



breaker bar.

"Sells for \$79.95 on the company website."

David Simpler, Elkton, Md.: "I wanted to grease the pins and bushings on my backhoe. However, I couldn't pump grease into the bushings on some of the grease fittings. I changed the fittings but it didn't



help. