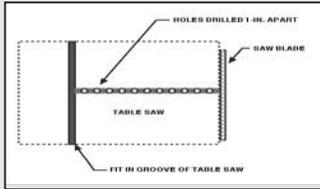


**William Snyder, Nauvoo, Ill.:** "You can buy duct tape in various colors at Wal-Mart and Home Depot. It works great to repair cracked vinyl seats on tractors and other equipment. Much better than just using gray tape."

**Carl Boutillier, Freeport, Ohio:** "I needed to make wheels for a school project and I needed them right away. I came up with a quick and easy way to make them out of wood scraps."

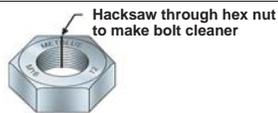


"I made a T-shaped holder out of wood that slides in the groove on the table saw. The piece that extends toward the blade has holes drilled 1 in. apart in it. I just put a pin in the center of a square block of wood, fit it into a hole, and then just push the piece of wood back and forth through the saw blade, rotating it a little bit each time until it's perfectly round. This was a quick and easy way to make a wheel."

**J.L. Findley, Letohatchee, Ala.:** "I use hex nuts and bolts to make thread cleaners to clear rust and dirt buildup out of threads on any piece of equipment."

"To clean the threads on a bolt, I use a hacksaw to cut all the way through one side of a nut so it will expand to fit onto the bolt. I screw it on using oil or WD-40 to lubricate. Passing the nut over the bolt several times is enough to clean off most bolts."

"To make a thread cleaner out of a bolt, I cut an 'X' in the end of the threaded end



Use enough slats to keep batts from pulling in

of a bolt and use a file to taper the threads at that end of the bolt. Helps it slip into a rusted nut or engine fitting.

"I do the same thing to make a spark plug hole thread cleaner. Just cut off the electrode on a spark plug and cut an 'X' in the threaded end, file it down a bit, and insert into the hole to clear it out."

**Robert Wilson, Hancock, Md.:** "I have a lean-to attached to one of my barns that collapsed under a snow load. I needed a way to jack the roof back up for repairs. I got some square tubing (2 1/2 by 1 1/2 by 38-in. long). I slid it over the shaft on my barn jack and used it to lift up the roof. Worked like a charm. You could use tubing of any length to do this."



**Greg Posch, Holdingford, Minn.:** "I got the idea because I was tired of opening drawer after drawer of my toolbox before finding the tool I wanted," says Greg about his "Tools In Sight" stickers for toolbox

**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

drawers. Each of the 16 stickers shows a picture of a tool and its name. "They're helpful to me but also when I send my wife or kids to get me a tool. Makes it much more likely they'll bring me what I asked for."

A set of 16 stickers sells for \$10 including S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greg Posch, 39725 Co Rd 3, Holdingford, Minn. 56340.

Now I get 5 years or more out of each belt, which I buy at Motion Industries ([www.motionindustries.com](http://www.motionindustries.com)) for about 1/3 the cost of belts from Woods.

"I think this idea would work on many other tractor mowers. I'd be willing to make these idlers for the cost of materials."

**Jeff King, Harwood, Md. (ph 443 506-9012):** "When fixing tires I use a skid loader-mounted forklift to break the bead. It works great because I can tilt the forks to almost any angle and slip them under the bead. The forklift only works to get the bead loose from the wheel - I still have to use tools to get the tire off the rim."

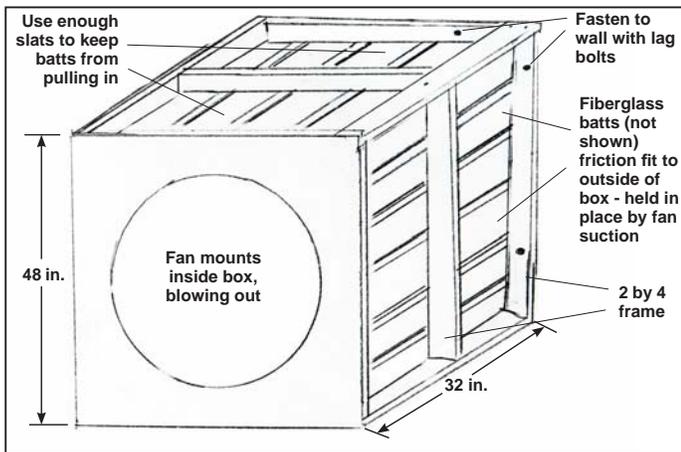
"My fabricating shop specializes in antique cars, and I don't have a car lift. Instead, I use a forklift to put vehicles on top of four steel barrels. I can use one forklift to pick up a car, but if I'm going to work on a super-duty pickup I need two forklifts, one at each end of the vehicle."

