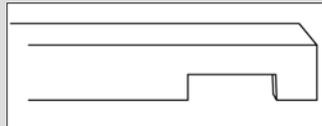


Samuel C Jones, Valdosta, Ga.: "I connected a trailer light connector plug to my 12-volt chainsaw sharpener. That makes it easy to plug it into the connector on my truck. I place the chainsaw on the tailgate of my truck to sharpen the blade in the field."

Tim Stegman, Neche, N. Dak.: "We use a lot of chainsaws in tree service and they have fuel-related stoppages at times. We remedied the issues with Sea Foam and 91 octane with no ethanol. I should be a Sea Foam dealer because I tell everyone about it. It works!"

John C. Campbell, Marysville, Wash.: "I own a 15-acre vegetable farm and we use a lot of wheelbarrows. Picking a lot of



sweet corn, your hands get wet so they slip off the ends. The original handles are very poor – too short and my hands slip off the ends. I replace the handles with new ones made out of 2 by 3's that are 3 in. longer than the original handles. I also cut a notch out near the end so your hands can't slip. Also, when pulling the empty wheelbarrow behind you, your heels don't hit the frame."

Donald Rostad, New Philadelphia, Ohio: "I use black pepper to stop radiator leaks. Add pepper when the motor is hot.

"I never use starting fluid. Instead, I use WD40 because it works just as well and there's lubricant in it."

Kent MacDougal, Yorges Island, S.C.: "Liquid Nails construction glue makes an awesome wood filler. Just spread it with a putty knife or credit card to fill deep scratches or dents."

Mark Coulter, Franklin, Penn.: "I have a hard time throwing away plastic bottles because there are so many uses for them. Empty 2-liter soda bottles can serve two purposes. Cut off the top for a funnel and nail the screw cap to the bottom of a shelf to hold the funnel so it stays clean. The bottom half can be used as a nut and bolt container."



Ron Post attached a grease hose to a 4-ton portable jack to come up with this grease buster. "It breaks even the most stubborn grease zerks loose," he says.

Heavy-Duty "Buster" Clears Out Clogged Grease Zerks

Ohio farmer Ron Post says that on most equipment there's always a stubborn zerk or two that won't take grease, especially in the winter, and he's gotten really tired of dealing with them. "I had one of those grease busters that you hammer onto a zerk, but that didn't seem to work well when it was cold, so I built my own tool."

Post attached a grease hose to a 4-ton portable jack. First he replaced one end with a 1/4-in. male hydraulic quick hose connector. "I hooked up my porta power, then took a 10-ft. long hose and put a female hose connector

"An empty dish soap bottle with a pull-up top makes an excellent battery filler. Just invert over the hole, pull the top open, and when the cell is full, push down to shut off the flow. No spills."

Bill Schiller, Hillsboro, Wis.: "I add a little bit of oil to anti-seize lubricants. Makes it a lot more workable."

Jack Fulton, Sioux City, Iowa: "I have a 1974 Chevy pickup that we only use on the farm. The metal gas tank rusted out so I took a 2-gal. plastic tank off a riding mower and mounted it in the engine compartment and ran a rubber line out of the tank with a fuel filter. Works great and I won't be having any more rust issues."

Charles Matthews, Petersburg, Tenn.: "When using small files, like the ones jewelers use, they can have very sharp, pointed tangs. To protect the palm of my hand while using, I screw a wire nut onto the end. I usually keep 2 or 3 of various sizes in my toolbox file drawer so they're always handy."

Wayne Chamberlain, Lowell, Mich.: "If you have an older battery in a seldom used piece of equipment that has no terminal voltage, sometimes you can restore the battery by removing it from the vehicle and tilting it 45° sideways, and then bumping it on the ground. The problem is that material flakes off the battery and piles up between the plates, often causing the plates to be shorted out. When you tilt the battery, it levels off the crud in the battery. Many times it will allow the battery to take a charge and be good for several more years if you keep it charged.

"I have done this successfully with several old batteries over the years. It doesn't always work but is worth a try."

Luke Heinle, Buchanan, N. Dak.: "The throttle position sensor on my pickup was failing, causing the accelerator to cut out occasionally. I removed the unit and applied dielectric grease to the connections. It has been working well ever since.

"I keep magnetic paper towel holders in multiple locations around my farm and shop so shop towels are always easy to find. Another tip: I use oversized hiking clips, called carabiners, to hold commonly used wrenches in tractor cabs or on other equipment."

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

Mike Laduron, Pelican Lake, Wis.: "Rather than crank the battery down on any older gas tractor when it's 20 below zero or colder, I point a small torpedo-style heater at the carburetor and intake manifold for 5 min. until warm. Works all the time."



Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "I'll never have to search for a church key (bottle opener) again. All I need is a spot to hammer in a small nail.

"I saw the idea in a list of shop tips, and it doesn't get much easier. I used a 1-in. shingle nail with a large head. However, almost any nail with a full head would work. It doesn't take much to catch the edge of a bottle cap.

"I put the nail under the edge of my workbench, but I may add some elsewhere, just in case I have a bottle that needs to be opened."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: "Whenever I have to do spot painting on equipment, instead of using masking tape I just use old plastic grocery bags. It's easy to tuck the bags into tight places, and they can be left on indefinitely without leaving any sticky residue like with tape. And after the bags dry out they can be reused. The photo shows how we recently used plastic bags while painting the mounting brackets on our front-end loader."

KLR Inc., Lebanon, Tenn. www.speedyflo.com; ph 615 449-8244: Anyone who has ever poured heavy oil into a standard funnel knows that you have to pause periodically to allow air to escape. If you pour too fast, the oil backs up and can splash out of the funnel.

The new Speedy Flow Funnel comes with an air vent located inside the funnel. It allows air to escape so you can pour continuously. Also, the funnel's long neck fits tight against the engine opening, keeping debris from entering.

The funnel is available in 10 and 12-in. dia. sizes that sell for \$6.95 and \$7.95, respectively.

Milford Scharlau, Lyndonville, N.Y.: "Two years ago I bought a Cub Cadet riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck. Right away I found it hard to push down on the reverse foot pedal. To solve the problem, I drilled a hole through the pedal and fastened a 2-ft. length of thin pipe to it. Now whenever I want to back up I just grab the pipe. I seldom even have to remove my foot from the forward foot pedal."



Alan Linda, New York Mills, Minn.: "I own a 1997 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. V-8 engine, which was using a lot of oil – about a quart every 600 miles. The photo shows what