

Kevin Ericson, Axtell, Neb.: "I bought a used 2-post car lift at auction for \$800. The capacity is 9,000 lbs., which will handle our pickups. I even trust it with my 1935 Ford."

Van Sant Enterprises Inc., 80 Truman Road, Pella, Iowa 50219 (www.trick-tools.com; 877 826-7268): "Precise drilling



of holes into pipes and other curved surfaces is a lot easier with our Drill Rite drilling jig. Lets you drill holes in pipe and steel rod with a hand drill. Fits any round material from 1/2 to 2 1/2 in. and includes hardened drill bushings for 3/16 and 1/4-in. holes. Additional bushings are available for most hole sizes."

Byron Stockton, Rydal, Ga.: "Due to a lot of dampness in this area of the country, I get rust on my tools. I clean them at least twice a year using steel wool and then use a good automotive paste wax to coat them. I also use wax from toilet bowl rings on drills and other things."

J.W. Howe, Jr., Laverne, Ala.: "There was a 'worst buy' in a recent issue of FARM SHOW about a fellow who had problems with the oiler on his Husqvarna chainsaw. In my opinion, this was a problem Husqvarna caused themselves because they believed the propaganda published by environmental groups that too much oil was being dumped on the ground by chainsaws. I had the same problem with my Husqvarna until I was told by a company tech to use 20-weight oil in the oiler instead of the recommended 30 weight. Another tech said you can file down

the oiler cam to a small degree to allow more oil to pass. There are thousands of saws out there with this problem."

Todd Rio, Union, Mo.: "For the fellow who had trouble storing his penetrating oil mix of acetone and automatic transmission fluid, I've found that toilet bowl cleaner bottles make great storage bottles for corrosive chemicals. I use them to store both lacquer thinner and straight acetone. There are no spills, runs or drops when using."

Jerry Hawkinson, Gettysburg, S. Dak.: "One of your readers commented in the last issue about how the 50-50 mix of ATF and acetone that he uses as a penetrating fluid keeps evaporating. I use a sturdy metal container from Assman Shop Supply (ph 605 223-2432). You fill the container half full with fluid and then air pressure is added from a shop air compressor. The right amount of air will last until the fluid is dispensed, with no evaporation. I always have one of these cans bouncing around in the back of our ranch pickup. This container is a heavy-duty, quality product. Holds about a quart."

Don Stewart, Mountain Grove, Mo.: "In a recent issue of FARM SHOW someone said they liked using a 'home brew' mix of 50-50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone to loosen up rusted nuts, but had trouble with the plastic bottle melting. I use a 16-oz. Sta-Bil fuel stabilizer bottle to contain the mixture and have never had that problem. The bottle has measuring units on one side which are really handy when filling."

"We put a lot of used tires on our farm vehicles, so slow tire leaks around the wheel rims is a common problem. I came up with a cheap tire seal by filling an empty plastic dish soap bottle 3/4 full of a mixture of 1/2 dish soap and 1/4 acrylic latex caulk, at a 2:1 ratio. I shake up the bottle to mix everything up good, then squirt the mixture into the tire's valve stem. It does a good job of sealing the rim. After I'm done I rinse the bottle out to make sure there's no leftover caulk residue that could dry out and keep the mixture from working the next time."

Fred Davison replaced the throttle wire on his Case payloader with a 1/4-in. cable inside a clear plastic tube.



Quick Fix Saved Big Bucks

When Fred Davison looked at a used Case payloader, he couldn't get the fuel pedal to go down.

"Just stand on it," said the seller.

When Davison pointed out that wasn't a very good option, the seller dropped the price several thousand dollars. Davison bought it, suspecting he had a quick fix.

"The throttle wire is basically a flexible hose with steel cable inside that was old, rusty and stiff," says Davison. "I replaced it with a 1/4-in. cable inside a clear plastic tube. When I attached it to the payloader, I could push the pedal down with my finger."

Davison also put a little oil in the tube. It settled into low spots where the hose stretched from the pedal to the engine.

"Every time the cable moves inside the tube, it picks up a little oil and lubricates itself," he says.

