

Fred Dunlop, Stayner, Ontario; dunlogon_farms@hotmail.com: "We have a Deere 1850 30-ft. wide air seeder that we pull behind a 787 air tank. The 1850 has the same coulters setup as the 750 Deere no-till drill. It plants very accurately and works great except for the cast iron closing wheel at the rear. The bearings wear out due to a poor dust seal.

"Has anyone come up with a better seal to keep the dirt out? If so, I'd sure like to hear about it."

Marvin Kroontje, Magnolia, Minn.: "I just want to send a warning that could save lives. My experience was with a flexible corrugated gray-coated LP gas connector for hooking up gas appliances. I bought it at a local hardware store and it was made in Mexico. When I opened the bag it was in, the hose had sharp bends at each end even though the instructions that came with it said not to bend the connector sharply. After I installed the connector, I smelled gas occasionally and it kept getting worse. I finally found the small leak by using a grill lighter in one hand and a wet wash cloth in my other hand, and sure enough a 2-in. high flame came from the curved area of the pipe which I put out with a wet wash cloth. I would not advise this method on a larger leak. But I could not find it with soap suds. My advice is to buy a stainless steel pipe or a coated pipe that hangs straight on a store rack. Also, be wary of gold or brass uncoated connectors as they can corrode."

Thomas A. Batchelor, Lake Ariel, Penn.: "I work for a power company and changing teeth on an auger with a hammer and punch is a knuckle buster. I've found it's a lot easier to use a 3-ft. ground rod and jack hammer. The teeth come right off."



John Buvala, Ashland, Wis.: "I was reading a story in your last issue about a 'new' oil wrench that works on most oil drain plugs. I'm sending you a picture of a wrench that has been on our farm for two generations now. I don't know where my Dad bought it but it's been a great time saver over the years. I've never seen another like it. It looks like the same design as the one in your last issue. This one was made by J.H. Williams & Co. and is called a Multisocket."



Final Charge Extended-Life Antifreeze: Heavy-duty engines that get a lot of use are prime candidates for extended-life anti-freeze like "Final Charge". It lasts for 600,000 miles of on-road use or 6 years or 12,000 hours of off-highway use without supplemental coolant additives. The only maintenance required is the addition of an "extender" additive at 300,000 to 400,000 miles or 3 years of off-highway use. Final Charge is compatible with all cooling systems in heavy-duty diesel, gasoline and natural gas engines, and is in use by big truck fleets around the country as well as city road maintenance fleets.



"It lets me carry big, wide objects up into my loft," says Ray Rowden, who made this 30-in. wide staircase for his shop. It's raised by an electric winch (not yet installed when photo was taken).

Heavy Duty, Pull-Down Staircase

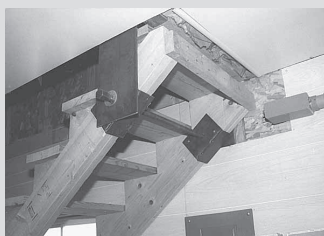
Most pull-down staircases are too flimsy to support big loads carried up and down them. Ray Rowden, Springfield, Ill., made a heavy duty, 30-in. wide staircase for his shop that's raised and lowered by an electric winch.

"It lets me carry big, wide objects up into my loft," says Rowden.

Rowden had Greg Kruger, a carpenter friend, build the staircase and a specially designed, heavy duty hinge to support its weight. The hinge consists of a pair of 8-in. wide steel plates. A salvaged truck axle serves as a spindle and runs through the plates and through a pair of U-shaped brackets that support the upper end of the staircase.

The shop and staircase is part of a new 30 by 50-ft. building Rowden put up last year. The loft is designed to hold a lot of weight. Every third truss is doubled. The building houses Ray's prize Hudson and Terraplane collector automobiles.

