



Slide hammer (second from the top) attaches to several tools including a chisel, vice-grips, post puller and hammer.

Slide Hammer Screws Onto Multiple Tools

"I made a multi-purpose slide hammer that I use with several different attachments including a locking pliers to pull nails, a long reach chisel, a small post driver, and a hammer," says Robert Stone, Seymour, Mo.

The slide hammer consists of a long steel rod with a threaded bolt at one end and a hexagon-shaped, 2-in. long internal coupler at the other end. To fit the locking pliers to the slide hammer, Stone simply threads the bolt into a large nut that he welded to the side of the pliers.

"The slide hammer provides an added jolt of pulling power that really makes a difference," says Stone. "I modified the jaws so the pliers work better for pulling roof

nails. I used a file to make a small indent in the liner, which I use to grasp the shaft of the nail. However, I can still use the pliers to pull cotter pins, oil seals, dowel pins, and other items."

The other 3 tools are all fitted with a threaded bolt at one end, which fits into the coupler on the slide hammer. The post driver is 1 ft. long and has a large metal ring welded onto it, which Stone uses to pull out small fiberglass fence posts. The hammer was made by welding the head of a railroad spike onto one end of a steel rod.

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"Clog Hog" Cleans Out Sewer Lines, Pipe Plug-Ups

The Clog Hog drain cleaner works with many pressure washers to unclog sewer lines and pipes.

"It's unique because the designers have 'done the math' to properly match jetter hose diameters, jetter hose length, and nozzle geometry to achieve maximum cleaning and pulling (drain travel) with different sizes of gas and electric pressure washers," says Deb Del Piero, marketing manager for the Austin, Texas, company. Clog Hog comes in different models that work on 2 to 4 gpm gas and 1.5 to 2 gpm electric pressure washers.

The Clog Hog jetter can be used from an indoor drain opening or from a main drain cleanout. It has 3 backfiring jets and one forward jet that pull the jetter through the drain. The force of the water jets break up clogs and ice.

Though there are similar products on the market, Del Piero says the Clog Hog is unique for its precision design, with a custom-made nozzle that is matched to selected sizes of 4,000 psi jetter hose to maximize cleaning and pulling force without overloading customers' pressure washers.

"The stainless steel nozzles are made in the U.S., with a different geometry and tighter tolerances than we've found on inexpensive, imported nozzles," Del Piero adds. "The sizes and discharge angles of the nozzle jets can have a big impact on how the drain cleaner performs."

The industrial-grade quality comes with a reasonable price tag starting at \$99 for jetters



Clog Hog drain cleaner attaches to pressure washers to clean out plugged drain lines.

with 50 ft. of hose. The most popular model with 100 ft. of hose that works with 2.9 gpm (or lower) pressure washers sells for \$129.

About two-thirds of customers are homeowners and rental property owners. The rest are plumbers and maintenance professionals.

Del Piero notes that Clog Hog works on pvc and metal pipes down to 1-in. diameter, but is not recommended for older ceramic (clay) or wood tar composite drain lines, which could have potential structural problems. Many customers also use Clog Hog to clean out blocked and slow-running outdoor septic field lines, frozen drain lines and dirt and yard debris from outdoor landscaping drains.

Clog Hog is sold through its website, and staff work with customers to choose the right model to match their pressure washer.

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Tom Pearson's homemade chain slackener lets him remove the gathering chains on his corn head without having to loosen the chain tightener.

Chain Slackener Helps Clean Cornhead

"Before I started using my homemade slackener it used to take me 15 to 20 min. per row to loosen the gathering chains on my cornhead, remove them, clean under the sprockets, then put the chains back on and tighten them," says Hudson, Iowa, farmer Tom Pearson. "Now I can remove a chain without having to loosen the chain tightener and clean under the chain and sprockets in just a few minutes."

Pearson's slackener is made from a simple crank-operated steel bar clamp. He removed the crank handle and replaced it with a 3/4-in. bolt that he can turn with a socket wrench. Then he welded metal tabs about 1 in. wide onto each of the clamp squeeze brackets. The metal tabs fit over a sprocket between the cogs with the cornhead gathering chain still in place.

"When I put the tabs over each sprocket and wedge them between two cogs, I can use a socket wrench to turn the threaded shaft on the clamp and remove tension on the chain. Then I can take the chain off and clean the channel and under the sprockets," Pearson says. "I don't have to loosen the double nuts on the regular chain tightener, which takes a lot of time."

Pearson came up with the idea a couple years ago when he had a lot of weeds in some of his corn after herbicide failure. "The foxtail took over, and when I was harvesting, the foxtail stems would wrap around the top and bottom sprockets of the gathering chains," Pearson says. "I had to clean them out every day, sometimes twice a day. That was a big job because I've got an 11-row cornhead with 15-in. rows."



Slackener is made from a simple crank-operated steel bar clamp.

Pearson says he's hopeful he doesn't need to use the slackener too much during future harvests because that means he's got a lot of weeds in his corn. He'd prefer if the corn was weed free so harvest would go smoothly. "The slackener worked fine when I used it almost every day a couple years ago," he says. "Now I just use it a couple times during the season and even then it saves me time."

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Vern Goodwin needed a hoist to help mount a sidecar on a motorcycle, so he built this table hoist. "It lets me put the sidecar in the exact place and height I need," he says.

Table Hoist Helps Mount Motorcycle Sidecar

"I needed a hoist to help mount a sidecar on a motorcycle," says Vern Goodwin, a Lincoln, Neb., cycle shop owner who built what he calls a table hoist. "It makes it easy to lift to the height we need, then roll it in next to the bike. It's easy to put the sidecar in the exact place and height we need."

Goodwin's hoist is a simple apparatus that he made from a heavy-duty work table that a friend gave him. He mounted the table on a sturdy 2 by 5-ft. metal frame made of 4-in. channel iron. He added 500-lb. caster wheels with brakes on the frame's corners so it became an easy-to-manuever dolly. Then he made an identical channel iron frame that mounted to threaded shafts on top of the table.



"The sidecar fits onto the top frame," says Goodwin. "We put it on there, roll it into position next to a bike, then raise it and level it next to the bike."

A hand crank raises and lowers the hoist. It has 2 settings. One is direct drive that they use for lifting sidecars, which weigh about 350 lbs. The other speed is geared 3-to-1, so the hoist can actually lift nearly 2,000 lbs. He put stops on the base of the threads so the shafts won't lift the top of the dolly out of the frame. "It works just like a manual forklift with 2,000-lb. lift capacity," says Goodwin.

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