



Connor Bishop, Guilford, Ct.: "I needed a strap wrench to hold onto a Kohler engine flywheel as I tightened the flywheel nut, but I didn't have a wrench that was large enough. Instead of buying one, I made one from a length of angle iron and an old serpentine belt. I cut a notch near one end of the angle iron where I permanently attached one end of the belt, and then cut 2 more notches several inches away. Once I've got the belt adjusted to the right length I wind it through the second 2 notches to lock it in place with the looped end of the belt over the flywheel. Works great and can be made smaller or larger as needed depending on what you want to use it on."



Bernis Ingvaldson, The Honeyberry Farm, Bagley, Minn.: "With little snow cover last winter, the water line from the well to our house froze. By connecting some tubing from the outlet on a pressure cooker into the water line, we were able to produce enough steam to thaw the pipe in no time, saving \$200 on a service call."

Christopher McKay, Twin Evil Enterprises, Saint Albans, W. Va.: "The frame on our new folding step slips over a tire, just like on our original heavy duty pickup step (Vol. 39, No. 2). However, this patent pending model has 2 fold-down steps instead of one to provide a greater reach and easier access."

"You slip the frame over the top of the tire



and then fold the steps down. A pair of wide tabs welded onto the back side of the frame come in contact with the tire to keep the frame from damaging the sidewall. The steps are made from powder-coated expanded metal and designed to hold up to 500 lbs. They're available in bright red or safety yellow for high visibility.

"Works great for safely reaching gear stored on your vehicle's roof. It also provides access to semi truck engines and flatbed trailers. Both the original step and the new 2-step models work on either single or dual wheels, 2 1/2-ton military trucks, Jeeps, SUV's and even ATV's. The second step also doubles as a seat, if desired.

"The 2-step model sells for \$115 plus S&H. If you already have a one-step model, you can convert it to a 2-step by purchasing the second step and bolting it on. The 2-step upgrade sells for \$45 plus S&H."



Mack Myers, Kirbyville, Texas: "I made this loader-mounted, all-purpose carrier to haul everything I need to cut wood. I use my skid loader's forks to lift trees off the ground so I don't have to bend over to saw them up, and the carrier lets me take everything with me in one trip."

"I made it by nailing 2 by 8 boards onto a wooden pallet. Dividers keep everything neatly in place. I keep oil and gas containers in one corner and use the other compartments

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

to carry my chainsaws and tools. I use the flat 2 by 12 board on top for servicing saws."

Jim Weaver, Fairview, Mich.: "I was designing small equipment for a company and needed a press that could bend metal with nice looking corners, so I came up with this



'poor man's' brake press that's made out of 2 lengths of 1 1/2-in. angle iron.

"I welded 2 pieces of pipe along the bottom of one angle iron with the 'V' part of the angle iron facing up. Then I welded a short steel plate into the open bottom of another angle iron and welded a 1-in. dia. vertical steel 'push rod' onto it. I also welded on a pair of diagonal strap iron braces.

"To bend the metal I just place one angle iron on top of the other. The strap iron braces reinforce both ends of the top angle iron so it doesn't bow up from the pressure."

Chuck Hollar, Boone, N.C.: "I had a lubrication problem with the small front end on my mid 1980's Massey Ferguson 1030 compact 4-WD tractor, so I modified the ring gear on it to run in grease instead of oil. I got the idea after the tractor's front end broke and fell apart 2 or 3 times, and each time I had to take the front end apart and replace several very expensive parts. The job takes at least a half day to do.

"The problem is the front end's 8-in. dia. ring gear is filled with ball bearings that are supposed to run in oil. However, the oil doesn't get where it's supposed to go. To solve the problem I drilled a series of holes around the ring gear and installed grease zerks in them, allowing me to use a grease gun any time I want. I made this modification 10 years ago and haven't had any problems since.

"There have been other problems with this tractor's front end. For example, the CV joints would get dry and fall off, the seals leaked, and I couldn't keep the wheels locked."



Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa: "We used a jack to raise the rear end on our Deere lawn tractor in order to keep the pto level with the pto on our grain auger. We also raised the tractor's front end so we can keep the engine oil level, making the engine less likely to overheat."

COX North America, Inc., Haslett, Mich. ph 800 822-8114 or 517 339-3330; www.cox-applicators.com: The company's battery-powered caulk gun comes with a 14.4-volt NiMh battery pack, a battery



charger and several nozzles. The caulk gun can be used with 10 or 20-oz. "sausage packs" or a 10-oz. cartridge and features 745 lbs. of maximum force for tough jobs. The unit has variable speed control with 9 separate settings, which lets you apply caulk at anywhere from a very slow to a very fast flow rate.

The caulk gun comes with automatic pressure release, causing the drive rod to retract a bit when the trigger is released to minimize dripping. It also has a release button, a trigger lock switch, and a hanging latch on top of the handle. Sells for \$299.99 plus S&H.

The company has a second model that has the same features except that it uses a 12-volt Lithium ion battery and sells for about \$100 less.

Crescent Marketing, Apex Tool Group, Sparks, Md.; ph 913 362-1670; www.crescenttool.com: Crescent's self-adjusting, 12-in. pipe wrench is designed for one-handed use and is lighter weight than standard pipe wrenches. It also has a slim profile so it can be used where other wrenches won't fit, says the company.

Simple Fix For Gathering Wheels On A Round Baler

Fritz Dillon, Glouster, Ohio, didn't want to spend a lot of money to repair the gathering wheels on his 2008 Hesston 540 round baler, so he came up with a quick solution that saved him about \$500.

"I use the baler to make 400 to 500 bales per year, so it gets a lot of use," says Dillon. "As a result, the rubber lining on the gathering wheels was starting to dry rot and even falling off the wheels. Once that happened, the baler started leaving a lot of hay in the field."

The company wanted \$250 apiece for replacement wheels. Instead, Dillon removed the rubber lining from each wheel and welded a series of teeth off an old junked rake onto both sides of the wheels. The teeth are spaced about 2 in. apart and extend about 3 in. beyond the perimeter of the wheel.

"It works great. I think the same idea would work on any brand of round baler that's equipped with gathering wheels," says Dillon.

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Fritz Dillon removed the worn-out rubber lining on the gathering wheels of his round baler and welded teeth off a junked rake onto both sides of the wheels.