



Don Blake, Cherokee, Iowa: "I used an old chair and some scrap steel to make a handy roll-around shop chair that holds tools and parts. It really makes it easier for an old man to work on machinery."

"The chair welds to a frame made of 1 1/2-in. angle iron and 1 by 2-in. sq. tubing. The platform under the chair holds parts as does a tray attached to the side of the chair. There are 3-in. casters under the frame that make it easy to maneuver around."

Andrew Sewell, Yorkshire, England: "I recently spotted this idea on a local tractor. The farmer who owned this Deere 578 tractor



put colored plastic ties on the hydraulic hoses and valves to make it easy to hook up the right hoses. It's a cheap replacement for the colored plastic covers that come on the hoses but often get ripped off and lost. You can buy a whole box of ties for a couple dollars."

Tom Gaddel, Oregon City, Ore.: "I read with interest the reports in your last issue about people having fuel problems with their Deere Gators. I talked to the dealer and he

gave me what he called hotter spark plugs. I installed them and eliminated the smoking problem from unburned fuel."



Frank VanLin, La Crescent, Minn.: "I mounted a bench vice and an electric grinder on top of my Craftsman tool chest. It saves room on my work bench and I can roll the tool chest wherever it's needed."

Glenn Hatfield, Crossville, Tenn.: "In a recent issue someone said his rototiller would act up whenever the fuel tank got down to half full. I think the trouble was really with the gas cap vent, which gets stopped up."

"In another report, someone said his chainsaw was cutting sideways because the chain had two teeth on one side, but I don't think that was the problem. The problem was that one side of the chain was sharper than the other."

Jerry Brandt, La Grange, Mo.: "I'm 66 years old so my Ford 9N is one year older than me. My dad got it in the early 1950's. As far as I know, this tractor has never been overhauled and has had the same rear tires for more than 30 years. I use it once a week to mow about four acres of grass and to clear snow during the winter."

"This tractor used to have a starting problem when it still had a 6-volt battery system. To solve the problem, I installed a

FARM SHOW

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

12-volt battery on positive ground, and to reduce voltage also added a second resistor voltage reducer. That helped the tractor to start and run a lot better.

"I also had trouble with the points and coils. One day I replaced them and accidentally hooked up the 12-volt battery to negative ground. It was a lucky mistake because for more than two years now I haven't had any problem with the points, plugs or coils. The tractor starts immediately and runs great."

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: "I was always finding golf balls lying around in the park whenever I walked my dogs. Since golf balls are quite expensive I would pick them



while looking back over my right shoulder. The lift lever was previously mounted on the dash and would often get stuck. I moved the lever to the back of the tractor.

"I installed an 18-in. length of 1/8-in. thick steel plate on the right side of the tractor and then bolted it to the 3-pt. lift linkage, as shown in the photo."

Blaine Cornell, Malta, Mont.: "I have several small engines and vehicles with stripped oil drain plugs so I use a vacuum oil extractor to change oil. It's made by Mytyvac (www.mytyvac.com) and you can get one at any auto parts store. Uses an air compressor or manual pump. I use it both ways."

Dan Johnson, San Antonio, Texas: "If you're like me you keep a number of PVC, CPVC, ABS, etc., fittings around for repairs. How many times have you reached for a can of glue or solvent and found it to be dried out? An easy fix is to store the cans upside down. Cans of plumbing solvent can be kept fresh for years by using this simple tip."

"Most people call PVC cement 'glue' but it's actually a solvent that welds plastic pieces together. The solvent contains highly evaporative compounds. That's why the cans are sealed so tight from the manufacturer. Storing them upside down forces volatile compounds into the closed space above the liquid. With no outlet, the pressure builds until an equilibrium is reached."

John Schroder, Brainerd, Minn. (ph 218 829-7170): "My friend Barry Aldridge came up with an inexpensive solution to a problem I was having with my Deere Gator. The problem was with the gearbox. It turns continuously, so whenever I try to shift gears I hear a grinding noise. As a result it takes too long to shift, and when it finally does shift it

Alan Easley made his own engine block repair patch, cutting a 2 1/2 by 12-in. patch out of 1/8-in. steel plate and heating it with an acetylene torch.



Engine Block Repair Patch

Alan Easley felt responsible for a crack that developed in the block on his grandson Steven's Farmall C after he stored the tractor in an open shed one winter without checking the antifreeze. He had heard about engine block repairs and figured he and his son, Greg, could fix one, too.

Fortunately the crack was in an easy place to get to on the water jacket. The Easleys cut a 2 1/2 by 12-in. patch out of 1/8-in. flat plate and heated it with an acetylene torch. They repeatedly bent it on a vise until the curve was the same as the block.

They drilled 11 1/4-in. holes on the patch, marked them on the block and drilled holes to match and tapped the threads.

Easley used a standard 3/8 variable speed drill and advises taking your time and not forcing it. "The metal on these old water

jackets is pretty thin, so you don't want to apply too much pressure," he says.

The Easleys ground a V in the block's crack, filled it with J-B Weld, applied a generous coat of high-temperature gasket cement and bolted on the patch with 1/4- by 3/4-in. stove bolts.

"After about 100 tractor pulls and a lot of farm work the patch is still holding," says Easley.

So, what would have happened if it didn't hold?

"We would have had a junk block, which is what we had before we started," Easley laughs.

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up. One day I made a file handle out of one and found it's about the best file handle you could ever have. The golf ball won't come off, and I don't get any blisters in the palm of my hand like I do with conventional file handles. I just drilled a hole and filled it with JB Weld."

Samuel Borkholder, Shippewana, Ind.: "While adding a lean-to onto a farm shop, we had to remove some old metal that was



nailed on through 2-in. thick insulation. The farmer we were working for suggested we try his specially-made nippers, which had a 1/2-in. dia. by 16-in. long rod welded to one handle. Once the nipper is hooked on under the nail head, a sliding weight on the rod is used to pull out the nails. It worked great without damaging the metal."

Larry Schulze, Clifton, Texas: "I relocated the 3-pt. lift lever on my Deere 3010 tractor, so I can raise or lower the 3-pt.