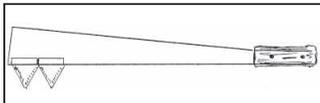


Greg Herling: "You should add Stabil or a similar product to your gas on any motor that is going to sit for more than a month, because the new formulated gasolines deteriorate much faster nowadays. Mowers, cars, trimmers, tractors, chainsaws, and so on, all need this to avoid gummed-up carbs, and to make starting easier when you need it. The other option is to remove all gas from the tank and carb."

Allen Ahlbrecht, Hector, Minn.: "We had been having a lot of problems with wheel bearings on equipment, especially the smaller tag axles bolted to our trucks to get past road restrictions each spring. After switching to a synthetic grease, the problem went away. Now that's all I use. It's a bit more expensive than ordinary grease but it works much better."

"I was interested in the article in your last issue about using a hospital gurney as a portable workbench, because I've used the idea myself for awhile. My gurney has 10-in. wheels that'll roll right over hoses and tools. It's made of tough steel and has railings on each side to raise and lower as you see fit, and has a large open area to work on. When the work is done, you can roll it back to replace all your tools and parts. And, if you have a lot of visitors, you'll get a lot of comments about the 'doctor' trying to save his 'patients'."

Arco Rosenow, Chillicothe, Ill.: "By welding a pair of sickle sections to the back of a cheap machete I made an inexpensive, heavy-duty cutter for getting rid of undesirable vegetation such as wild grape, multi-



flora rose and light brush. The wedging action between the sickles, and their added weight, allows the tool to easily cut overhead vines. A friend of mine told me this thing is so scary looking that it's probably illegal to own."

"Trying to carry small parts and wrenches for maintaining your machinery can be a hassle. The tools and parts can easily get lost or get exposed to the weather and rust out. To solve the problem, I make a mini tool box for each machine out of pieces of 3 and 4-in. dia. pvc pipe. I glue a cap to one end and put a removable cap over the other end. You can

leave the 'tool tube' on the machine all year long, or you can label each one and store them on a shelf until needed."

"This same idea works for keeping repair manuals and service records out of the weather, without being rolled too tight."

"Individual drill bits can be carried inside 1/2 or 3/4-in. dia. lengths of pvc in a toolbox without being damaged. Label the pipe with an indelible marker for easier identification. A 2-in. pipe will carry quite a few drill bits or even a small flashlight. I put a wad of paper in the tubing to protect the tips."

Mell C. English, Belmont, N.C.: "If there is a recessed nut on an extended bolt that you can't get a wrench on, saw a deep socket in half and weld a hollow steel pipe between the two halves of the socket. The extra length will let you reach the nut."

Gary Elston, Mulvane, Kansas: "Removing worn out gang bearings from a disk is a tough mechanical problem that many farmers face at one time or another. The problem is that the bearing almost always seizes to the shaft. I find the easiest way to remove the collar is to either heat it with a torch and beat it off, or carefully torch it off. After the collar is off, use a grinder with a wire wheel to thoroughly clean off all the rust and dirt. Once the surface is cleaned, inspect for nicks or burrs which may interfere with installation of the new bearing. Before installing the bearing, use an anti-seize lubricant to thoroughly coat both the bearing and the shaft. The next time the bearing has to be removed, it'll slide right off."

"Broken or bad wiring due to poor connections is a headache for anyone. I've found that di-electric grease is a cheap and easy way to protect electrical plug-ins and couplers from water and to keep dirt from corroding them. Just coat any connections with it."

"A good way to repair broken wiring is to strip the two wires to be joined, then solder them and use heat shrink tube to seal the fix. A better and simpler fix is to pick up a pack of butt connectors with the solder already inside the heat shrink tube. Strip the wires to be joined, crimp on the connector in the normal fashion, and use a lighter to heat up the connector. The solder will melt to the wire strand for a sure connection, and the outer sleeve will shrink down to make a weather-tight seal. The connectors cost a little more, but the time and money you'll save later will make it worth the extra expense."

Power Modules Provide More Hp On Less Fuel

Jason Penzo's power modules increase engine power and fuel efficiency by hijacking engine sensor information. They're designed for use on a wide range of Deere tractors and combines and New Holland combines, as well as Mack trucks.

