

Wilford Barnhart, Bovina Center, N.Y.:

"A reader in the last issue said his Deere 425 lawn tractor was his worst buy because it was a major ordeal to get it started every time he used it. He said it would stall whenever he tried to engage the blades. I have the same tractor and it had the same problem. My dealer showed me how to solve it. Before you engage the blades, run the throttle all the way up and put the choke at the level where the engine is sputtering and almost choking out. Then engage the blades. The problem with this tractor is the pollution equipment on it. The dealer said this info should be in the owner's manual."

Jere Allan, Blythe, Calif.: "I have a suggestion for Tom Mack, Westville, Ind., concerning his Deere model 425 lawn tractor. I have one and was experiencing the same problem he's having with the engine killing when he engages the mower. Here's the solution I found: 1. Let the tractor warm up for a couple minutes before engaging the mower. 2. Use 89 octane or higher gasoline and use a gasoline stabilizer in the gas. Since I took both these steps, I haven't had any problems."

Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.: "The big bronze bearing failed in the rear of my Craftsman drill. In the past I might have tossed it but this time I took all the measurements to my bearing outlet and they had a perfect match in a sealed ball bearing. Now the drill should last forever."

"To lubricate a roller chain that will not be exposed to dirt, I mix 80 weight gear oil with an equal amount of gasoline. Apply with a brush and it will stay on there for a very long time. The gasoline soon evaporates and the oil stays in place. If you're inside, make sure the room is very well ventilated to pull out the fumes."

Charles Klein, Columbia, Ill.: His advice to anyone making a shop table: Be sure



to make it big enough. That's what Charles did when he used a full 4 by 8-ft. sheet of 5/16-in. steel for a table top when making a rolling work table. He built a sturdy wood frame below and added locking caster wheels. He says the heavy steel top takes a beating and is plenty big for all kinds of repair work.

Alden Judnitsch, Pengilly, Minn.: "The left wheel broke off our IH 990 mower conditioner. We replaced it with the left wheel and axle off an IH 46 baler. We had to shorten the axle a few inches and a local machine shop drilled a new anchor pin hole. Worked great and we saved a lot of money."

D&S Hydraulics, 605 Highway 75 North, Moorhead, Minn. 56560 ph 218 236-6135; www.dshydraulicsmn.com: D&S repairs all makes and models of hydraulic pumps, motors, hydrostatics, valves and cylinders. They also custom-make cylinders from 1 1/2 to 6-in. bore with a 1 to 60-in. stroke. Ends can be customized for any unique application or for replacement of obsolete or odd-sized cylinders.

The company also stocks hydraulic motors and pumps and has a huge stock of hydraulic seals, fittings, and ready-made cylinders of all types and sizes.

Chad Travis, Drusco, Ark.: There was a complaint in a recent issue from a reader in South Carolina who had trouble shifting his



Tool consists of a metal cup that fits over end of drill and an 18-in. long metal handle that hinges on cup. A hook is welded to end of handle to hold a piece of chain.

Make Your Portable Drill Work Like A Drill Press

If you've ever wished you could put more down pressure on a handheld electric drill, you'll be interested in this simple tool built by Don Bragdon of London, Arkansas.

"It makes any portable drill work like a drill press, making it much easier to apply down pressure," says Bragdon.

The tool consists of a metal cup that fits over the end of the drill and an 18-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. metal handle that hinges on the cup. A hook is welded to the end of the handle to hold a piece of chain. The free end of the chain can be fitted with either a hook or a large magnet.

To use the drill, Bragdon attaches the magnet or hook to the working surface, and adjusts the chain links until the chain is tight. Then, while holding the drill with one hand, he uses his other hand to pull down on the handle to provide leverage.

"It makes drilling a much easier job," says Bragdon. "I came up with the idea because I'm in a wheelchair and sometimes can't reach up high enough to apply adequate down pressure for drilling. With this tool I can drill anywhere I can reach."

"I use the hook any time I can find a place



While holding the drill with one hand, the operator uses his other hand to pull down on the handle to provide leverage.

to hook it onto. When I'm drilling on a flat metal surface I use the magnet, which I bought for less than \$10 at Harbor Freight. My only cost was for the magnet. Everything else was built from scrap metal."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Bragdon, 426 Rnd. Mtn. Ln., London, Arkansas 72847 (ph 479 293-4256).

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 email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

5400 Deere tractor. I have one myself and clutch problems are common with this model because of a design problem. The clutch doesn't line up properly and some of the parts are too light and tend to flex. This all adds up to the clutch sticking. There is an updated clutch rod for this tractor that helps a little but doesn't fix the problem entirely. There is, however, an aftermarket clutch that is supposed to solve it. It was featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 30, No. 3 (T.C.M., Staceyville, Iowa ph 800 447-2161). Here's what I do to solve the problem. I insert a fiberoptic scope into the inspection port on the side of the clutch to find the input shaft. Then I insert a small hose down into the housing so a small amount of oil can be applied to the shaft. It helps the binding problem without having to replace the entire unit."

Joe Staadegaard, Lynnville Farm Equipment, LaSalette, Ontario: "For anyone looking for carburetor parts and kits for English Zenith carburetors, Lynnville Farm Equipment has them for Ferguson T.E.A., Ford Dexta, David Brown, Leyland-Nuffield, and IH 250, 275, and 414 models. We also carry other parts for these tractors. Call for a free parts list at 519 443-7591."

Gordon Black, 42042 E. Lane 16, Burns, Oregon 97720: "I wanted to cut the lid off a 55-gal. steel barrel, but I was afraid to be-



cause I didn't know what kind of material the barrel originally contained. To solve the problem, I closed the jaws of a pipe wrench just enough to get the jaws over the folded rim of the barrel. Then I used a big hammer to hit the back side of the top jaw until the jaw punched through the barrel. Once I made that initial hole through the rim, I was able to tip the wrench on its side and take half bites

with the wrench. I kept tapping the wrench. It shears a clean hole and works better than using a cold chisel, where you risk hurting your hands. It rolls the rim down so there's no sharp edge sticking up to get cut on.

"You can sharpen the top jaw of the wrench with a grinder to make it cut better. Makes the wrench look funny but it doesn't affect its usage."



"No one can live without duct tape or a coffee cup. My favorite pickup is a 1971 Ford Ranger and it didn't come equipped with fancy cup holders, so I simply set a 'travel' coffee cup into the middle of a roll of duct tape. The cup's bottom is smaller than the body so it fits perfectly into the hole. The side of the roll is somewhat sticky, so when I set it on the seat it stays put. My homemade cup holder can be easily moved from vehicle to vehicle."

Richard Gribbins, 1915 Merrimac Rd., Bradfordsvile, Ky. 40009: "Over the years I've made several different metal brackets that let me mount extra toolboxes on my three



Ford New Holland tractors - a 3930, TN 70DA, and 2600. The factory toolboxes on these tractors are either too small or located too far off the ground to see into them without having to climb into the cab. With my add-on toolboxes I always have enough tools on hand, and they're easy to get at. They also provide extra room for bolts, fencing materials, and other miscellaneous stuff."