



Charlie Fee, Zeating, Iowa: Charlie says his garden hoe is always sharp because he parks a pedal-powered emery wheel near the path to the garden. He puts an edge on the hoe as he heads out to chop weeds.

C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.: "When the check valve got stuck in the open position at the bottom of our old dug farm well, we were facing a major amount of work to dig down



alongside to install a new suction line. Fortunately, the service man who came out to the farm had a simpler solution. He had seen the problem before and just installed a new check valve in the line up by the pump leading down to the old suction line. It solved the problem. The check valve at the bottom of the well just stays open."

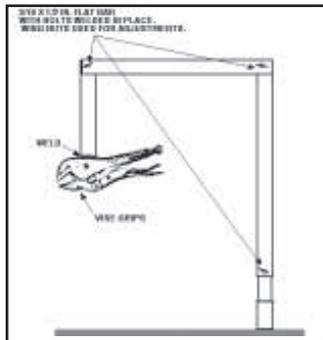


John Marley, Athens, Ill.: This homemade dispenser for electric cable really saves time and effort. It consists of a piece of plywood with a bottomless gallon can bolted to the center of it. The plywood and can hang from the ceiling by a chain that attaches to the center of the board. A roll of electric cable

is placed on the board around the can. You can pull off any amount of cable and chain will just keep twisting as needed. Once you cut off the cable, the chain spins back around.

Jimmie Taylor, Fairfield, Ill.: "I have an Allis Chalmers 912 lawn tractor with a 4-ft. tiller on it. I was having trouble with the 3-pt. lift on back so I put a small 12-volt winch on it. Works fine now and it was an easy change to make. I tried the same idea on another small tractor and it worked well, too."

Donald Bunch, Aberdeen, Miss.: "I do a



lot of welding of small parts and sometimes I need a third or fourth hand. That's why I made this 'third hand' device from a locking pliers and scrap metal. Sure works well. I made it out of 3/16 by 1/2-in. flat bar, with bolts welded into each hinge point with hand-tightened wing nuts."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "Military



ammo boxes are ideal for tool boxes on all my tractors and mowers. I just bolt them to the fender or even the top of the deck. They're waterproof and come in various sizes. They're cheap, too. You can buy them at Army surplus stores, or just go online and search up military surplus. You can find them as cheap as \$6 or \$7."

Steve Minarick, Morse Bluff, Neb.: "Putting three overhead hoists in our shop has made working on equipment much easier. It also makes it safer and easier to unload pickups and trailers. We use one of them almost every day. No more hurt backs or damaged equipment."

Dan Krenzler, Cullman, Alabama:

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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

"Here's an old farm trick for making welds that take a lot of rod metal. Once you cut the broken sides to an angle, place a welding rod into the groove. Tack the end of the rod to the repair piece. When you start welding, set another rod into the groove, insulating it from the other rod and metal with tape or a couple pieces of rubber. For the weld, use a piece of heavy wire, starting the arc against either the tacked rod or the other one on top. The rod at the bottom will provide all the inert gas you need for the arc to stay strong.

"Flexed rods are expensive and this method lets you make use of all your short rods. Plus the arc can be maintained by any heavy wire."

Larry Hudson, Calhoun, Ky.: "I have a 4020 Deere tractor and it has a clear open platform which is nice. The problem I have had is that when you have to remove the platform to get to the battery cables and other components, the platform has four bolts - one in each corner. Each bolt has a spacer to hold the platform up off the cables and oil lines. When you remove the bolts, the spacers fall over and the holes fill up with dirt. To solve this problem, I use four pieces of all-thread rod. For each bolt I remove, I insert an all-thread bolt and finger tighten it. I then remove the platform and it is ready to go back without anything being out of place."

Art Olive, Stacy, Minn.: Here's a quick, cheap, toolless fix for replacing broken pto shear bolts in the field:

All you need is a handful of bolts or steel rod the same diameter as your pto bolts, some duct tape, and an empty toilet paper roll. First, measure the outer diameter of your pto outer shaft and cut off pieces of bolts or rod to fit. You don't need the heads or threads.

