

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

gear puller. Then I remembered a trick an old master plumber told me about. Soak the part in household ammonia for at least 24 hours. So I wrapped the part in a rag, soaked it with ammonia, then wrapped everything with cling wrap to seal it. I waited 48 hours, and tapped the strut out with three blows of a hammer and chisel."

Mike Hoy, Hedrick, Iowa: "My 1949 WD tractor has a low volume hydraulic system (6 qts.). I added a 3 gal. hydraulic reservoir mounted to the frame to give me all the fluid volume I need.

"I use Sea Foam fuel additive in all my small engines. It keeps fuel fresh and engines running smooth. I dump a few ounces in the gas tanks in the fall and, come next spring, they start right up."

Mike Clabaugh, Grinnell, Iowa: To keep mudflaps from tearing on grain trucks, wagons, trailers, semis, and other equipment, I cut them in half horizontally and attach a hinge to the front side. That way, if I hit an object when backing up, the lower half of the flap will flex forward rather than tearing off. But when you drive forward, they'll hold firm."

R.E. Charlton, Dillwyn, Va.: I patched a hydraulic cylinder rod using an aluminum welding rod of the type you see at fairs where the salesman will use it to patch a hole in a soda pop can. It works great. Electric rods leave a small groove in the side of the bead and bronze rods require too much heat. These aluminum weld rods work just right.

Dieselscraft Fluid Engineering, P.O. Box 7670, Auburn, Calif. 95604 ph 877 823-7075; sales@dieselscraft.com; www.dieselscraft.com: This company has developed a compact Fuel Purifier that it says re-



moves more than 99 percent of water and more than 95 percent of the natural contaminants in diesel fuel. The two-stage fuel treatment system results in increased power and up to 5 percent better mileage. Decreased smoke and no more clogged fuel filters are other benefits, says the company.

It has no replaceable, changeable or cleanable filter elements. Clean fuel is drawn out of the unit and into the primary fuel filter. Water and contamination is drained from the bottom of the unit.

Byron Bremer, Imperial, Neb.: "When the 6-volt battery on my Sears Craftsman 6-volt cordless screwdriver went out, I discovered that a replacement battery was no longer



available. The company said they don't make these batteries any more.

"I bought a new 6-volt dry cell flashlight battery and ran a 3-ft. long cord from the drill

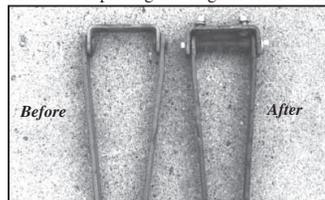
to, using clips to clamp the wire to the battery terminals as shown in the photo. The original design was to clamp the flashlight's bulb assembly onto the top of the battery using a couple of thumb screws. The same idea would work using a cigarette plug outlet in any vehicle equipped with a 6-volt battery."

SolarSun, Inc., 15 Blueberry Ridge Rd., Setauket, N.Y. 11733 (ph 877 276-5277; john@vinylclear.com; www.vinylclear.com): This company makes a product called VinylClear that's designed to keep your home's siding clean for years.

VinylClear comes in a spray bottle you attach to your garden hose. It takes only about 15 minutes to apply VinylClear to an average size home. The product is non toxic and won't harm plants. Works on vinyl, aluminum, painted siding and other nonporous surfaces. The spray-on coating also slows the growth of mildew and algae.

One package contains two bottles and one garden hose spray head, which is enough to cover 2,500 sq. ft. Sells for \$56.90 plus S&H.

Stuart Gunness, 6220 165th Ave. S.E., Walcott, N. Dak. 58077 (ph 701 372-3761): "I overhauled the pivot arms that hold the double disc seed openers on my 1992 Deere 9300 40-ft. drill. I used bolts and bushings instead of replacing the original rivets. The



problem is that when the rivets wear out, the piece the arm pivots on also wears out. Replacing the rivets and this piece costs about \$16 per arm.

"I removed the rivets and drilled out the piece that the arm pivots on to 3/4 inch. Then I moved the pivot arms from outside the disc opener to the inside. Then I installed two bushings (JD part no. A41207), a 3 1/2-in. length of 1/2-in. pipe as a spacer, and a 7/16-in. bolt to reassemble it. The pipe keeps the bushings from twisting as they wear.

