

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

A new Pro2 model has been re-engineered. It comes with mounting hardware, three pins, a stop block and a round sleeve. All the company's benders are made of hot-rolled American steel and are guaranteed for life. A wide selection of dies and accessories are available to cover a wide range of applications.

Rex Gogerty, 33475 K. Ave., Hubbard, Iowa 50122 ph 641 487-7617: "I bolted a 5-in. wide metal plate to the back side of a broom. Works great for dislodging mud, ice and manure. I started with a metal plate about 5 in. long on one end and 8 in. long at the



other. I bent it at a 35 degree angle, then drilled a hole through the plate and also through a plastic holder for the broom handle. A 1/2-in. dia., 2 1/2-in. long bolt runs through the plate and plastic holder and into the board that holds the broom. A nut and lock washer holds it on.

"Works great in my garage and shop because I can scrape stuff off the floor without having to stoop over. I can use the scraper to knock stuff loose, then push it away with the broom. It isn't designed to do heavy duty digging but on a cement floor it works great."

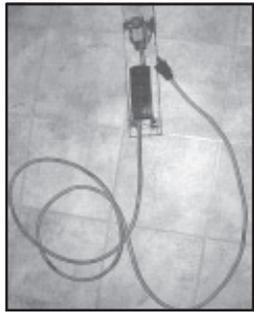
Burton Graves, 325 E. Downington Rd., Sandusky, Mich. 48471: "Here's an idea I used while serving as a motor sergeant in the U.S. Army in occupied Germany in 1946-47, and ever since on the farm. Carbureted gas engines require a richer gas-to-air mixture for starting because gas remains in each cylinder after being stopped with the ignition switch. This is usually enough to restart the engine in warm weather without choking, but it isn't enough to start an engine in cold weather when engines are harder to crank, batteries are weaker, and less gas vaporizes.

"By choking after turning off the switch at idle speed, during the last revolution, extra gas is left in the cylinder - not enough to flood the engine but enough for instant starting, even months later."

Donald White, 7250 E. Stevens Lane, Smithfield, Ill. 61477: "I have an IH 1206 tractor that kept getting harder to start, but I didn't want to spend the money for a new starter. A friend told me that a used starter off an IH 815 or 915 combine would work, and that it would be more powerful than the original starter because the combines have bigger engines. So I bought a used starter at a local salvage yard and installed it. Installing it was a tight squeeze because it was longer and bigger around than the original starter, but I got it in. It really cranks the engine fast, which makes it very easy to start. I think the same idea would work on other old IH tractors such as the 806, 856, 1256, and 1456.

"A tip for starting older diesel engines - use Deere starting fluid. It's 80 percent ether instead of the standard 60 percent that's found in most starting fluids."

Don Catron, Box 357, Bridgeport, Neb. ph 308 262-0600: "I built this portable, foot-operated 'safety power cord' and use it to operate my drill press. It's made from a limit switch off a Valley center pivot irrigation system, an electrical outlet box, and an extension cord. I bolted the limit switch onto



one end of a small flat metal plate and the limit switch to the other end and then wired them together. The extension cord plugs into any wall outlet.

"I plug the drill press into the plate-mounted outlet and step on the limit switch to turn the drill press on or off. That way my hands are free at all times to operate the drill press. If something goes wrong, all I have to do is lift my foot off the switch to shut off the power. Eliminates the need to reach up and turn the switch off on the drill, which is really handy if I'm holding something and the drill bit catches.

"I can use this idea to operate any kind of power tool. Just don't use a 3-prong outlet as it could be dangerous. Unfortunately it's getting hard to find two-prong electrical plug-in boxes."



Serge Harrison, B.R.T. Tech Corp., Port Kent, N.Y. www.engineerel.com: "Engine Release frees up engines that seize up during storage. It eliminates corrosion and frees up engines of all types, without the need for special tools or major engine work. The liquid solution fills the gap between the piston and cylinder wall and migrates behind and around each piston ring, then makes its way from the top piston ring and groove to the lowest, through each ring gap.

