

**Theodore Haugen, Plummer, Minn.:** "In a past issue of FARM SHOW there was a write-up by a person doing welding on cast iron using nickel rod. I've used that method for some time but on the last cast iron job I didn't have any nickel rods handy, so I used stainless steel rod. I got a beautiful weld with a lot less stress build-up to contend with."

"Here's another idea that might help someone. My neighbor wanted me to help him put a fuel pump in his car's gas tank. He had just filled the tank with gas so it would be a big job to pump out the gas and fighting with rusted bolts to lower the tank. So I just cut out a square piece of metal from the trunk and to get access to the pump. I rebuilt it with a kit, put everything back in place, and then covered the hole with the trunk mat. Took just 1 1/2 hours and we were done."

**Dwayne Lowe, Chanute, Kansas:** "I came up with a cheap, portable fan that works great for cooling off on hot days. It's made from a pair of 14-in. radiator coolant fans out



of front wheel drive cars. I bolted the fans in a fold-up angle iron frame. To operate the fans, I just hook them up to a vehicle's battery. I can operate either fan independently, or both together at the same time.

"It really comes in handy in hot weather, and I can use it both in my shop and in the field. If I'm in the field and putting up hay on a hot day, I can set up the fans in the shade next to a vehicle. The fans deliver a lot of air, enough to blow my clothes around."

**Roger Kuntz, K-Tech, 5251 County Road X, Grainfield, Kansas 67737 ph 785**

## Dent-Fixing Tool Restores Deere Grill Screens

Nothing is easier to dent and harder to repair than a grill screen on an older tractor. Now owners of many older and late model Deere field and lawn and garden tractors have another option besides replacement. They can take the dents out in just a few minutes with a new punch and die set.

"Our customers include mechanics and farmers who want to keep their tractors in good shape as well as tractor restorers," says Dick Sundahl, a former VoTech engineering and quality control instructor. "The tool pays for itself in one use."

He discovered the need for the tool when he began restoring antique Deere tractors. Working with his son, who is also a tool-maker, Sundahl designed punch and die sets that fit the two basic grill screens produced for Deere tractors between 1949 and 1990. Last spring he also introduced a set for 1963 to 1987 lawn and garden tractors. His sets have also been used on Minneapolis Molines with similar style screens.

The heat-treated aluminum alloy tools are available in 6-in. lengths for \$26 to \$32, depending on tractor series, plus \$5 shipping.

"The grill screen often doesn't even have to be removed from the hood," says Sundahl. "Simply lay the hood with screen in place over the die. Place the punch on top of the dent and drive it snug against the die. Often

673-5560: "My new blade plow leveling guide contains instructions designed to help farmers solve some technical problems with blade plows. I started working for Flex King



in 1972 and served in research and development and as the head of the service department. Over the years I traveled from Canada to Australia, making sure farmers and dealers were getting optimum performance and satisfaction from their machines. I found the weak spots and, after enough time and struggle, improved on the key component – the turnbuckle. I took it up from a strength of 1-in. thread size to 1 1/2-in. and also incorporated both left and right hand threads, which allows "on plow" adjustment.

"Finally, I realized farmers would appreciate having a simple guide for annual tune-up of these machines. Adjustment is quite simple. The depth control cylinder is located in the center of the machine, and depth control is delivered through rockshafts that have bearing wear which allows the wings to sag. The turnbuckle takes up the wear and keeps all the plow's sections operating at an even depth in the ground.

"I've invented a 'bearing width extension kit' that updates your machine and eliminates this problem. There's no reason you can't keep these machines running indefinitely. The blade plow leveling guide is available free to anyone who writes in, and contains information on various components in my upgrade kit."

**Clint Keeney, Creighton, Mo.:** "After connecting two wires together with a solderless connector, I seal both ends with silicone. It makes the connection watertight and helps keep the wires secure."

**Roger W. Meihak, 10150 223<sup>rd</sup> St. No., Forest Lake, Minn. 55025 ph 651 433-2600; lroine@yahoo.com:** "Anyone who has worked with stainless steel will probably agree: stainless steel looks nice but is hard on tools. It quickly dulls drill bits, hole saws, reamers, etc. This was shown to be true on

**FARM SHOW**

## 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**



one of my projects, and I discovered a way to make holes quickly and easily in the 20-ga. stainless steel I was using.

"My invention uses an air-driven nailer modified with a special punch. The punch attaches to the nailer and, in most cases, it can be used with one hand. The punch can also be used as a center punch. Besides low-



ering the cost of making holes, another advantage is speed. Holes are punched in one or two seconds. The tool works very well in ordinary sheet metal as well as aluminum.

"I'm not planning on marketing the system at this time, but it has a patent pending on it."

**Jay C. Bauch, Powell, Tenn.:** "On my 1950 Farmall Cub tractor I had a broken wooden arm on the mower attachment. I bought a hollow, square metal tube the same size as the wooden arm, drove in a piece of oak wood to strengthen it, and drilled holes for mounting it with bolts and nuts. We haven't had any more problems since I installed it."

**Marvin Kroontje, Magnolia, Minn.:** "I use a 1/2-in. dia., 3-ft. length of galvanized water pipe - with the last foot curved - to tighten belts on vehicle alternators, power steering units and air conditioning units. It makes a great pry bar once the bolts have

been loosened and allows me to leverage the unit tight before I retighten the bolts. I got the idea for using it when I was trying to tighten up an alternator but couldn't get anything in the engine compartment to fit right. I found the pipe laying on the ground. The pipe is straight for about 2 1/2 ft., then makes a gentle curve and continues straight for about another foot. The curve allows it to fit into places where a conventional straight pry bar won't fit. I've used it a lot.

"I wanted to mulch leaves during the fall when cutting my lawn with my Big Mo riding mower, so I duct taped an L-shaped chunk of tin over the mower's discharge chute opening. The closed-off opening holds leaves and grass inside the mower deck so the material doesn't shoot out, but instead gets chopped up and exits out behind the deck.

"At the same time I pull a push-type mulch mower behind the riding mower. The two mowers are connected by a couple pieces of flat iron, hinged in the middle to make turning easier. I drilled a hole in the rear mower's deck and bolted the flat iron on. The other end hooks up to the riding mower's hitch."



**Kevin West, Covington, Ohio:** "My 2-ton grain truck had a broken running board, due to the support gusset rusting away from the frame. I wanted to reinforce the gusset with welding material but, unfortunately, there wasn't room to get my body in there and reach the welding area at the same time. So I came up with the idea of making a welding rod extension for my welder. I fused a full welding rod onto the end of another welding rod at a slight angle, which allows me to get around obstructions.

"My buddy uses a 30-gal. barrel to store welding rods. To keep the rods dry, he cuts a hole in the lid and affixes a reflector-type trouble light. An added bonus is that his cat, who likes to hang around in the shop, can lay