"One shop tip I discovered is to put sheets of plywood down over the concrete floor. I just lay the plywood down without fastening it down. It's a lot easier on my 70-year-old legs."

**Kenneth Hall, Jamestown, N. Dak.:** "The front wheels on my Bobcat Toolcat locked up so the machine wouldn't move. I spent more than \$1,000 at the shop to replace the disk brakes, but that didn't solve the problem. Then I went online and found that someone in Ohio with the same problem had discovered the speed sensor was faulty. He solved the problem by simply unplugging the speed sensor. So that's what I did, and now everything works. It would have cost \$300 to replace the sensor."

"It's getting to the point where I'm just as well off trying to fix my own equipment instead of taking it to the shop. The shop mechanics don't seem to know much and waste a lot of money on stuff that doesn't need fixing."

**Travis Harrison, Leadwood, Mo.:** "The hydraulics on my 1986 Prime Mover skid loader stopped working. Several people told me the problem was with the hydraulic pump, which I knew would be expensive to replace. I went to the internet for more information and learned that in most hydraulic systems there's a screen in the reservoir where the fluid exits. I checked



## "Made It Myself" Shop Air Filter

When Ron Isaac owned a welding shop, he made his own air cleaner by building a box lined with fiberglass insulation and fitted with a large ventilation fan.

"I got a lot of smoke in the welding shop, but this filter took care of it and also the fine dust," he explains. "A friend with a paint shop said the idea worked well for him, too."

Initially Isaac was concerned about fiberglass particles floating in the air, and there are some for the first couple of hours it's used. But after that they vanish.

Isaac built a 32 by 48-in. box with a 2 by 4 frame to hold a 1 1/2 hp fan. It can be a blade fan or squirrel cage fan, and Isaac suggests mounting the fan on rubber pads or springs to reduce noise.

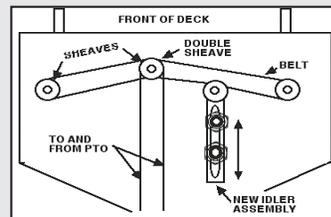
He nailed 1 by 2-in. (or smaller) slats every 6 in. on the inside of the box to prevent the

insulation from pulling inside. He split the batt insulation to about 1 1/2 in. thick and slipped eight 4-ft. pieces between the 2 by 4's all the way around the box. A piece of plywood covers the front with an opening for the fan. The entire unit is secured to the wall with lag screws.

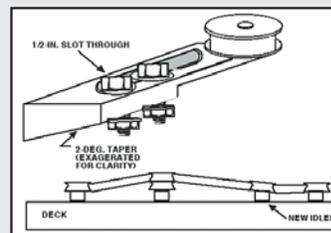
"It pulls air in through the batts and blows clean air into the room," Isaac says. He changed the fiberglass batts every three or four months as needed.

As a test, he let a diesel tractor idle to the point where it filled the 40 by 60-ft. shed with smoke. He shut it off, turned the fan on and within 1 1/2 hours there was no diesel smoke.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Isaac, P.O. Box 204, Hythe, Alta., Canada T0H 2C0 (ph 780 356-2727).



**Dick Clevenger, 17174 County Road G40, Letts, Iowa 52754 (ph 319 726-3502):** "I've owned a 1955 Allis Chalmers CA with an L-306 Woods belly mower for 20 years. It's pretty much bullet-proof except for one thing - if you move the adjuster idlers to tighten the belt, it'll start wearing because it won't be perfectly lined up with the sheaves. It starts to scuff and wear itself out. This belt



is 20 ft. long and rather expensive.

"The Woods people in Oregon were no help so I made my own tightener. It consists of a 2 by 4 by 16-in. piece of white oak with a 4-in. dia. idler pulley on one end and a 1/2-in. wide slot cut down the middle. A 2 degree taper is cut on the bottom of the wood so the pulley mounts at a slight angle to match the angle of the belt. That keeps the belt from wearing. Two bolts go through the slot at the center of the tightener. To tighten the belt, you just loosen the bolts and slide the pulley into the belt."

"In the past I was using 1 belt every year.