"Instead of writing new code into the computer to make the engine produce more power, we simply trick it," explains Penzo.

The power modules plug into the existing connections to intercept the signal from sensors. The power module modifies the signal. The operator selects either a low or high output setting from his in-cab controls. The high setting is still well within the range of engine limits, while the low setting requires less fuel.

"You get 15 to 30 percent more power from the same engine," says Penzo. "If you look at 8000 series Deere tractors, each one is identical except in power output. This module takes an 8120 and gives it the same power as an 8420, but saves you about \$40,000."

Penzo admits that some dealers won't endorse use of the boxes while others sell the



"You get 15 to 30 percent more power from the same engine," says Jason Penzo about his new power modules.

\$500 units. In the past two years, he says he has sold more than 2,000 units with no problems on any tractor.

Penzo has concentrated on Deere tractors, making different versions for different tractor series. He is getting ready to release units for Case-IH MX series tractors. All products are marketed through four distribution warehouses in the U.S. and Canada.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jason Penzo, Penzo Performance, LLC, 619 40th St, Springdale, Ark. 72762 (ph 479 530-2488; www.penzoperformance.com; Jason@penzoperformance.com).

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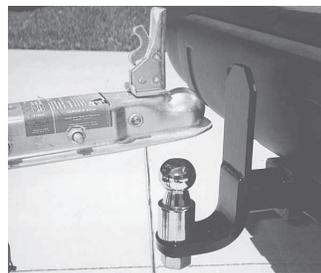
Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money-saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or E-mail us at: Editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

Eugene P. Yavorski, Palm Coast, Fla.: "Sometimes I use my 2004 Volvo all-wheel-drive car to pull a tandem axle utility trailer. One time when I was backing up to the trailer,



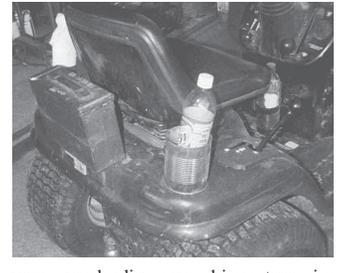
I accidentally overshoot the ball hitch on back of the car and the trailer's tongue just nicked the car's plastic bumper. Luckily, the impact didn't crack the bumper. To prevent that accident from ever happening again, I welded a 6-in. long by 3-in. wide, 3/8-in. thick steel plate to the top of the hitch. Now if I ever overshoot the ball, the steel plate will keep the trailer tongue from ever hitting the bumper."



"I use a Honda 3,400-lb. psi pressure washer around my home to clean my driveway, etc. With that much pressure the wand is always exerting an upward pressure on my arms, which really gets tiring. To counterbalance the upward pressure, I added a 2-ft. length of 5/8-in. thick rebar to the wand, securing the rebar to the wand with plastic wire ties. Now the wand actually floats, and all I have to do is guide it. I've used this idea for

several years and it works great."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "It's surprising how much stuff this 7.62 mm ammunition box will hold. I use it to hold a chain,



rope, wrench, pliers, screwdrivers, tape, vice grips, crescent wrench, wire, etc. I keep reserve gas in a 24 oz. bottle. The plastic beverage bottle comes in handy, too. I seldom have to walk back to my shop for anything."

"My flashlight always seems to be 'hiding' whenever I need to go outside after dark, so I converted an old tomato paste can into a flashlight holder. The can is screwed to the back door where I can always find it."

"This 1 1/2 by 5/16-in. bar attached over the wheel on my mowers had a tendency to scrub bark on trees as I mowed around the base. So I covered the axle nut with a piece of galvanized bar stock. The bar rubs over the tree bark with no damage."

Gary Noblit, Jonesville, Mich.: "The bolts that held the starter in place on my Deere 6300 tractor kept vibrating loose. The starter is very hard to reach so it's difficult to tighten up the bolts. To solve the problem, I replaced the bolts with studs. The studs are threaded on each end. I put two nuts on the outside end of the stud and then ran it as tight as I could into the bolt hole. Then I took the nuts off, replaced the starter and put the double

