

Traveling Workbench

Here's an idea we spotted at a recent farm show in England. It's a portable workbench that you can take out to the field to work on machinery.

The GenBench is 37 in. high with an 8 1/2 by 4-ft. working area. It weighs 1,411 lbs. empty and up to 1 1/2 tons full.

It mounts on a front or rear 3-pt. hitch and has pallet tine slots underneath so forklifts can haul it.

The bench includes different-sized storage compartments to hold a welder, pto generator, and 17 plastic trays for other tools. Wrenches hang on the door racks which lock to deter theft.

"It can reduce breakdown costs and down time, saving you money," says inventor Brian Matthews. "An assortment of trays and fittings hold a wide variety of tools, parts and fixings - everything you need to fix equipment in the field."

You can also use it as your primary workbench back in the shop.

Matthews points out that the GenBench could also be used to run a sideline welding and equipment repair business.

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Portable workbench mounts on a front or rear 3-pt. hitch and can hold a welder, pto generator, and many other tools.



Pto generator allows use of a wide variety of tools, right on the unit's heavy duty work top.

genbench.co.uk; www.genbench.co.uk).

Oil Filter "Drain Tool" Leaves No Mess

Changing an oil filter on any big vehicle can be a messy job, especially if you end up with oil running down your arm. Simon Peavey solved the problem by designing a drain tool for oil filters that doesn't make a mess.

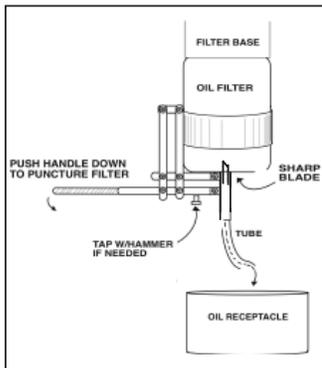
"It makes changing the oil on big trucks and tractors a much cleaner job," says Peavey.

The tool slips over the bottom of a filter and pokes a hole in the bottom to drain away the oil inside. A tube carries oil away to a drain pan. If the spear won't penetrate the filter, you can use a hammer to tap on a metal knob next to the spear.

"It's a pretty simple tool, but it works," says Peavey. "I'm a professional truck driver and I built it for my semi tractor which is equipped with a Detroit 60 diesel engine. I had been loosening the filter and then using a hammer and screwdriver to drive a hole through the bottom of the filter. But oil would run down all over my arm as soon as I pulled out the screwdriver.

"My oil filter drain tool could be used on any filter where there's enough room to get the tool in between the frame and the filter."

Peavey says he's looking for someone to



Tool slips over bottom of filter and pokes a hole in it to drain away the oil inside. If spear won't penetrate filter, you can use a hammer to tap on metal knob next to spear.

manufacture and market the tool.

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Save Money On Belts, Pulleys

"We can save you 30 to 50 percent compared to buying from your local implement dealer," says Menno Beiler, Georgetown Hydraulics, a supplier of V-belts and pulleys at discount prices.

Menno says the company's main business is in hydraulics and power drives, but they also sell a lot of belts, pulleys, and bearings. "We buy pulleys by the container load from a Wisconsin company. We have more than 100 dealers throughout the U. S. The pulleys we sell range anywhere from 2 to 50 in. in diameter, and are available with anywhere from one to 10 grooves. In many cases we can supply drive belts and pulleys that are no longer available from equipment dealers or salvage yards."

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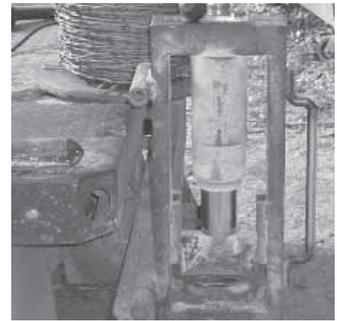


A wide variety of belts and pulleys are available from Georgetown Hydraulics at discount prices.

Pike, Christiana, Penn. 17509 (ph 610 593-2753).



Electric/hydraulic portable pipe flattener was built from a used cylinder and scrap steel.



Made-It-Myself Portable Pipe Flattener

"It's easy to build and anyone with mechanical sense could make one," says Jim Eastman, Eskridge, Kansas, about the electric/hydraulic portable pipe flattener he built from a used cylinder and scrap steel.

Eastman and his sons have a sideline fencing business and needed a fast way to flatten the ends of pipe to weld it to pipe posts.

Before this, they used a sledge hammer and anvil to flatten pipe. "If you have a lot of pipes to flatten, that gets old in a hurry," he says.

A 25-ton 6-in. stroke hydraulic cylinder mounts inside a 24-in. tall rectangular frame made from lengths of 1 and 2-in. thick solid steel bar. He added a handle and two small cylinder stabilizers that function as brackets when hinged to the pickup bed.

It's powered by an electric/hydraulic pump that operates off the portable welder/genera-

tor, or with a hand pump.

He welded a 1 by 3 by 4-in. steel bar to the end of the cylinder to flatten the pipe ends and added metal guides to the sides.

Although one person can use it, Eastman says he has another hold the end of an 8-ft. length to ensure that both ends are parallel when flattened. "You can stick the pipe in there flush but the cylinder wants to push it out as you're flattening it," he says. "I usually push the pipe in about an extra 1/2 in. so it doesn't do this.

"The biggest pipe we can flatten is 3 1/2 in.," he says. "It works great."

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He Puts His Shop Tools On Wheels

Whatever the shop tool, if he can put it on wheels, Dan Neuman, Loami, Ill., does just that. Here are four examples:

Portable Work Bench - Neuman's busiest "tool" is his portable table, or work bench. It's made entirely from steel and has a heavy steel plate for a table top. Caster wheels allow the work bench to be moved anywhere, and there's a handle on one side that lets Neuman guide it there. The table also has its own electrical plug-in box.

Drill Press - This drill press is equipped with a specially designed carriage. It looks like a tall chair with two rubber wheels on back. The front legs rest on the floor. The design allows Neuman to maneuver the drill around his shop by simply grabbing a high rod on back and leaning the unit backward.

Welder - Neuman mounted his welder on individually designed carts that ride on wheels. The welder has two conventional rubber wheels on back and two small caster wheels on front.

Chop Saw - It mounts on a cart equipped with two wheels on back and two legs on front. The saw is located at a convenient working height.

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Portable work bench (top right) has a handle on one side that lets Neuman guide it anywhere. Drill press (middle) rides on a 2-wheeled carriage that can be rolled around like a hand cart. Chop saw (bottom) mounts on a cart equipped with two wheels on back and legs on front.

