

**Lyndon Burkholder, Hyde Park, Vt.:** "When working on small engines, one particularly difficult procedure is to stabilize the flywheel to loosen the nut which holds it on. A friend shared this trick with me: Unscrew the spark plug and feed a small length of rope into the cylinder. I prefer a soft natural fiber rope rather than a plastic type. Also, be sure the rope is clean. The piston squeezes this rope against the head. This prevents the piston from going beyond top dead center, allowing you to tighten or loosen the nut."

**Chad Travis, Drasco, Ark.:** "When re-sealing a paint can, take two layers of food-type cling wrap and place it over the top of the can. Then put the lid on. The plastic prevents metal-to-metal contact, making it easier to remove the lid next time."

"Many late model tractors have FWD on the front. Replacing the kingpin, or trunion bushings as they're called, can be a difficult job if you try to knock them out with a hammer and chisel. I have taken several out by welding. Take a bolt and taper grind the head so it will fit inside the bearing on the axle housing. Use a 3/32 stick rod 275 All-State series (chrome rods). They're expensive but work well. After welding the head in place, put a nut onto the bolt and weld it into place. Put a length of 18-24 tubing or bar stock to be welded at midpoint onto the nut. Use two hammers of some size to hammer on the bar. The bearings will come right out."

**Gene Ferencsik, Fruitport, Mich.:** "I've read several articles in FARM SHOW about narrowing up a car rear end to make a new machine. But I've never read how they do it. How do you cut the axle and then weld it back together? How do you keep it lined up when welding it back together? Are there any special techniques used? What kind of welding rod is best?"

**Larry Wood, Waldo, Ohio:** "I had trouble changing the oil on my 2002 Ford F-150 4-WD pickup. I was able to get a good grip



on the filter, but there wasn't enough room to turn it or even work it loose with my filter wrench.

"To solve the problem I used a ratchet tie down strap. I wound the end of the strap up in my hand and slid it over the filter, then pulled the strap tight around the filter and

attached the hook end to the pickup frame. As I started working the ratchet, the filter came loose very easily. Then I pulled on the strap, and the filter spun almost all the way off."

**Verl Christensen, Preston, Idaho:** "Here's a time-saving idea that we use with our service truck. We carry various sizes of small bolts in pint-sized containers that we keep inside a larger metal box, which has a corner cut out of it. When we need to look for a bolt, we dump a container out into the larger box. After finding what we need, we dump the bolts back into the smaller container."

**Ed Kaminski, Townsend, Mt.:** "Here's an easy way to make sure you hook up the spark plug wires to the right cylinders when tuning an engine - just use clothespins. Number the clothespins in sequence, one for each cylinder, and attach them to the spark plug wires."

"The first thing I do after I open the hood is attach the clothespins to the wires. Then after removing the wires and installing the new plugs, I match the clothespins on the wires to the corresponding cylinders. When I'm done installing the spark plugs I just remove the clothespins and throw them in a toolbox, ready for the next time."

**Wayne Gray, Hayden, Colo.:** "When replacing the clutch on a pickup you also have to replace the pilot bearing, which can easily get stuck in the flywheel. Unfortunately, most of the time you can't fit a tool in behind the bearing in order to pry it out."

"To make it easier to pry the bearing out, I squirt three or four shots from a grease gun into the middle of the bearing. Then I find a punch that's about the same diameter as the inside diameter of the bearing, and use the punch to force the grease behind the pilot bearing, which will then push the bearing out of the flywheel. It works almost like a hydraulic press. Electrical tape can be used to make a snug fit around the punch and the hole."

**Tom Christensen, Blackfoot, Idaho:** "Here's an easy way to keep a handheld drill from injuring your wrist due to the counter torque when the drill breaks through. Just switch the drill's trigger handle to your left hand right before it cuts through. That way the drill will pull out of your hand if it binds up, instead of banging into your right hand. This idea sounds almost too simple to work, but it does."

**Robert L. Ruppert, Tiffin, Iowa:** "A cap off a 1-gal. milk jug makes a better sink stopper than any commercial stopper you can buy."

**Janis Schole, Pickardville, Alta.:** "Here's a tip for anyone who's ever misplaced an owner's manual for a product that was purchased a long time ago. You can usually find



Money-Saving  
Repairs  
&  
Maintenance  
Shortcuts

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

the manuals online and print them out. Just go to the manufacturer's website and enter in the product's information which is usually found on a plate somewhere on the machine.

