



Hinged overhead boom is fitted with an electrical outlet that's always within easy reach.

Boom-Mounted Electrical Outlets

Gerald Neumann has easy access to an electric outlet wherever he goes in his 30 by 42-ft. shop thanks to a wall-mounted overhead boom.

"I wanted to get electrical cords up off the floor," explains the retired Spencer, Wis., farmer.

He used 1-in. square tubing to build two 10-ft. boom sections that hinge in the middle and narrow down to a point at the end. It mounts on the wall with gate hinges. A third hinge on the wall above the unit, holds a triangular brace that provides extra support so the boom doesn't sag.

Neumann ran 12-gauge electrical wire along the bottom of the boom to a 4-plug, 110-volt outlet and a single 220-volt outlet. He left a large loop of wire at the hinge to

prevent it from being stretched too tight. Though he hasn't had any problem with it for 10 years, Neumann said he would probably use flexible conduit if he were to do it again.

The bottom of the outlets are about 7 ft. overhead, within easy reach, and they can be quickly moved around to provide access anywhere in the shop. When not needed, the unit folds up close to the wall. It's seldom in that position, however.

"I use it everyday I'm in the shop," Neumann says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Neumann, W332 Century Rd., Spencer, Wis. 54479 (ph 715 659-2424, jneumann@tzn.net.com).

Loft Storage Easy With New Lift Platform

Getting boxes, spare parts, and other supplies up to the upper levels of a garage or shop just got a whole lot easier with the new Versa Lift. Introduced at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas, it's easy to install and easy to use.

Versa Lift consists of a lifting platform and a docking station on the upper level. It requires an opening in the ceiling of 22 1/2 by 46 1/2-in. and a headspace of only 48 in. on the upper level. The platform has a self-adjusting floor with sensors that stop descent at the lower floor and stop ascent when the platform is even with the upper floor.

When lifted into position on the upper level, the bottom of the platform "closes the door" on the ceiling port, sealing off the storage space.

The platform is lifted and lowered by two cables suspended from the docking station framework. All that is required on the lower level is open floor space.

Two models are available. The Model 24 has a 200-lb. capacity. The Model 32 has a 250-lb. capacity. Several variations of each are available with floor to floor distances of up to 20 ft. Wireless remotes are available as an option versus the standard corded remote.

Prices range from \$1,185 for the Model 24 with a range of 8 to 11 ft. to \$2,895 for the



A wireless remote is used to raise platform to docking station in garage or shop attic. Model 32 with a floor-to-floor range of 14 to 20 ft. and a wireless remote.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Byers Product Group, P.O. Box 270366, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73137 (ph 405 943-1468; fax 405 943-7577; www.bpghome.com).

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Self-Adjusting Pipe Wrench

You can use this new self-adjusting pipe wrench with one hand. There's no need to spin a nut to adjust the size of the opening between the jaws. It lets you quickly switch between different sizes of pipe.

A thumb trigger is used to open or close the spring-loaded jaw which pivots on a ratchet. Pulling on the trigger produces a ratcheting action that allows the jaw to self-adjust to different pipe sizes.

The wrench has an alloy steel handle with a heat-treated alloy steel head. When you push or pull the handle in one direction, the jaws automatically tighten in the other direction.

The wrench has a 2-in. maximum jaw capacity.

Sells for \$41.50 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, General Tools & Instruments Co., LLC, 80



Thumb trigger is used to open or close wrench's spring-loaded jaws, which pivot on a ratchet.

White St., New York, New York 10013 (ph 212 431-6100 or 212 431-6499; m.circosta@generaltools.com; www.generaltools.com).

Remote-Controlled Battery Disconnect

Roger Gutschmidt loves the system he made to prevent electrical trickle from running down batteries in his grain trucks during the off-season. The add-on relays also safe-guard his stored equipment from fire due to electrical short-circuits.

He calls his device a "Battery Disconnect Relay" and says it provides a simple and safe method of connecting and disconnecting batteries or power circuits via a remotely operated switch.

"It's a latching relay, meaning that once activated, they stay either open or closed," he explains. "They require no power to stay open or closed. Power is only used during switching. The relays are also sealed against the environment and are designed to withstand shock and vibration. However, these

relays are not approved for use in an explosive or hazardous environment such as fuel vapors, heavy dust, and so on."

There are two fuse holders mounted on each relay rated at 5 amps.

Gutschmidt says the latching relays are available from: Intellitec Products, LLC, 131 Eisenhower Lane North, Lombard, Ill. 60148 (ph 800 251-2408 or 630 268-0010). They're also available from RV dealers, boat shops, repair shops, and even on eBay, he points out. The Intellitec part number is: 01-00055-000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gutschmidt Manufacturing, LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651, Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).

Grinder Fitted With Chop Saw Wheels

"I use my bench grinder for many different jobs. One afternoon while working on a project in my shop, I needed a fast cutting grinder for something I was working on. I noticed a few chop saw wheels laying around and an idea popped in my head. I stacked three chop saw wheels together and quickly mounted them onto the bench grinder. I thought to myself the moment I started using it 'Wow, what a great idea!' I couldn't believe how much faster these wheels were," says Bud Blanton, Gaffney, S. Carolina.

"I found this idea works great for rough grinding to remove a lot of metal from objects."

According to Blanton, chop saw wheels have a coarser grit than grinder wheels and are made to cut faster, which is why the idea works. You can often get used chop saw wheels for free at local welding shops.

To install the chop saw wheels on the grinder's spindle he used some left-over grinding wheel bushings, cutting them down to the proper length for the number of chop saw wheels to be used. He also made a bigger shield to handle the larger size of the chop saw wheels.

"I've found that chop saw wheels cut at least twice as fast as grinding wheels," says Blanton. "I use them to sharpen lawn mower blades and to knock the edges off metal, etc. Chop saw wheels don't leave a smooth finish but they get the job done."

Each chop saw wheel measures a little more than 1/8 in. wide, so when three of them are stacked together you get a grinding area about 1/2 in. wide, says Blanton. He says you can stack as many of the wheels together as



Bud Blanton stacked three chop saw wheels together and mounted them on his bench grinder. "Chop saw wheels cut at least twice as fast as grinding wheels," he says.

you want, depending on the job. "I suggest stacking two chop saw wheels together for normal objects."

He suggests making the grinder shield 1 1/2 to 2 in. larger than the largest wheel, and making the shield 2 1/2 in. or more wider on a steady rest, using 5/16 or 3/8-in. round stock for the steady rest instead of flat steel.

To prevent the metal grindings from building up, he angles the part where the sparks hit, downward instead of toward the back.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud Blanton, 1600 W. Rutledge Ave., Gaffney, S. Carolina 29341 (ph 864 489-5466; jfalls6586@charter.net).