Davison is always on alert for ways to do things easier or with less expense. He drills holes in door knobs and inserts steel rods through them. He also adds levers to faucets for more leverage.

"The rod provides added leverage when



Other quick fixes that work good for Davison: he drills holes in door knobs and inserts steel rods for more leverage when opening or closing doors. He also adds levers to faucets.



opening or closing doors," he says. "If your hands are full, you can just bump the rod on the door knob to open it without grabbing it with your fingers."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Davison, 1979 Upper Highwood Creek Rd., Highwood, Mont. 59450 (ph 406 733-5031).

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

A.J. Fries, Oregonia, Ohio: "To get a tire bead to seat on a car, pickup, garden tractor, or other smaller tires, I wrap a ratchet strap around the outer diameter of the tire and tighten it down to bring the bead close to the rim."

Ronald Hoffman, Maybee, Mich.: "Removing axle nuts from a field disk, I tried an impact wrench and a pipe extension, to no avail. Then I sprayed Kroil on them and waited 1/2 hour, and they came right off."

"I purchased a 50-amp plasma cutter, which will cut 3/4 in. thick. Acetylene and oxygen fuel have gotten too expensive. I also use stick welding instead of Mig."

"When I built my shop I installed a heated floor and installed two jib cranes that overlap, allowing me to move heavy parts up to 25 ft. It's great for breaking down tractors."

Theo Mattingly, Fremont, Calif.: "Installing bearings on shafts usually requires heating the bearing. I use the hot plate from a drip-type coffee maker to heat them up. The thermostat on the hot plate will heat bearings to 180° F in about 30 min. Remember to put the coffee pot back - nobody likes cold coffee."

Mark Mishler, LaGrange, Ind.: "I work on farm tractors and had a Farmall M come in that would not start unless pulled. The problem ended up being that the distributor timing advance weight springs were worn through."



3M Roloc Brushes

"When cleaning gasket surfaces on engines and other parts, I use 3M's Roloc plastic brushes on my die grinder because it will clean down to the surface without damaging the metal or the workpiece. Works great."

Sheldon Culham, culham@sbell.net: "I keep a bottle of red nail polish handy for making 'witness marks' on items to be taken apart - works well for marking roller chain connector links. It dries quickly and does have my wife's approval."

"I keep a turkey baster in my toolbox.

It's handy for squirting gasoline into a spark plug hole or into the carb of an overwintered engine."

"I store chainsaw bar oil in a plastic margarine container. I use a paint brush to apply the oil to snowblower chain for storage - among other kinds of chain. It's sticky and will not wash off in the rain. It's also useful for oiling threads on wheel bolts, etc."

Clarence Fixter, Puslinch, Ontario: "To clean out a plugged grain boot on a seed drill, cut a piece of 1/4-in. steel cable with an arc welder so that it's 2 in. longer than the grain boot. Chuck the piece of cable in a variable speed drill to clear the obstruction."

John Coleman, Mount Pleasant, Penn.: "A used corn cob makes for a good handle. I use them on files and other tools where I need a good grip."

Casey Schrock, Elkhart, Iowa: "I made a pair of 'pinch off' pliers, instead of buying them, by slipping a couple pieces of 1/4-in. rubber fuel line over a pair of 6-in. needle



nose vice grips. It works great for pinching off fuel lines when removing carburetors from small engines. Or pinching a brake line when replacing calipers. Really, any time you open a line and don't want all the fluid leaking out. Once you release the pliers, the hose springs right back to its original size."

Brian Johnson, Clearwater, Minn.: "I made a pedal-operated foot torch using a fuel saver valve block, like you can find at any welding supply store. The torch has a pilot light that's match-flame size. When you step on the pedal, it provides a controlled, even heat. For some applications - such as making tight bends in rebar - it can't be beat."

Fred Welton, Grove City, Penn.: "I have a 1939 Ford 9N tractor and a 1952 Deere A tractor. Both of these tractors were constantly burning up points. New points would last only 3 or 4 hrs. of working time. Both of these tractors have been converted