Next, wrap a few feet of duct tape around the toilet paper roll so it stacks neatly. Put the roll with the duct tape and the pieces of bolt in a plastic bag and throw it in your tractor tool box.

When a shear bolt breaks, use a bolt to push out the broken pieces and then push in a replacement bolt pin and wrap it in place with duct tape. Since the shaft is only turning a few hundred rpm, there isn't much force to throw the bolts out so the duct tape will easily hold. Once you get back to the farm, you can take your time to properly install a new shear bolt.

Don Vogel, Weyburn, Sask. ph 306 842-5745: "I had an ongoing problem with tubeless tires leaking at the bead. I solved the problem by squirting used anti-freeze between the rim and bead. The antifreeze works amazingly well because it never dries out. I just put the anti-freeze in a squirt bottle. I don't use this idea on leaks in the tire sidewall - just between the rim and bead.

"My son built his own bead blaster for tubeless tires using an 8-ft. long, 2-in. dia. air hose, a 1/4-turn valve, and a 60-gal. air tank. Works great on large tubeless truck tires. I turn the valve while my son puts the end of the hose in the tire. My son says it's the first item he's ever built that works well without any modification."

Southern Global Tractor Parts (ph 866 742-5748; www.southern-global.com): This company specializes in new, used, and rebuilt parts for Japanese-made compact tractors including Yanmar, Mitsubishi/Satoh, Iseki, Zen-Noh/Kubota, and Shibaura Hinomoto. In addition to those tractors, they carry aftermarket parts for some U.S. compact tractors including Ford, Massey Ferguson, Deere, Bolens, White-Fieldboss, Case-IH, and VST.

"We stock a wide selection of engine parts, hydraulic pumps, starters, alternators, water pumps, fan belts, bearings, oil seals, voltage regulators, manifolds, mufflers, clutches, steering shafts, ignition switches, glow plugs, brake shoes, filters and more," says the company. "If we don't stock the part you want, we can usually order it within 7 to 10 business days."

They also sell used parts. And they rebuild old starters, alternators, water pumps, injector pumps, injectors and clutches.

Bob Corbiel, Unibob Tools (ph 403 556-1177; www.unibobtools.com): Trying to install a grease zerk that's countersunk can be tricky, especially if the zerk is difficult to reach. This specially designed "zerk socket" makes the job easy.

The Nipple Gripper holds the grease zerk in place at the correct depth. Inventor Bob Corbiel machined the inside of a 1/4-in. nut so that it perfectly fits the bottom end of any 1/8 npt grease zerk. He milled a socket and welded the nut inside the socket. He also put a magnet inside the zerk so it can't slip sideways.

Lawn Mower Work Station

The Lawn Pro Lawnmower Work Station almost makes lawn mower maintenance fun, according to Paul Meeks of Great Day, Inc., in Tallulah, La.

Consisting of two arched ramps (8 1/2 by 48 in.) made of aircraft aluminum with positive traction rungs. Once the lawn mower's front end has been driven on, the ramps' stop blocks ensure perfect positioning.

"The Work Station elevates the mower 16 in. off the ground, which is an ideal height to comfortably sit while doing maintenance to conventional or zero turn mowers," Meeks says. "We also make an optional stool that puts you at the perfect height for repair work."

With the lawn mower's deck exposed and accessible, the Work Station's handy "flip-n-hold blade holder" locks one, two, or three blades in place instantly for cleaning, sharpening or removal and reinstallation.

An added benefit is that it weighs only 26 lbs., folds flat, and "nests" together for com-



Work Station elevates lawn mower 16 in. off the ground - an ideal height to comfortably sit while doing maintenance work on riding mowers.

compact, easy storage or transport.

The Work Station sells for \$206 (plus S&H.) The optional Pro Work Stool is priced at \$59 (plus S&H.).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Great Day, Inc., Box 472, Tallulah, La. 71282 (ph 866 649-1918; sales@greatdayinc.com; www.greatdayinc.com).