

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



To put two tools together, Hugh Craft simply bolts or screws them together.

“Doubled Up” Tools Handy, Save Space

Hugh “Buz” Craft of Wills Point, Texas, recently sent FARM SHOW photos of several “doubled up” tools he made by bolting or welding two tools together.

Some example of his doubled-up tools include: A screwdriver combination with a flat head on one end and a Phillips head on the other; claw hammer and ball peen; brass mallet and rubber mallet; kitchen broom and shop broom; hoe and rake; scrub brush and rubber scraper; egg beater and oval whip; weed chopper and spike; fork and hamburger flipper for grilling; flat wire brush and round “reaming” brush; spaghetti claw and serrated plastic knife; large cook-out spoon and fork; and paring knife and ice pick.

“The handiest doubled-up tool in my col-

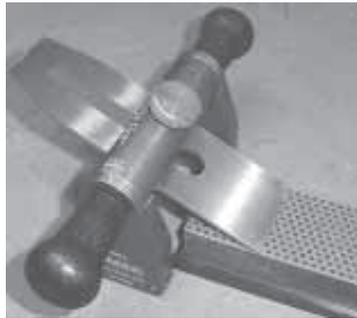
lection is my Phillips/flat head screwdriver set because it’s so easy to see, even in a cluttered-up toolbox. As soon as I spot the handle, I know I’ve got the right screwdriver point without having to do a lot of digging,” says Craft.

To put two tools together, most of the time he drills a hole in the handle on one of the tools and then bolts or screws them together.

“To double up the screwdrivers, a friend cut two inches off the plastic handle of both screwdrivers to expose the metal rods inside, then welded the two handles together and wrapped tape around them,” says Craft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Buz Craft, P.O. Box 565, Wills Point, Texas 75169 (ph 903 873-2367; junction1@att.net).

“Sled” straddles sharpening stone and is designed to be moved back and forth over it until blade is sharpened. “You use the whole stone, instead of just part of it, so it’s very efficient,” says inventor Tim Queeno.



“Sled” Makes Blade Sharpening Easy

Tim Queeno’s woodworking bench is filled with sharp chisels and planes thanks to his Sharpening Sled, which was the result of eight years of making prototypes. The end result worked so well he started making them for sale.

Most sharpeners have complicated setups that require measuring how much of the blade protrudes to achieve the correct angle, Queeno says. The Lima, N.Y. inventor’s sharpener has four simple setup steps.

1) Loosen the black handles and set the desired bevel angle using the precise, laser engraved index marks. Tighten the handles.

2) Place the Sharpening Sled over the sharpening stone.

3) Insert the chisel blade and push the alignment slide against the side of the blade to ensure it is square in the sled.

4) Tighten the brass toggle foot clamp on top to secure the blade.

Then just move the sled back and forth over the stone until the blade is sharpened. To add a micro-bevel for added strength, increase the angle by 5 degrees and make a couple more swipes on the stone.

“The novelty of the design is that it straddles the sharpening stone,” Queeno says. “The advantage is you use the whole stone,

instead of just part of it, so it’s very efficient.”

The sharpener has settings for 5 to 60-degree angles, four sealed radial bearings for rollers, and accommodates blades up to 3 in. wide and 1/4 in. thick.

Queeno makes some of the parts, hires local shops for other parts, and his family assembles the sharpeners in his farm’s barn. While the Sharpening Sled is more expensive than sharpeners available at box stores, it’s a tool that can be handed down for generations along with woodworking tools, he says. Three sizes are available, ranging from \$69.99 to \$79.99. Queeno offers a variety of other wood-working products through the internet. He’s looking for dealers.

With the popularity of his sharpening tool, Queeno started a home-based business, Alisam Engineering - using a conglomeration of his three children’s name for the business name. He offers a variety of accessories for woodworkers and home machinists, selling them on his website, eBay and through Hartville Tool. Queeno will mail out brochures of his products and is also interested in talking to dealers.

Contact: Tim Queeno, Alisam Engineering, Box 75, Lima, N.Y. 14485 (ph 585 624-2280; alisam@alisam.com; www.alisam.com).



Steel patch reinforces the area where mower collects moisture from grass and starts to rust out or crack. It’s a low cost alternative to replacing the entire deck.



Repair Patch Fits Deere Mower Decks

Instead of replacing worn mower decks, owners of Deere lawn and garden tractors can purchase a deck patch.

“It reinforces the area where the mower collects moisture from grass and starts to rust out or crack,” says Dick Sundahl of Sundahls’ Restoration Tooling in Faribault, Minn. “Mower decks are expensive to replace. This is a low cost alternative.”

Sundahl’s son and business partner, Thad, invented and designed the computer-designed, laser-cut, 12-gauge steel patch. The Sundahls’ hobby shop specializes in designing, marketing and making tools and parts to service and restore Deere products.

The patch fits mowers built from 1963 to 1987 in LGT models 110, 112, 120 and 140, and 200 and 300 series. It comes in two sizes. The smaller size fits decks 36 to 39 in. The larger size fits decks 40 in. and up.

To install the patch, unbolt the bearing

housing and blade, and line up the three patch holes with the bearing’s bolt holes. Since that is the deteriorated area that needs patching, most people weld or rivet the patches to the bottom of the mower, Sundahl says.

“The patch fits into the recess of the mower deck so it fits secure,” he adds.

Since the Sundahls started selling the patch a couple of years ago, they’ve had repeat customers, Sundahl says. For example, one customer was uncertain how well it would work, so he bought just one. Later, he ordered two more.

At just \$28 (plus \$10 shipping) apiece, the patches add years of working life to the mower, Sundahl notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sundahls’ Restoration Tooling, 1703 Greenwood Place, Faribault, Minn. 55021 (ph 507 334-8966; info@sundahltooling.com; www.sundahltooling.com).



Tin cargo carrier can be mounted or removed in just seconds with brackets that hook to tractor’s frame next to the hitch.



Simple Boxes Hold Debris And Tools

When Pete Peters finds a rock while mowing, he tosses it into a cargo carrier he built for the back of his mower.

The Osler, Sask., man built a simple 12 by 12 by 10-in. box out of tin and slipped it into an angle iron frame welded to two flat iron arms that fit holes on the tractor’s frame next to the hitch.

“It can be mounted or removed in just seconds with brackets that hook to the frame,” Peters says.

He uses the same technique to support a

small toolbox - an old tin box he found. He keeps extra fuses, wrenches, screwdrivers and pliers in the box for simple repairs.

Spray painted Deere green and finished off with Deere decals, the boxes look like they belong on the lawn tractor.

Peters says he may be interested in making the boxes for others if there’s interest.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pete Peter, P.O. Box 166, Osler, Sask., Canada S0K 3A0 (ph 306 239-2045).

Safety Tip For Hand Drills

A bad experience led Tom Christensen of Blackfoot, Idaho, to come up with a safety tip he wanted to share with FARM SHOW readers.

“I broke my big 1/2-in. side angle drive drill but the damage could have been prevented if I had thought of this idea sooner,” he says. “Maybe I can prevent other broken drills and even some broken wrists.”

The problem he’s talking about is when a drill bit binds up and the drill itself starts spin-

ning in your hands.

The solution is to plug the drill into an extension cord and then stand on the end of the cord, adjusting the length of the drill cord in your hand so that when the drill starts to counter rotate, it will unplug itself immediately.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Christensen, 178N 685W, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221 (ph 208 684-3601 or 208 680-5095 (cell); car3601@aol.com).