"I made the conversion four years ago and installed new discs at the same time. It was a big job, but I saved a lot of money. I paid \$1 a piece for the bushings. My total cost was only about \$3 per set of disc openers. The same idea would also work on older Deere LLA drills."

Hubert Smith, Altamont, Ill.: "I came up with the idea of rigging an electric-operated air hammer with a shingle-removing blade for taking up linoleum or anything else that's glued down to a floor. It both reduces labor and speeds up the job.

"I unbolted the 10-in. wide serrated metal blade from a shingle remover that I already had. Then I bought a long-handled, air-operated chisel from Harbor Freight for \$99 and attached it to the chisel.

"I use a control box at the top of the handle to operate the chisel. It works great on a lot of types of flooring."



See-Through Propane Tanks

You can tell at a glance how much propane is left in these new see-through propane tanks from the Lite Cylinder Company.

They're made from a translucent composite material that lets you visibly check the propane level. In addition to knowing your exact fuel level, the tanks are about 30 percent lighter than conventional steel cylinders. Another benefit is that they won't rust and can be cleaned with soap and water.

The tanks have passed DOT fire tests. They sell for \$85 to \$95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Lite Cylinder Co., 139 Southeast Parkway Ct., Franklin, Tenn. 37064 (ph 866 412 5483; www.litecylinder.com).



Propane tank is made from a translucent composite material that lets you visibly check the propane level.

Hand-Cranked Washer, Wringer

If you live or have a cabin in a remote location off the power grid – or if you just want to wash out rags or coveralls in the shop without bringing them into the house – you'll like this old-fashioned hand-cranked washing machine from Lehman's.

The James Hand Washer is actually a new design with a double pivot action that reduces the effort needed to crank it and shortens the wash time to about 7 min. per load. A triangle-shaped agitator keeps clothes fully submerged so they never float to the surface or get stuck in the corners.

Tub and agitator are stainless steel. It mounts on wood legs and has a galvanized lid. Holds about 15 gal. of water.

A wringer roller can be mounted on one end that the company says takes out twice as much water as a spin dryer. Even if you don't have the washing machine, it can be used to squeeze water out of rags, chamois, sheets and blankets.

The washing machine sells for \$459 and the wringer for \$179. You can buy them both together for \$599.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lehman's, 289 Kurzen Road North, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 877 438-5346; www.lehmans.com).



The James Hand Washer can be fitted with a wringer roller at one end.



Wringer removes up to twice as much water as a spin dryer.

Kit Solves No-Till Drill Seal Problem

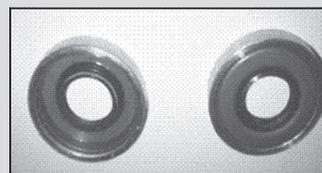
After a two years of use, a farmer-designed seal kit appears to be a good fix for a problem which has plagued owners of Deere 1850 Air Seeders produced from 1996 to 1998 and the Deere 750 No-Till Drills produced from 1991 to 1998.

Quentin Larson of Pollock, S. Dak., invented the seal kit to use on the drills' closing wheels. Larson had become frustrated by having to replace seals and bearings on the closing wheels every 1,500 acres.

By working with a local machinist, he created a prototype seal, then he field-tested it himself for over a year on more than 8,000 acres.

The prototype held up perfectly, so Larson formed a partnership with neighbors Ken and Arlene Odde called "Pollock Retrofix, Inc." They began marketing the pre-assembled seal kits last year.

The partners say feedback from customers over the past year has been excellent. It has also allowed them to learn that really worn spindles will result in the seals not fitting as tight as they should.



Farmer-designed seal kit is designed for use on Deere 1850 air seeders and 750 no-till drills.

"We tell drill owners they should first have the spindles built back up for best results," Larson says. "Most of our sales have been to customers in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana."

The kit (which includes a seal and a bushing) sells for \$30, including shipping and handling. Replacement seals for the kits are \$6.50 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pollock Retrofix, Inc., 11157 S. Dak., Hwy. 1804, Pollock, S. Dak. 57648 (ph 605 889-2827; retrofix@valleytel.net).