lot of the sawdust that falls from the table, which makes cleanup easier."



Karey Waldrop, Walterboro, S.C.: "I used a 55-gal. barrel and lengths of old railroad track to make a combination vice table and anvil. The drum was filled with sand to within 8 in. of the top and finished off with rebar and cement. The vise is fastened to bolts that are anchored in the cement.

"I started the project by cutting into the barrel until the tops of the railroad irons were just above the top of the barrel and then spot welded the irons in place. Then I put in the rebar, positioned the bolts for the vise, and poured the cement. If I want to lay something big on top of the anvil I can unbolt the vise and take it off. The railroad irons will take all the pounding I can give them without cracking.



"I also converted an old gas grill that didn't work any more into a portable parts washer, by replacing the grill with a 3-gal. electric-operated parts washer. I use the grill's folding front and end sections to hold parts. The

nice thing about my parts washer is that I can take it anywhere I want. If I'm working on a tractor on the cement pad in front of my shop I can just roll the parts washer out there and wash parts on the spot. It's amazing how much that helps. It saves hundreds of steps and also eliminates the possibility of dropping parts that I'd otherwise have to carry into my shop. It also avoids making a mess in my shop."

Jerry Fisher, Ronan, Mont.: "I found an old buzz saw in the junkyard and mounted it on a trailer. I use a 16 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine to belt-drive it. The engine had been attached by a shaft to a generator that



was worn out. I also rigged up a couple of other pulleys and a belt tightener, which I borrowed from the power steering pump on a car.

"The saw frame and engine mount on a 2-in. thick wooden deck that I mounted on top of the trailer. A tray at the back of the trailer that's hinged at the bottom is used to support the log. The operator pulls and pushes on the tray to cut the log.

"I pull the trailer behind my pickup and cut wood for area farmers and ranchers. I also use the saw to cut old fence posts into firewood for the wood burning stove I use in my shop. My total cost to build the saw was only about \$600."

Dennis Albright, Springfield, S.Dak.: "I extended the life of a 1986 Pontiac 6000 station wagon. The problem was that the engine would die from low idle RPM's. There's no adjustment on injector engines that I know of. Dealers just tell you to replace the injector pump, which can cost \$700 or more. I looked at it and decided I could beat that. I simply taped a small piece of plastic credit card to the stop plate on the throttle. That made it just a bit thicker, speeding up the idle just enough to keep it from dying. Worked great.

"Diesel trucks often have trouble with the air brakes freezing in cold weather. It's a lot of work to take the air lines off and pour fluid into them from a gallon bottle, or whatever. I just put some air line dryer fluid into a kitchen-type spray bottle, and then loosen a hose clamp and use a screwdriver to make a small opening where I can squirt in some fluid. IN most cases it will thaw ice in the lines nearly instantly.

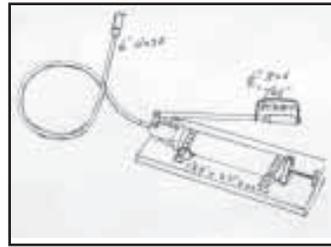
"Here's another idea I've used for years on crawler tractors, from the smallest to the biggest. When bushing or tapered roller bearing-type tracks start to leak oil, I fill them with regular grease gun grease. They'll go a long time that way. When they start getting warm, just add more grease. Works best with the bronze bushing rollers - it can double their life. I've also used this idea on older manual transmissions or gearboxes that normally use 90-140 weight oil."

Brent Norton, Lodi, Ohio: "I recently bought a frozen-up small engine at a very good price because I knew I could loosen it up with my best buy product called Gibbs, which frees up frozen pistons. It's an excellent penetrant for all kinds of uses and is also a rust preventative. You can find out more at www.gibbasize.com.

"Another great product that I use a lot are

Mettrinch wrenches. Very handy to have when you're away from the shop. The open end wrenches and socket sets fit both metric and standard nuts and bolts. I like to take a small set to auctions where you often have to disassemble something to load it up."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: Bill converted his grease gun to run on "toe power". "By mounting it on a 1 by 8-in. board and



adding a toe-stirrup as well as a 6-ft. length of hose, it's a lot easier to reach grease fittings in places where both hands are needed. The grease gun handle can be pumped by one toe and held in place by the other foot by standing on the board. The toe stirrup is fitted to the handle by tach-welding, or using JB Weld epoxy."



Art Leefers, Carlinville, Ill.: Art never sweats when working in his shop or around the yard on a hot summer day thanks to his portable high-volume fan, which was built for him by a friend, Dale Johnson. A squirrel-cage fan out of a junked furnace mounts on the frame of a cart fitted with high wheels and stationary front legs. The big wheels make it easy to move around.

Marion Calmer, Alpha, Ill.: Adding portability to his mig welder and cutting torch has made both tools much more use-



ful to Marion. He built a simple frame on wheels and casters. It holds the welder about 15 in. off the floor. A gas bottle, which rests on the lower part of the frame, lowers the

center of gravity and adds stability to the unit.

David Snider, Minier, Ill.: "A reader in your last issue showed how he welded up a device to keep a Cat. I drawbar from rotating in the balls.

"I wanted to say that he should have the forged fitting that I have had on my Ferguson TO-20 for over 40 years. It is made so that the drawbar nests into it along with the brace to the top link pin. It also nests into the draft arm so that the drawbar cannot rotate.

"I don't remember if this was an aftermarket item or a Ford accessory. I do remember that it was painted red when it was new."

Sam McConnell, Bogata, Texas: "I've got a question for tractor manufacturers. How come auto manufacturers can make fuel gauges that work for the life of the car but tractor manufacturers can't seem to make one that works for more than a couple years. I've got three tractors - a Deere 4050, Deere 3020, and a 282 Massey - and none of the gauges work."



Steve Devaney, Merkel, Texas: "I made a portable battery charger using a 2 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine to belt-drive an automotive alternator. Both the engine and alternator mount on the frame of a push-type, 3-wheeled lawn edger.

"It'll completely charge a battery in 15 or 20 minutes. To start the charging process, I just hook up the wires to the battery and flip a switch to complete the circuit from the alternator to the battery. I use it to charge batteries on farm vehicles and also to charge my electric fence batteries. It's easy to move around to wherever I need it."



EZ Glide, Weather Guard Truck & Van Equipment, Knaack Manufacturing Co., 420 E. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014 (ph 800 456-7865; E-mail: info@weatherguard.com; Website: www.weatherguard.com): "If you wrestle ladders on and off of a rack on top of a van or pickup every day, you'll appreciate our new EZ-Glide aluminum ladder rack. It lets you lower the ladder down to the side of the truck for easy loading and unloading.

"Made of sturdy aluminum, with stainless steel hardware, it's strong, lightweight and rust resistant. The hydraulic cylinder that powers the ladder lifter is operated by a detachable lever at the back of the rack. Suggested retail price is \$1,229."

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