



Jeff Kumpf, Hopedale, Ill.: “On a rainy fall day, I decided to address the lack of organization of my air tools. I had been keeping everything in a drawer with almost no hope of finding what I needed. The air tools would leak oil in the drawer so I had to wipe them off before I used them.

“I started out with 2 pieces of 24-in. deep electrical strut mounted to the wall about 12 in. apart. I then found some 2 by 4-in. perforated angle iron for my holders. I used 50 1/4-in. carriage bolts with nuts as pegs for the sockets. The 1/4-in. nut seemed to work well inside the 1/2-in. drive part of the socket to keep it from shifting as the compressor started. The top row holds the SAE sockets and the next couple rows hold the metric. There’s an accessory row at the bottom, complete with extensions, air chucks, pressure gauges, and air chisel tips. I then mounted 8 female quick connects upside down to hold all of my air tools. This seemed to work well for the oil that you put in each tool after each use.

“Once all the pieces were mounted, I took my welding paint stick and marked each socket with its size. I can now pick out the right sockets as I walk across the shop and not have to pick each one up individually to look at their size. It also makes it easy to see if any sockets are missing. This rack took some time but it has made using my air tools much easier, and much more enjoyable.”

Old AC Condenser Makes A Powerful Air Compressor

“I’ve probably got the only one-ton dump truck with an air hose hanging out of the grill and an air compressor mounted under the hood,” says retired but still active handyman August Stark of Merrill, Wis. Stark built his engine-mounted compressor using parts from an air conditioning system that he pulled from a 1968 Chrysler car.

“I got the idea one day and decided to just give it a try,” says Stark, who used to work part time in an auto salvage yard and saw all sorts of unusual work done to old pickups and cars. He pulled the condenser from the Chrysler’s AC system, built a couple brackets, and mounted it on the 350 V-8 engine of his GMC truck. A belt off the fan pulley drives it.

Stark says the compressor is a V twin cylinder model that can pump 100 lbs. of pressure in less than a minute. He ran an air line from the compressor in the engine compartment to a 4-gal. pressure tank that’s mounted under the cab of his truck. He fills the compressor crankcase with transmission fluid for lubrication.

To start and stop the compressor Stark installed an electric clutch that’s powered by his truck’s 12-volt electrical system. When he needs air, he flips a master switch on

Eugene Loge, Cooperstown, N. Dak.: “I attach a strong rare earth magnet to the fuel tank of each piece of equipment to hold the fuel cap while fueling so the cap won’t be lost if I forget to replace it. Also keeps it from falling off onto the ground.”



Richard E. Wilkins, Colonial Beach, Va.: “I cut pieces from a skid steer tire to replace the worn out pads on my backhoe’s stabilizing legs. They hold a lot better than

the originals and the backhoe now does less damage to the ground where we’re digging than it did before.”

Roland J. Begier, Tucumcari, New Mexico: “Here’s an idea for cleaning dirty, acid corroded battery terminals. Just turn on the lights or start the engine so current is running through, and then wash them off with a garden hose. It’s surprising how well it works.”

Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.: “I put together my own gen-set with an old engine I had and a 10K generator from Harbor Freight. Instead of putting a gas tank on the engine and letting the gas get stale from sitting for months or years of non-use, I attached a 4-ft. fuel line to the inlet side of the carburetor. When I need the generator, I grab a 5-gal. can of fresh gas off the shelf and insert the fuel hose into the fresh gas. The engine starts right up. Once the power comes back on, I pull the hose out of the gas can and let the engine burn all of the fuel in the hose and carburetor. I insert a bolt into the end of the fuel line to keep bugs and dirt out until the next time it’s needed.”

Douglas Hartell, Dallas, Ore.: “Here’s how to stop plug-ups of spray paint cans. After spraying, remove the nozzle and put it on a can of some kind of solvent, like Liquid Wrench, and give it a quick spray. This will clean it out thoroughly so you can put it back on the paint can.”

his dashboard and the compressor starts. It stops automatically when the tank pressure reaches a pre-set level, then starts again when pressure falls below 65 lbs.

“It’s just a darn simple idea that works really well,” Stark says. “I know this pumps faster than a compressor on a semi-tractor because I’ve had a lot of experience with those.”

Stark built the compressor to have mobile air for pumping up tires and cleaning off equipment. He says it also does a nice job running a paint sprayer, a nail gun and even a 1/2-in. impact wrench. “It will probably run any type of air tool that a stationary or portable compressor would operate,” Stark says.

If someone is interested in building a unit like his, Stark says that any piston-driven air conditioning condenser would probably work. He says the setup would probably cost less than \$50.

“My truck doesn’t have air conditioning, so I was able to mount the compressor where the condenser would normally be,” Stark says. “Plumbing the lines was easy.”

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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



Howard & Gary Reischauer, Zearing, Iowa: To make a storage building for smaller equipment and tools, the Reischauer’s cut an opening into a 3,000-bu. grain bin by framing it with 2 by 5 studs and a header. They installed a single manually-operated garage door in the opening.



Oran G. Underdahl, Fosston, Minn.: “When I have to get a nut on a bolt in a tight spot that I can’t reach with my fingers, I put sticky tape across the opening on the wrench. Then stick the nut to it. You’ll be able to get it started.”



Bill Fischer, Fremont, Wis.: “We have several Madison stave silos with swinging, or self-storing doors. Several of the bottom hinges rusted and broke off next to the

concrete door frame. To repair them, I made some brackets that I drive in behind the hoops. I use a small chisel to bring the hoop out enough to get the bracket started.”



Dean Wallace, Oconee, Ill.: He set up a temporary hanging storage box that he can raise or lower as needed. It measures 4 by 6 ft. and hangs from the ceiling on four flat steel bars. The bars pivot freely on bolts at each corner. An electric winch cable pulls the shelf up from one end, pivoting to the side to lift up. Dean just flips a switch on the wall to raise or lower the shelf.

Rex W. Brown, Fairmont, Neb.: “Old dishwashers make good portable tool cabinets. Just gut them and put shelves inside.”



Loraine Tichenor, Sparta, Wis.: “I made this handy little wall-mounted cord reel out of wood. It comes in handy whenever I need to use my electric string trimmer to cut grass a long distance from our house. The reel can handle 100 ft. of electrical cord.”

Ernest Nightingale, Fairview, Okla.: “I removed the magnet from an old CB antenna and used JB Weld to attach it to the bottom of a pump oil can. Lets me stick the oil can to the side of any equipment I’m working on.”

Gerald Westhoff, New Vienna, Iowa: “Holding pto and driveline components in a