

Timothy Clark, Pearland, Texas: "After moving to the wetter climate of Houston, Texas, we experienced 'wet' shoulder seat belts in our Dodge Durango after heavy rains. Our dealer and the company were of no help solving the mystery. We disassembled the cover paneling around the 'B-pillar' but couldn't find a path for how the water was entering. Finally, I removed the rooftop luggage rack rails and caulked around each of the 4 threaded fasteners with bathroom tub and tile sealer and then quickly replaced the rails. The seatbelts have remained dry ever since."

Bob Nance, Kitts Hill, Ohio: "I have a Bolens 20-in. front-wheel self-propelled lawn mower. The solid rubber tires wore down smooth and wouldn't pull the mower up hills. Buying new wheels wouldn't make sense. So I took 1-in. drywall screws and inserted them into the tires, about 1 in. apart around both drive tires, leaving the heads sticking out about 1/8 in."

"I did this about 6 years ago and the mower is still working well."

Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.: "When installing a new roller chain it can be difficult to get the ends close enough to put on the connecting link. I use a heavy-duty zip-tie to snug up the slack and leave my hands free to install the connector link. It's not in the way and you can snip it off when you're done. I always keep a few in my toolboxes. Works much better than a piece of wire or a needle nose pliers."

Clarence McCourt, Webster Springs, W. Va.: "I have a Yanmar 135 2-cyl. diesel tractor that was designed to run without a water pump, even though it has a radiator and fan. It constantly overheated and the manufacturer told me there was no way to put a water pump on it."

"I bought a DC-powered heat circulation pump from Bus Parts Warehouse in Syracuse, N.Y. (www.buspartswarehouse.com; ph 800 635-5567) for \$163.20. Then I picked up some 1-in. radiator hose and clamps at an auto parts store along with a simple toggle switch. I mounted the pump behind the front bumper, splicing it into the bottom radiator hose, which was also 1 in. dia. Then I mounted the toggle switch, which has an indicator light on it, to the dashboard. A good mechanic could wire it directly to the ignition switch."

"It has been a year and the only time the tractor has overheated was the one time I forgot to turn the switch on."



Uniburr Tool Bit: A new deburring tool makes it easy to repair bolts with damaged threads. It fits in a power drill and grinds down the end of a bolt, shearing off threads rather than folding them over as can happen with a grinder. The company says it doesn't "chatter" and won't overheat the work piece. The standard model sells for \$44.95 and is available at Amazon or www.uniburr.com (ph 800 864-2877). A Uniburr Plus model for harder steel sells for a bit more.



Andy Sewell, North Yorkshire, England: "FARM SHOW ran a piece on a valve I made for a vacuum hose that sucks fine glass bead dust out of my bead blasting cabinet (Vol. 40, No. 6). A reader kindly contacted me and suggested that he had used a similar idea when working with wood shavings, but with the addition of a DustDoctor cyclone. I couldn't find one in England so I made my own using a 7-in. clear plastic funnel. At the bottom I cast a block of poly to act as a base to mount it over a bucket. The air inlet enters the top of the funnel at a shallow angle, with a piece of thin plate an inch below it to control the direction of flow. My bleed valve remains in place so I can still regulate the amount of vacuum at the blast cabinet."

"It worked great the first time I fired it up. Total cost was just a few dollars and the benefit is a huge increase in vacuum cleaner bag life. So thanks to FARM SHOW and its readers."

Eli Yoder, Haven, Kansas: "As the owner of a tree care business I recently made a money-saving repair on my pto-operated Vermeer wood chipper. I had repowered the machine a few years ago with a Kohler 22 hp engine, but after about 150 hrs. a bushing on

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



the pto shaft that drives a set of pulleys wore out and began leaking oil. A local shop wanted almost \$1,000 just to replace the bushing and housing.

"Instead, I decided to replace the bushing with a bearing. I bought a new 4-flange, 1 1/4-in. sealed bearing for \$75 and slipped it over the pto shaft, then bolted it to the engine mounting plate. The flanges didn't quite line up with the original holes on the bearing housing so I redrilled a couple of them. I also replaced a seal. It works perfect now and doesn't leak any oil at all."

"I bought an old tile cutting saw with stand



at an auction for \$20 and converted it to a portable steel-cutting choppersaw. The saw's electric motor didn't work so I replaced it with a Honda 9 hp gas engine. I also installed a new driveshaft and replaced the saw's belts and pulleys to fit."

"It works great to cut up pipe that we use to build fences on our farm and will cut 4-in. dia. pipe with no problem. I use my loader tractor with forks to move the saw from the shop to my pipe pile. The saw stand rides on small wheels inside a metal track. It came with a rolling table, which I replaced by welding in a 1/4-in. thick steel plate. The engine mounting plate is welded to a length of 1 1/2-in. sq. tubing. To adjust the belt tension, I just step on the tube."

"My converted tile cutting saw works great and cuts twice as fast as my old handheld Stihl choppersaw. It also cuts much more accurately."

Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill. (ph 309 337-7141; seminarybob@gmail.com):

"The headlights on my Deere 445 garden tractor came equipped with standard automotive, single filament backup light bulbs. I wanted better lighting for pushing snow at night, so I found some LED-type replacement bulbs at Walmart that were surprisingly inexpensive. These bulbs put out at least twice as much light and draw much less amperage, and they're cooler than Halogen lights so they won't melt the headlights' plastic lenses. I may also mount LED lights on the tractor's rear fenders to help when hooking up implements."

Herman Kiefer, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario: "I came up with a quick, cheap



way to build shelves between the wall studs inside my shed with scrap plywood. I use the shelves to store odds and ends which I keep in mayonnaise jars."

Menno L. Chupp, Arthur, Ill.: "I bought a used Peerless roller mill mixer 3 years ago with an unloading auger that didn't work due to a stripped gearbox. I couldn't find another mixer auger to replace it, so instead I used an old 12-ft. long gravity wagon auger that I bought at an auction for \$50."

"The mixer came with a short auger at the bottom that delivered feed through a slide gate and then into another auger mounted outside. I removed both augers and reinstalled just the gravity wagon auger. It came with a metal chute, hydraulic motor and hoses, shut-off valve, and a hand-operated winch to raise or lower the auger. The gravity wagon mounting bracket didn't match up with the mixer

Step-On Toolbox For Deere Combines

Ag Dryer Services makes an extra large toolbox that fits Deere combines from 1987 to the present. Demand has been so strong from owners of other makes that they are planning to expand. It all started with one special request.

"An area farmer said the new combines didn't offer enough tool storage and asked if we could make him one," says Rob Skiles, Ag Dryer Services. "When his neighbors saw what we had done, they wanted one too. We started making them about 6 months ago and taking them to farm shows. They go like hotcakes."

The toolbox is 4 ft. long by 10 in. deep and 13 in. wide. It's made from 12-ga. steel and is designed to replace the lower step on the left side. It has a locking handle and a rubber seal on the lid.

"No holes need to be drilled," says Skiles. "Simply remove the step and mount the toolbox in its place."

The toolbox is painted Deere green and sells for \$345.95.



Toolbox is 4 ft. long by 10 in. deep. It's designed to replace lower step on left side of combine.

"We've had a lot of interest from owners of other makes," notes Skiles. "We haven't developed any toolboxes for them yet, but we will."

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