

B.R. Mitcham, Madisonville, La.: “My 1954 Farmall Cub had a clicking sound in all gears. After pulling the whole transmission and differential apart, it turned out to be a bushing in the reverse idler gear. I changed the bushing and no more clicking.”

Keith Saxe, Antioch, Ill.: “Like many of us, I use a chain hoist to lift the front of the lawn tractor to get at the blades. The last time I was going to do it, I was walking around the shop looking for the 2 by 4 that I use as a chain spreader to clear the sides of the hood when the clevis I keep on back of the tractor caught my eye. I thought, ‘Why not lift the rear of the tractor instead?’

“The tractor didn’t seem to mind and I got the blades sharpened and replaced with no problems. I think most people lift the front end because it’s lighter but it’s a lot more convenient to lift the back.”

Dave Neufeld, Waverly, Kan.: “I made a pry bar from a pickup leaf spring. It’s thin, yet wide and strong. I had to heat it to bend one end. There was no need to sharpen the



ends since it already had pretty thin ends but some springs would probably need that. The bar works great for removing wood trim without scarring, and the curved section is useful for lifting sheet rock an inch or so into position. I’m sure there will be many other uses I haven’t thought of yet.”

Jon Bell, Lyons, Colo.: “If you have a dark corner in your workshop or back room, install a motion sensor light there. It comes on only when you go there and shuts itself

Rollers on Gutschmidt’s OMC baler were slick from wear which kept short, light crops from feeding in properly. To solve the problem he coated the rollers with a rough rubber coating.



This Fix Helps Bale Short, Light Crops

Tired of the frustration that short, light crops can cause when you’re trying to bale them? Roger Gutschmidt came up with a simple solution that made feeding problems on his baler pick-up disappear.

“I had trouble with my OMC roller baler on short or light hay and straw because it wouldn’t feed in properly and always piled up on the pick-up until it plugged the baler,” he says.

Gutschmidt took a calculated gamble that the problem might be caused by rollers in his baler becoming somewhat slick from wear, and decided to coat them with something that would increase their ability to grab the plant material in the swath.

“I painted 3 of the drums with ‘Herculiner,’ which is a liner for coating the interior of truck boxes to protect them with a rubber coating that’s kind of rough,” he explains. “I brushed it on the rollers and the next morning it was hard as rock. The coating covers

off after you leave. Very useful if your hands are full.

“Another handy idea is that when I buy a come-along, I remove the slip hooks and permanently add about 2 ft. of chain with jam hooks to each end. This makes the come-along much more useful. They attach to many more situations without having to use extra chain.”

Donald Struckhoff, Augusto, Mo.: “We use a chainsaw tip grease gun to lubricate the regreasable bearings on an IH 470 disk after the grease fittings get worn by dirt. This works until the sides of the fitting wear through.

Alden Corp., 251 Munson Road, Wolcott, Ct. 06716 (ph 800 832-5336; www.aldn.com): This company sells extraction tools driven by standard 3/8 and 1/4-in. reversible power drills, that make it easy to remove stripped or broken bolts and other threaded fasteners. The “ProGrabit” works on anything from a no. 4 screw to a



3/8-in. bolt. “Drill-out” is a broken bolt extractor, consisting of a drill-bit and extractor in one tool. “X-out” is designed to remove damaged screws by simply applying pressure on the fastener head with a reversible power tool. Or, it can be used manually with a ratcheting screwdriver.

H. E. Shier, Colonsay, Sask.: “Old golf balls make comfortable file handles. Just

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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

drill a suitable size hole in the golf ball and drive it over the tang of the file. The right size hole will make a tight fit that keeps the golf ball on forever.”

John Bayes, Labelle, Florida: “I’d like to know if anyone else has had problems using ethanol fuel in chainsaws. Here in Florida, I find the fuel boils and causes vapor lock as it gets toward the bottom of the tank. My saw manufacturer suggested using Stabil fuel preservative normally used for winter storage. It didn’t help. The saw has to cool down about an hour before I can restart it. Any suggestions?”

Dexter Brahm, Ionia, Iowa: “I have an older Hydro-Mac skid loader and had a problem shearing the roll pins in the machine’s hydrostatic pumps. To solve the problem, I mounted stops on the pins’ forward and reverse travel. Now the arms don’t go far enough in to shear the pins before they reach the end of their travel inside the pump.”

Ronald Fitzgerald, Seeley’s Bay, Ontario: “If you have an outside furnace that develops a slow leak, put a couple cans of radiator stop leak in it. It’ll solve the problem if the furnace doesn’t leak a lot.”

Brad Cole, Skaneateles, N.Y.: “My Kubota 4-WD tractor came equipped with industrial tread tires. Unfortunately there was no clearance for tire chains and I didn’t want to replace the wheels and tires. Instead I installed Tungsten studs in the tires, which greatly increased traction in snow. The studs are available from ATV and snowmobile dealers.”

Steve Litchy, Blomkest, Minn.: “I built this roller stand out of angle iron and sq. tubing. I use it with my drill press and table saw when handling long material. Similar commercial roller stands sell for \$20 to \$30. I got the roller free from my school. It was the wrong size for another roller stand so they didn’t need it any more.”



Ollie Maier, San Marcos, Texas: “On small chains where even a 1/4-in. hook is too large, I take a cut link from a somewhat

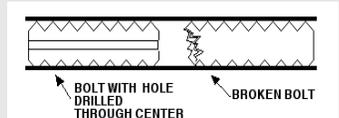
larger chain that’s still small enough to fit in one of the links. I put the cut link in the vise and close one half onto the chain, leaving the other half to hook into whatever link is necessary to secure something. It also works well to use such a chain in combination with a bungee strap.

“To come up with an inexpensive but effective fire starter for a fireplace or brush pile, I simply tie an old sock in knots as tight as I can and soak it in a little diesel fuel or starting fluid. The sock will burn for several minutes which is enough to start most pieces of wood, even if they’re wet.

“I own a number of cordless tools (five drills, three saws, a caulking gun, and all of them have different voltages (12, 14.4, 18, and 24). I use a different color can of spray paint for each tool to mark the tool, the batteries, and the charger so I know at a glance where everything belongs. Otherwise the batteries and chargers are all black which makes them hard to tell apart.

“I had been using a small chain to keep my larger tubular gates open or closed, until I discovered an easier method that also saves on the gate’s hinges. To keep the gate from sagging, I screwed the post part of a screw hinge into a post at both the open and closed position of the gate - just slightly higher than the bottom of the gate - for the open end of the tubular gate to rest on. The hinge holds the gate so well that I no longer needed to chain it.”

Don Snlner, Grand-Mere, Quebec: “Here’s a foolproof way to drill out broken bolts in engine blocks, heads or any other



kind of housing whenever the bolt breaks off below the surface. Cut off a 3/4 to 1-in. length of the same size bolt. Using a drill press, drill the center of the bolt using a small drill. Install the drilled-out bolt in the top of the hole where the bolt is broken. Using the same small drill, drill out the broken bolt using the drilled bolt as a guide. Once the broken bolt is center-drilled, you can use a bigger bit to drill out the broken bolt and it’ll always stay centered.”