"The staircase is so heavy that without the



Heavy metal hinge supports upper end of ladder.

winch I would need another person to help me lift it," says Rowden, who plans to box off the raised staircase so that it will blend in with the ceiling. "I plan to use Nudoboard insulation around the staircase, which will blend in with the rest of the ceiling."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Rowden, 1556 Wildrose Lane, Springfield, Ill. 62712 (ph 217 522-4926).

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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 email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

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Cary Urka, Brethren, Mich.: "When it comes to getting the lowdown on welding, it's hard to beat website bulletin boards. Two that I really like and participate in are www.hobartwelders.com/mboard and www.shopfloortalk.com. I've been really impressed with the people who post questions and answers on the sites. They are information hungry and smart enough to know when they don't know. The experience spectrum runs from first time users all the way to engineers. A lot of questions get answered and by a variety of people, not just career welders.

"One of the questions that gets asked often is what's the difference between a \$300 machine and a \$600 machine. The only virtue of cheap is that it's cheap. Pay a little more and get into quality with a Hobart, Miller or Lincoln. Even Hobart engineers on their site will provide good information about competitors' machines and not badmouth them. Site members don't promote one welder over another, but they do promote service.

"Another best buy is used golf carts. On our berry farm, we have four. They are great for workers to get around quickly and cheaply. Anybody can drive them, from kids to older people, and they run on an eyedropper of fuel. I made boxes for them and load them up as rolling toolboxes."

George Gouvas, Janesville, Calif.: Here's a simple way to rig up a vehicle for towing that will avoid ripping off a bumper. Bolt a tow chain from one side of the vehicle's frame rail to the other. You can mount the chains at either the front or rear of the frame rails and leave them there permanently.

Jason Williams, Mulvane, Kan.: "We find that metal pallet racks work great for storing used parts and other supplies in our shop. The racks are designed to snap together. We have a couple of racks in our shop and each one is 5 ft. wide, 10 ft. long, and 10 ft. high. We bought both racks used from a local surplus store for \$75.

"We load wood pallets with stuff, then use a small loader tractor equipped with forks to lift the pallets up onto the racks. We add shelves to the racks as needed."

Arthur Wiedenhoft, Grand Rapids, Minn.: "If I can't get a small gas engine to

start in cold weather, I use STA-BIL fogging oil to do the job. It comes in an aerosol can and is designed to winterize motors on out-board boats. Once you get the boat motor running, you pull off the gas line and wait until the engine starts to run out of gas before you spray the fogging oil into the carburetor. The oil coats the cylinders to prevent rust from forming.

"I use the product in cold weather to start my 2003 Arctic Cat ATV. After I spray the oil into the air intake and turn the key, the engine fires right up. I also use STA-BIL on my riding mower and on my garden rototiller. The same fogging oil can be used to winterize those rigs, too.

"In my opinion, too much starting fluid isn't good for a small gas engine. Starting fluid contains ether and is meant to be used mainly on diesel engines, which have high compression. Ether is highly explosive and can therefore blow the heads on a small gas engine. Too much ether can dry out the cylinders, too.

"STA-BIL fogging oil won't damage engines because it's an aerated oil. I think it'll help start any small gas engine."

Wayne E. Miller, Belle Center, Ohio: "For a long time I've searched for a good marking pen to use on steel. I own a welding shop and have a constant need for a marker. Finally I discovered a pen that seems durable and is recommended for hard-to-mark dark surfaces. It's a Sharpie silver metallic fine point ink pen, no. 39108. I buy them at Wal-Mart."

Gary Agrimson, Agrimson Tool Co., 4092 83rd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, Minn. 55433 ph 763 566-3446; agrimsontool@usinternet.com; www.agrimsontool.com: Gary sells a wide variety of replacement parts

and accessories for Allis Chalmers equipment, including power steering name plates, steering wheel caps, receiver hitch adapters, and cylinders bars. They also offer twine guards for the Allis Chalmers Roto-Baler and tail light lenses for D series tractors.

The Power Steering name plates are die

