



Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "After a FARM SHOW reader sent in a tip for turning a flat tire into a flat-free tire by filling it with expandable foam (Great Stuff), I thought I would try it. I drilled holes like he said and emptied a regular size can of foam into it. I could tell that wasn't nearly enough foam."

"So I picked up a larger can of the stuff and emptied it in. I could tell it was starting to fill, but there still seemed to be a long way to go."

"I thought about adding another can, but the first one cost about \$6 and the second cost about \$12, so I already had \$18 in a tire that could be replaced for \$22."

"Maybe it would be worth it to dump another \$6 to \$12 or more into it for a forever, flat-free tire, but I do have to wonder."

Carrol Jones, Louisa, Va.: "I write the hours of installation onto the outside of oil filters with a paint pen when I install them. This helps us keep on top of oil changes."

"Another thing I do is to attach a mailing label to the dashboards of tractors. The label says 'Last Time Serviced'. I cover the label with clear plastic shipping tape and then used an erasable grease pencil to write hours on the tape. This particularly helps with 10-hr. servicing on machines that recommend it."

Cecil Reimer, Tisdale, Sask.: "A reader in the last issue said the axle housing kept breaking on his 700 model Versatile. I wanted to say that solid steel axle tubes for Versatiles can be purchased at Gratton Coulee Agri Parts in Irma, Alberta, Canada (www.gcparts.com; ph 888 327-6767). Buy one and it'll solve your problem."

Doug Clark, Iderton, Ont.: "In your last issue, you had an article on a fellow who sharpens his chainsaw with a cutoff blade. Wow! He must have hands and eyes as steady as a brain surgeon. As for me, I'm sure I'd end up cutting the chain. I have a professional electric saw chain sharpener that's very accurate and simple to operate, but it takes forever to sharpen a chain and I need to take the chain off the saw and mount it in the sharpener. As a result, I rarely use that sharpener."

"Instead I use a stone in a cheap die grinder that works like a charm and is



much faster. A kit from Oregon (available at TSC or Canadian Tire stores) contains 3 grinding stones for different-sized chains and sells for about \$7. It takes me about 4 to 5 min. to sharpen a 16-in. saw chain using a compressed air die grinder without removing it from the saw. It's extremely easy to do and leaves a better edge than a file. These stones will sharpen a chain 40 to 50 times before wearing down too far. I place the outer tip of the stone into the hook of the tool before starting the grinder so I can slide the stone up until the shaft end gets to the tooth, and then back down in just a couple of seconds to keep the tooth from overheating."

Stan McDonald, Foxboro, Ont.: As a metal working professional who sells DC speed controls (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 26, No. 4), I've had readers ask if they can use a wood-cutting bandsaw to cut steel. My answer is that you can't, unless you modify the saw so you can run it at different speeds. The reason is that to cut wood you need to be running much faster, at about 3,000 fpm (feet per minute), while for steel you should be running at just 150 fpm.

"I converted a 14-in. Ridgid bandsaw for a friend by making a box to hold two driveshafts so you can switch from one set of belts and pulleys to another, depending on whether you are cutting steel or wood. You also need to change the blade to match what you're cutting."

"Another way to vary the speed is to install a 3-phase AC motor and install a Variable Frequency Drive that can be run on single

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

phase. This gets a little more complicated but I have written an article on how to do it. You can email me if you're interested in more details (smcdonal@kos.net)." 

Lee Tolliver, Tok, Alaska: "Cutting plexiglass is always hard because the edges shatter and break. I recently came up with a method that works perfect. I just use a Dremel Multi-Tool with a small cutting disk. It cuts nice and clean, making about a 1/8-in. wide slot. I've even been able to cut letters out of plexi with this tool. I made a video of it that's up at www.farmshow.com."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: "One time at a gas station about 300 miles from home, another customer at the pump stomped on the electric brake cord to my trailer and I spent the next 2 hrs. looking to buy wire strippers, wire nuts, screw drivers, etc. It was dark so I couldn't drive down the highway without lights."

"Ever since then I carry a freezer bag that contains everything needed to make minor repairs to lights and cord connections. It contains a wire cutter, stripper, screwdriver, tape, wire nuts and a cheap extension cord that I can cut up to make repairs."

Herb Rempel, Rosenort, Manitoba: "We needed to flush the oil in our Case IH Quadtrac tractor. To do that, you need to turn the rollers and idlers. We saved a lot of hours on the tractor – and lots of fuel – by bolting an

electric motor off a table saw to a piece of plywood and fitting it with a large drive belt. I engage the belt-drive by putting a piece of wood under the plywood and stepping on the end to tighten the belt."



Paul Tierney, Bloomington, Minn.: "The spring broke on the gas tank cover on my Chevy pickup. Rather than pay for a replacement cap, I installed a bolt inside the cap on the flange surrounding the filler tube and then drilled a hole through the gas cap so the bolt sticks through when the cap is closed. I screwed a wing nut onto the bolt to hold the cap closed. Works great and I later painted the wing nut red to match the color of the truck."

Dom Montesano, Burlington Flats, N.Y.: "As I get older it becomes more difficult to pull-start the 12 hp. gas engine on my 35-ton log splitter, so I bought an electric start engine with the same shaft size and mounting holes. Then I made an angle iron bracket and bolted the control panel off



an old Sears Craftsman garden tractor on behind the engine. I didn't do any welding so if I ever want to I can convert it back to a pull start. The panel looks nice, and the engine works great and always starts right up with no effort."

Add-On Grease Gun Extension

"Whether you're greasing a lawn mower or a combine, the job will be easier with this extension on your grease gun," says Terry Nichols, Murdock, Kan.

"I designed the first one out of desperation because of problems I was having reaching some grease zerks, such as those in U-joints on big equipment. It worked so well, I made more and sold them to local farmers and a construction business."

"Now I use it on all grease zerks whether they are easy to get to or not as it allows you to apply down pressure on a zerk that would otherwise let grease squirt out the side. It reduces time spent greasing big trucks and equipment, and keeps mess to a minimum."

"I made 2 designs. One snaps on over the existing nozzle. To use the other one, you remove the nozzle on the grease gun and screw on the extension."

"I made this attachment to work on a battery-operated grease gun but I have used it on a hand pump gun and it works great there, too. I sell it for \$29 plus S&H."



Grease gun extension lets you apply down pressure on a zerk that would otherwise allow grease to squirt out the side.

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