

billet wrench. To prevent theft, the hitch pin can't be removed without a socket or wrench once the unit is slightly tightened down in the receiver.

The unit can also be mounted to a work bench using an optional square tube table receiver.

James W. Proffitt, Harrison, Tenn.: "Here's an easy way to remove the spark plugs from the 5.4-liter gas engine on a Ford F-150 pickup. Loosen the plugs and spray around each one with WD 40. Let the plugs soak for eight hours, then spray more WD 40 around the plugs and start working the plugs back and forth in order to break the carbon. Apply more WD 40 while working the plugs back and forth."

Jeff Fox, Dacula, Ga.: "I used zip-lock ties to attach 2-ft. lengths of 2-in. dia. pvc pipe to the back screen of my Kawasaki Mule. I put my tool handles inside the pipes, so they stuck up in the air rather than taking up space in the bed."

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: "This drill press was built by my father Gilbert more than 60 years ago, and it still works. It's made out of a Model T rear axle. A keyway was cut the length of the axle shaft so it could slide up or down through the gear. I don't remember where the steering wheel came from, or the



wheel rim the unit stands on. To start the press, I step on an old-fashioned starter button located on the wheel rim.

"A flywheel ring gear is used to move the drill chuck up or down. It was removed and straightened out, and an opposing gear had to be found to match. The press has only one speed - slow. The chuck can travel 12 to 14 in., and the narrow table is adjustable as well. I can still remember watching my father use this press in his farm workshop 40 years ago."



Horizontal rod with big bend in it runs across floor from steering column toward brake latch. Another rod extends vertically up toward steering wheel.

Parking Brake Latch For Farmall M's

After reading a story about a quick latch for Farmall M brakes in FARM SHOW (Vol. 33, No. 1), Donald Jaster, Bruce, Wis., decided to improve on the idea.

In the original story, Todd Quatier got tired of reaching down to lock the brakes on his Farmall M. He came up with a simple latch that allows him to use his left foot to trigger a lock on the brakes as he steps on them with his right foot. The unit is designed to use existing bolt holes in the transmission cover.

"I liked the idea, but the problem is your left foot is always busy on the clutch while your right foot is applying the brakes. I wanted to leave my left foot free. My design lets me use my fingertips right by the steering wheel," says Jaster.

A horizontal rod with a big bend in it runs across the floor from the steering column toward the brake latch. Another rod extends vertically from the horizontal rod up toward the steering wheel and has a big knob mounted on the top end that's located about 2 in. below the throttle.

"When my hand is on the throttle I can pull up on the knob with my fingertips to trigger a lock on the brakes."



Donald Jaster came up with this quick latch for the brakes on his Farmall M. It leaves his left foot free to operate the clutch.

The vertical rod bolts to the steering column with two bolts that go through a piece of angle iron with nuts welded onto it. A metal loop welded onto the horizontal rod forms a pivot point for the vertical rod.

Jaster says the same idea would work on all IH tractors with the same basic H or M floor and brake system.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Jaster, N5516 Johnson Rd., Bruce, Wis. 54819 (ph 715 868-8250; k9yli@aol.com).

Roger Gutschmidt Shop Ideas

Tractor Cleaning Tip

"I always wash my tractors and equipment before parking them for the winter. But this year, I did it a little differently.

"I bought a 2-gal. industrial hand pump sprayer (from Gemplers) that's designed for spraying degreasers and solvents. Then, I dumped in 1 gal. of water along with 1 gal. of Citrol, which is a degreaser sold by Schaeffers Lubricants. I sprayed the mixture on my tractors wherever there was grease and grime.

"Doing it this way was much more economical than using spray can degreasers and I didn't have to deal with all the empty spray cans. After the solution had a chance to soak in for 15 to 20 min., I just sprayed it off with water and it dried with no oily residue. A 2-gal. container of the mix was enough to presoak several tractors."

Overhead Ladder Racks

"I built these overhead ladder racks for my 6-ft. and 8-ft. stepladders. I was tired of leaning them against the wall or equip-



ment, where they were always in the way.

"The racks were pretty easy to build and are made of 2 1/2-in. formed angle and miscellaneous flat straps for bracing. I made each of them in less than 1 hr. and they were inexpensive, as far as the materials I used. I painted them, and then bolted them to the ceiling of my loft area in my shop. They're low enough that I can just

reach up and pull the stepladders out.

"I really like them because now I have a bit more floor space and they're still really handy and visible when I need them."

Hole Cutting Method

"Here's a little hint for drilling holes in sheet metal or anywhere that large hole saws tend to "drift" away from the location you're trying to drill (like in a piece of sheet metal).



For example, I recently installed a B&W brand turnover ball hitch in my pickup bed, and used this trick to make the hole-drilling easier.

"It's pretty important that you get the hole exactly in the right place or the underside attachment brackets won't line up. Although there's a 1/4-in. pilot hole in the center, the hole saw still wanted to move around. So I used a simple piece of 1/2-in. plywood to solve the problem. It needs to be large enough to stand on to keep it in place. I use the weight of my body, but you can clamp it down too, if you're able to.

"First, I drilled the size hole I needed in the plywood. This allowed me to see the metal through the hole. When you start to drill into the metal, the board acts as a guide for the drill bit, holding it perfectly in place.

"I also used this method to drill a hole in my rubber bed liner mat, which I installed in the truck box when I was finished installing the ball hitch.

Welding Rod Extender

Patrick Malloy's welding rod "extends" helps each out-of-the-way spots. It's adjustable from 14 to 36 in. and you can add additional 6-in. extensions as needed. For Malloy, inventing the device let him return to welding.

"I was a welder until an accident put me in a wheelchair," says Malloy. "It lets me get the rod where I need to, even from my chair."

The head swivels 180°. It seats rods up to 1/8-in. dia. without changing collet and tips. Adapters for larger rods are available. The thumb clamp has a quick connect/disconnect.

Malloy says the Expander, as he calls it, gives excellent control of the electrode. It also puts an end to jury-rigging rods to give them a little "added" reach.

"No more bending rods, breaking flux or welding rods together," says Malloy.

The Welding Rod Expander sells for \$69.95. Extensions (6-in.) sell for \$10 each.



Welding rod expander has a swivel action head that swivels 180 degrees, making it easy to reach hard-to-reach places.

Malloy markets the device himself.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patrick Malloy, 101 Bunting Bridge Rd., Cookstown, N.J. 08511 (ph 609 758-8706; mobile 609 346-6150).

"My brother Paul thought of this little hint. He reads FARM SHOW, so I have to give him the credit or I'll hear about it."

Recharging Batteries

"I like to have a place for everything, and everything in its place, so I hated having my cordless tool chargers sitting all over my work bench.

"To solve this problem, I found an excellent new place to store them. Since I always keep the lid of my big Sears Craftsman toolbox open, there was space on the inside of the lid where I could mount screws to hang them from. There's actually a false panel that sits about a 1/2-in. from the actual lid of the box,

and this allowed me to put screws through without having them come through to the outside of the lid.

"I have chargers for 3 cordless impact wrenches, 2 cordless drills, and a flashlight. Most of the chargers have keyhole mounts, so they hang on the screws, but some of them don't, so I just have those setting below on the top tray of the toolbox. It's a great, compact spot for everything, and I like having it all together so I don't have to scrounge around looking for them. All of the cords are plugged into a nearby power strip. This idea cost me nothing and I love it."