

Ralph Rumbley, Monroeville, Ala.: "I bought an old Deere planter and discovered that a gear on one of the planter units was missing. It was no longer available from the dealer. I had taken a course in aluminum casting many years ago so I got out my books and refreshed my memory. Then, using a gear from one of the other planter units, I was able to cast a perfect replacement. Anyone interested in making their own castings can find good books on the subject from Lindsay Publications (www.lindsaybks.com). I recommend the casting books by Dave Gingery."

Shad Fincher, Bloomburg, Texas: "I got a metal shaving in my eye while using a drill press. Using a tiny magnet that I found on a keychain, I was able to pull the shaving from my eye without doing any damage."

Dan Bodas, Pittsburg, Mo.: "I use my 2000 Kubota loader tractor every day. It's a great tractor but the filters are very expensive. Instead, I use Wix oil and hydraulic filters. So far, I haven't been able to find an aftermarket filter for the cab heating and AC unit."

Alan Altenbach, Reedsburg, Wis.: "My 3-pt. mounted log splitter is so heavy that I had to come up with an easier way to move it around. I made a dolly with 3 caster wheels so when I'm finished with it, I just lower it onto the dolly and disconnect the 3-pt. Now I can roll it anywhere around the shop. Prior to that, I just dreaded using it because it was quite a chore to hook it up."

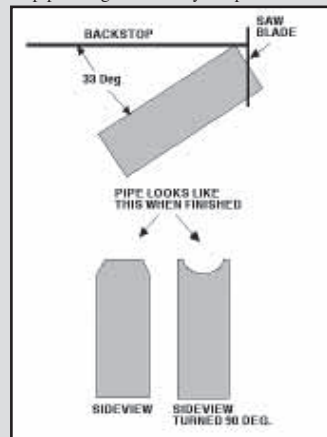
Terri Crown, Ramah, N.M.: When snow slides off my steel barn and shop roof, it creates a large snow bank along the side of the barn that gets in the way. To solve the problem, I bolted a piece of 2-in. angle iron along the roof about 1 ft. in from the edge and ran an electric heater cord through it to melt the snow. It now melts into the rain gutter, rather than sliding off the roof."

Ralph Mallard, Vestaburg, Mich.: "I very seldom buy bearings or seals from the manufacturer of equipment. Most bearings are generic and can be bought much cheaper elsewhere."

Rolland T. Rutter, Flippin, Ark.: "We applied Dura-Coat floor coating on our gar-

rage and shop floors as well as truck beds. It's advertised widely to farmers as an indoor and outdoor coating for any surface - concrete, wood or metal. We figured it must be a good product. After 2 months it started chipping off. Now, when we sweep the floor, it comes right up. Before application, the floor was professionally cleaned as the instructions stated. When the problems started, we contacted the company numerous times and they would not return our calls or contact us at all."

Benton Cochran, Atoka, Okla.: "Here's a simple way to make a saddle cut on a piece of pipe using an ordinary chop saw. Place



the pipe on a table against a backstop, angled out at a 33 degree angle, and cut off the corner with the chop saw. Then turn the pipe 180 degrees and cut the other side the same way. You have to make the cut slowly because you're cutting on the end, but it works great. You get a clean saddle cut that fits nicely against another piece of pipe. It helps to practice a bit on some scrap pipe."

Richard Duren, Riverdale, Ga.: "My thanks to James McGowan for the idea in a recent issue of drilling holes in his shop's concrete floor to drop bolts into to keep his ramps from sliding. I had braced my ramps with boards many times, which sometimes

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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

worked and sometimes didn't. After drilling holes in the floor, I cut some round-headed bolts to drop into the holes when not needed so they don't fill up with dirt and stuff."

Roy Stillman, Kane, Penn.: "We use snowmobile dollies under equipment in our garage to move things around easily. They're a great way to make use of all available space. You can buy them at any snowmobile shop, or on the internet."

Phil Torrone: He says aluminum foil makes a great rust remover. Just fold up a sheet, wet it lightly, and rub it over rusty metal areas. Rust and other buildup will disappear with minimal scratching no matter what kind of metal. It's cheap and works fast.

Rachael, Crowe, Skull Valley, Ariz.: "When a low pressure fuel line failed on my 1991 Dodge diesel pickup, the dealer said he wouldn't work on it, and that I should either go to a junkyard or get a new truck. Instead, I cut above the failed section with a hacksaw, installed compression fittings, and replaced the line with a bent piece of 5/16-in. copper tubing. It worked just fine."

Mark Johnson, Baudette, Minn.: "To lube sealed bearings, just drill a 1/6-in. hole in the metal part of the bearing and use a needle to inject the lube. I've used the idea on CV joints, U-joints, bike axles, bike pedals, etc. After injecting grease, the hole can be sealed with tape or some other sealer, if necessary."