"Engine Release is available through the internet and retails for \$19.95 plus S&H. Each kit contains 250 ml of liquid and comes with a flexible injector bottle and easy-to-follow instructions."

Mike Toppen, P.O. Box 138, Burnips, Mich. 49314 (ph 269 673-5597; fordsrule@btc-bci.com): "I recharge dead batteries with distilled water. I just replace the acid with water, which dissolves the sulfuric acid crystals that build up on the battery plates. It's the crystal buildup that keeps the battery from recharging, and they don't dissolve as readily in acid. After hooking the charger up a couple of times, the water has turned acidic, and I replace it with fresh sulfuric acid.

"The recharge works about 50 percent of the time, as long as the dead battery hasn't been treated with other products. I even use it on so-called no-maintenance batteries. When they seem dead, they're often just out of liquid. I drill a pinhole and inject water with a syringe, then seal it with silicone, a stainless steel screw or even duct tape. I figure if the battery is already shot, all I'm out is a little water if it doesn't work."

Randy Kester says his new "Shop On Wheels" does a great job of organizing tools, with the tools and workbench right with you all the time. Two 500-watt Halogen lights mount overhead and can be rotated up to 180 degrees.



Shop On Wheels, 319 West Chestnut St., Ogdon, Iowa 50212 ph 515 275-4699; rklelev@netins.net: Inventor Randy Kester says his new "Shop On Wheels" tool cart does a great job of organizing tools and also saves time and makes shop repair work much easier, with the tools and workbench right with you all the time.

The cart is made from powder coated, 12-ga. diamond plate steel. The flat workbench will hold up to 500 lbs. It's designed to hold more than 300 different tools and sockets. "All the wheels rotate on needle bearings so even a loaded cart can be moved around as easily as you can move a shopping cart," says Kester.

The cart measures 5 ft. long, about 2 ft. wide, and 5 ft. tall and has four different levels of shelves. It has dividing compartments for storing odds and ends. Nine sets of sockets can be stored on the top shelf.

Two 500-watt Halogen lights mount overhead and can be rotated 180 degrees. A shop

light can be pulled out from a retractable reel, and there's a strip of electrical outlets where you can plug in power tools.

"The Halogen lights are about 7 ft. high so they won't shine in your eyes," says Kester. "This tool cart works great when you're working on tractors, semi's, combines, etc., because you can roll the cart over to the machine and shine the light right into the machine as you work on it."

There are separate places to store screwdrivers, punches, hammers, vise grips, pliers, putty knives, punches, chisels, open end wrenches, ratchet wrenches, and much more. You can store S.A.E. tools on one side of the cart and metric tools on the other side. There's a holster for grease guns, and three other holsters for battery-operated drills or air impact wrenches and three different removable tubes for storing 10, 12, or 14-in. long nylon zip ties.

Price starts at \$1,150.



Cart rides on four caster wheels and has a couple of heavy duty wire shelves.

Portable Welding Cart

"I needed a table or bench to do welding work, and I wanted it to be somewhat portable so I could use it for other work. Rather than build a big welding table, I decided to make use of a couple of heavy duty wire shelves that I already had. I can roll my portable welding cart wherever I need it or right up to my welder," says Chris Kornkven of Helenville, Wis.

The cart rides on four casters and measures 48 in. long by 24 in. wide, with 60-in. long, 1-in. pipes used for the legs. The base of the cart is made from 1 by 1 1/2-in. angle iron and is handy for storing scrap metal. The shelves Kornkven used have

round metal sleeves at each corner, which made it easy to mount the shelves on the pipes. He used split ring collars for the shelf supports, which allow him to raise or lower the shelves as needed.

He welded an angle iron crossbar on top of one side of the cart and tach welded pegboard hooks to hang tools.

"I plan on welding another angle iron crossbar with pegboard hooks and might add a work light on top," says Kornkven.

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