

Jonathan S. Fisher, Montgomery, Penn.: "Does water leak in at the bottom of your grain bin where it meets the concrete? You can solve the problem with Gaco silicone coating (www.gaco.com; ph 800 331-0196). Just apply 6 in. up the side of the building and onto the surface of the concrete. You may have to apply a few coats to fill in cracks but it works great. It's widely used for roofing but works on many other surfaces as well."

Richard Wood, Orting, Wash.: "I put all of my owners manuals in 3-ring notebooks. I cut them up into single sheets so I can put them into plastic document protectors. Keep everything together and I can look at them with greasy hands."

Herman Vander Vos, Bozeman, Mont.: "Thanks for printing my 'worst buy' report in Vol. 39, No. 6, about the bending of push rods in a Briggs & Stratton engine. Here are some suggestions I received from FARM SHOW readers:

"1. Run engine at full speed when working. A slow engine overheats. 2. Use synthetic oil because it keeps the engine cooler. 3. Check valve guides. They sometimes work loose. 4. Don't use fuel with ethanol in it because it can gum up valves. 5. Don't use stale gas because it can also gum up valves.

"Thanks to all who responded. I will take their suggestions seriously."

Gary D. Lutzow, Bryant, Wis.: "My Hesston 550 round baler wouldn't cut off twine. I had to crawl under the baler and hit the twine bar to make a cut. I solved the problem by cleaning the gears on the twine bar with a wire brush every morning when I greased the machine. Now it works perfect."

George Burkhardt, San Antonio, Texas: "Wooden fascia boards on houses and other buildings tend to rot near corners and intersections. Replacing the boards is time consuming and expensive, and removing the rotted portion of the wood and replacing it with wood filler is only a temporary fix.

"For a permanent fix, remove the rotted wood with the rotary rasp on a drill. Dilute fiberglass resin with one part acetone to 4 parts resin, then add 14 drops of fiberglass hardener for each ounce of total solution (acetone plus resin). Apply the diluted resin liberally to the area of removed wood and let it harden, then apply Bondo body filler to fill the recessed area.

"If you're working on a vertical surface and want to keep the filler from flowing away, temporarily affix duct tape to the board and then remove it after the filler has hardened. The filler can then be easily sanded and painted. The secret to this permanent fix is the diluted resin. It soaks into the wood, forming a hardened base that the filler adheres to.

"I've used this idea on many parts of the fascia boards on my house, some of them relatively large areas. I've seen no rot on the treated areas in more than 30 years."

Chuck Hartman, Ishpeming, Mich.: "There's a grease zerk on my Kawasaki Mule's driveshaft with less than 3/4 in. of

fuel tank, which is at least a 2-hr. job. Instead, I went on the internet and found the "THE418 Thexton right angle grease coupler" (www.thexton.com; ph 800 328-6277). It fits snugly on the zerk and works like a charm.

"You connect one end of the coupler to the end of your grease gun's hose. When you're done, just disconnect the coupler. The job takes only about 5 min. I can see endless applications for this coupler and recommend using it with a flexible hose extension. I bought the coupler at my local Auto Value store."

Theron R. Wilkins, Rupert, Idaho: "I didn't want to spend the money for a new starter clutch wrench for my Briggs & Stratton Wheeline gas engine, so I made my own. I drilled a series of holes into a metal tube and then welded it to the square stud part of a worn-out starter clutch. The tube goes down into the stud and turns a plastic pulley that's used to rewind the spring.

"To start the engine I just insert a small metal rod through one of the holes in the tube and then twist the rod. It works good, and I didn't spend anything to make it."

Moses Stutzman, Stirling, Ontario: "Your readers might be interested in this vise mounting bracket I made for sharpening chainsaws when working out in the woods.



It consists of 2 pieces of telescoping tubing that slips into any standard 2-in. receiver hitch, allowing you to take the vise with you anywhere.

"My friend came to me with the design and measurements and asked me to make it for him. I used 2 and 1 3/4-in. sq. tubing, with some flat steel plate used for bracing and another plate used to bolt the vise on. The vise can be lifted off and rotated anywhere.

"There's enough clearance for the pickup's tailgate to serve as a work table, or you can sit on the tailgate while sharpening the saw."

Jim White, Water Valley, Miss.: Jim likes his Kuhn 8-ft. disc mower but says it has one problem. "When the mower is parked for the winter, moisture will get into the top end of the lift cylinder which eventually causes rust to form and damage the seals. Replacing the seals is time consuming and expensive, because you have to tear the cylinder apart in order to install new seals. And it costs about \$100 for the seals, not including labor.

"The mower has a single acting cylinder so when it's extended the shaft goes all the way down, which leaves a cavity at the top that can trap moisture. You wouldn't have this problem with a double acting cylinder because the shaft is always covered with oil."

To solve the problem, White unhooks the cylinder from the mower and then retracts the cylinder which leaves the entire shaft covered. "I don't have this problem during the summer because as long as the mower is used occasionally, the cylinder will get coated with oil. It's not a problem limited to just Kuhn disc mowers. My neighbors have had the same trouble with other equipment," he notes.



Portable workbench mounted on back of Schoenenberger's 2-ton service truck lifts up to 9 ft. in the air.

Truck-Mounted Workbench Raises Up To 9 Ft. High

Instead of reaching up from a pickup bed or balancing on a ladder to work on big equipment, Albert Schoenenberger has a portable workbench on back of a service truck that lifts up to 9 ft. in the air. The inspiration for its design came to the Texas farmer at 3 in the morning as he was standing in his pickup bed, struggling to repair a bearing on the top roller of a baler.

His 2-ton service truck has a forklift mast on back that lifts a 3 by 8-ft. shop table made of 12-ga. steel. Its drawers are well equipped with socket wrenches, hand tools and air tools to fix machinery or an irrigation system. An air compressor in the truck supplies air to the shop bench.

The 14-ga. steel service bed mounts on a 6-in. channel frame, and the forklift mast attaches to the rear of that frame.

"A toggle switch on the workbench activates an electric over hydraulic pump, powered by three 12-volt batteries in the bed, which lifts the bench from ground level up to 9 ft. high," Schoenenberger says. "The tailgate made with 1/8-in. deck plate folds down and gives you a place to stand at the workbench.

"I mounted the unit on a 2-ton truck for many uses, mainly for working on equipment," Schoenenberger says, adding it works for other jobs as well. "My son, Brent, and I used the bed when we erected a 30 by 40-ft. shop. It was easier than standing on a ladder when fastening sheets of tin."

While he can take credit for the idea, he credits students Russell Eicke, Joel Rocha and Chad Sutton and teacher, Sean



Forklift mast is used to lift a workbench. Fold-down platform provides a place to stand.



Hightower, from Adrian High School for building it. They placed first and won \$4,000 worth of tools when they entered it in the Ag Mechanics Show in San Antonio.

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Labels attached to tire pressure gauge show the pressure needed on all of Campoli's vehicles.

Labels Save Time Airing Up Tires

"Between raising a family of 3 children and operating a small business, I have a lot of tires to keep pumped up. To make the job easier I made labels that show the tire pressure needed on all of our vehicles and attached them to my tire pressure gauge. It's a real time saver and beats trying to locate the specifications on each tire," says Joe Campoli, JC Metal Fabrication LLC, Mishawaka, Ind.

"I used a handheld Brothers label maker to

make the 3/8-in. wide labels. There isn't a lot of space on the labels so I use abbreviations. For example, 'Tractor F20 R16' means our tractor's front tire needs 20 lbs. of pressure and the rear one 16 lbs."

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room for access. The dealer says the only way to access it is to remove the vehicle's