"Going online for owner's manuals is also a really good idea if you're selling something at a yard sale. Having that manual sitting right next to the machine you're trying to sell may make the difference in getting a sale or not. People are more likely to purchase a machine when there's a manual with it. If you can't find the manual on the manufacturer's website, try googling the product name and model number."

**Gary Callaghan, Baie Saint Paul, Quebec:** "I couldn't find parts for my Rockwell table saw or my Sears Craftsman molding head and knives, as both products had been discontinued. I looked on the internet and was able to find the companies that took over the old parts. I found that Ace Tool took over Rockwell, and Corbo Cutters took over Sears molding head and knives. The point is, don't discard an old machine just because you can't find replacement parts for it. Ask around and check on the internet first."

**Paul Michener, Grease Buster Tools, Waynesville, Ohio (ph 513 312-5779; pmichener@woh.rr.com):** "I recently introduced a new pneumatic version of the Grease Buster that's called the Shop Size

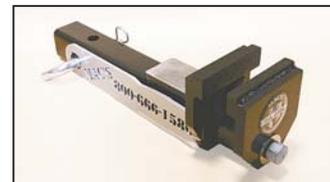
have to be disassembled and cleaned to get lubrication into the fitting."

**Steve Davis, Performance Distributors, (ph 901 396-5782; www.PerformanceDistributors.com):** "Our new 404 International D.U.I. Distributor is the latest breakthrough in equipment ignition systems. The Davis Unified Ignition is a one-piece, one-wire distributor. The high output Dyna-Module and 50,000-volt D.U.I. coil are located inside the distributor, making it virtually water, mud, and vibration proof."



"The Dyna-Module and D.U.I. Coil work in tandem to produce a longer duration spark, allowing you to open up your plug gaps to .055. This burns your fuel more completely. The D.U.I. performs without a ballast resistor. Full voltage goes straight to your combustion chamber. Performance Distributors calibrates every D.U.I. on a distributor machine with a very accurate timing curve throughout the entire rpm range. This ensures instant throttle response when you "step on it."

**Mac's Custom Tie-Downs; (ph 866 371-5175; www.maccustomtiedowns.com):** They make a lightweight vise with full-sized jaws that installs in any standard



hitch receiver and lets you make repairs right at your vehicle. The Trail D-Vise vise weighs only 17 lbs., yet has all the features of a full-size 8-in. vise, including high-grip cross-hatch jaws, a convex pipe holder and a built-in CNC-cut adjustment wrench. The compact design allows it to fit easily behind the seat of a truck or in most toolboxes.

To use, just slide the vise into the receiver and tighten it down with the included Mac's Grease Buster. The original Grease Buster, patented and made in the U.S. for 15 years, cleans out grease fittings and bearings using penetrating oil and hydraulic or pneumatic pressure. It's the answer to the problem of plugged-up grease fittings and bearings.

"The new pneumatic piston (patent pending) for the Shop Size Grease Buster fits into a pneumatic hammer. I've used this tool to open frozen bearings that would otherwise

## Power Cord "Plug-Proof" Bracket

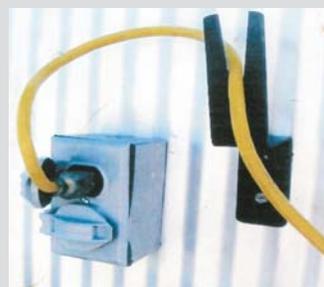
Anyone who's ever accidentally yanked an appliance cord out from an electric wall outlet will appreciate this V-shaped, wall-mounted bracket that "locks" the cord in place.

Richard Layden says he came up with the idea after his wife complained about the vacuum cord pulling out of the electric outlet.

The bracket is made from metal and simply screws to the wall on either side of the receptacle and slightly above it.

"Not only does it keep you from accidentally yanking the cord out, but it can be used to hold an extension cord between uses," says Layden. "Over the years I've given quite a few of these brackets away to friends and neighbors. I'd be willing to sell them if there's enough interest."

The bracket sells for \$3 plus S&H. Discounted price available for large volumes.



**V-shaped, wall-mounted bracket "locks" an appliance cord in place to keep you from accidentally yanking it out.**

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