J. Wayne Green, Millgrove, Ontario: "In gearboxes with leaky seals that use 90 weight gear oil, I fill the box about half full of grease instead of using oil. This isn't recommended for any gearbox that runs for long periods of time but I've had good luck on equipment that runs for shorter times - like 4 to 5 hrs. at a time."

Kenneth Gadd, Moose Jaw, Sask.: Sliding barn doors are often hard to open or close. Kenneth made it a lot easier by mounting hand-cranked winches on the doors along with a pulley. He hooks the cable up one way to open the door and the other way to close it. He especially likes the idea in the winter.

Dennis Drake, Ault, Colo.: "I use Irish Spring bar soap to keep mice out of tractors, tanks, combines, and buildings around the farm. I cut bars up into 6 pieces and put them wherever mice are a problem. In buildings, I put them by shop doors."

Doug Pinder, Lister, B.C.: "In the last issue of FARM SHOW, Ben Page, Skiatook, Okla., told about his trouble with his Vicon RP 1210 round baler. He had problems keeping the tailgate locked. I had a similar problem with a 510 Deere baler. The problem was air leaking into the roller chain oil tank. I solved the problem by cutting off the line from the tank and oiling the chains manually."

Marlin Mullins, Terry, Miss.: "When rebuilding old fences, often times the metal T posts are bent at the ground when pulled, or they're very rusty below ground. I have found you can cut off the bottom and weld another piece on quite easily. Typically, three old posts can be used to make two refurbished posts. If you add a bit of primer they can be good to go for many more years of use."

"I put an old solid-core door on top of a hospital-type gurney cart. Makes a very handy portable workbench. I also made several small caster carts that are about 2 by 2 1/2 ft. in size, fitted with four casters wheels. I use them to hold repair projects and to hold shop equipment and supplies. By putting nearly everything in my shop on wheels, I can easily move things around for cleaning or to make space for larger projects."

Leonard Seltzer, Manhattan, Ill.: "Too many people die in grain bin accidents when they get pulled down into the center of the bin and suffocate. A simple safety precaution is to tie a rope to the top center of the bin, which will provide something to hang onto. The rope should extend to within 2 ft. of the bottom of the bin. Putting knots in the rope will make it easier to hang onto."

Clarence Peterson, Menasha, Wis.: "My pressure washer is equipped with a rubber suction hose that leads down into a tank full of soapy water. Unfortunately, the plastic pipe tends to curl up so much that it comes out of the water and can't suck out the solution. To solve the problem, I installed a 1-ft. length of 1/2-in. dia. copper pipe at the top of the suction hose, which keeps the hose nice and straight. I also put a cotter pin through both pipes to hold them together."

Mark C. Williams, Dacoma, Okla.: "I always buy genuine original equipment replacement parts and use only factory-recommended lubricants. Also, I change fluids more often than the company recommends. It prevents a lot of problems."

Big Tumbler Cleans Parts Safely

Forget about sand blasting or wire brush cleaning delicate or hard to replace parts. The Eastwood jumbo parts tumbler can clean parts up to 10 in. long, removing build-up and bringing them to a mirror shine. The tumbler uses vibration, not rotary action, to clean parts.

John Sloane, Eastwood Company, says, "The most common use of our tumbler is for small brackets and hardware from collector cars. The tumbler lets you load it up and forget it, with only periodic checks to see if the parts have reached the desired stage."

The key to the tumbler's effectiveness is the media or material used in the tumbler and the adjustable vibration, from mild to gentle cleaning to aggressive for quicker cleaning. Eastwood sells a wide variety of media from plastic pyramids to ceramic and hardwood cubes. The plastic and ceramic media are impregnated with an abrasive. One media, Dry Shine, is treated corn cob pieces. It is used to produce the mirror shine on metal. Additives such as Fast Etch, a dilute phosphoric acid solution, leave a protective coating on the cleaned metal.

"Fast Etch will inhibit rust for a while, but it is good to get freshly cleaned steel or iron recoated," says Sloane. "However, tumbling won't leave it as oxygen hungry as sandblasting."

Some media will wear away faster than others, and most media will need to be cleaned periodically. Hardwood cubes and corn cobs may need to be refreshed occasion-



Eastwood jumbo parts tumbler uses vibration, not rotary action, to clean parts. It can hold parts up to 10 in. long.

ally, as well. However Sloane reports using a tumbler for 7 days straight with no discernible change in the media size.

"You can overdo it, but tumbling is a more controllable process, and you can stop before you actually damage tolerances," he says.

Eastwood's jumbo tumbler features a high-density, polypropylene, 22-in. diameter bowl. It can hold up to 50 lbs. of media and parts and sells for \$549.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Eastwood Company, 263 Shoemaker Rd., Pottstown, Penn. 19464 (ph 610 705-6284; toll free 800 345-1178; Jsloane@eastwood.com; www.eastwood.com).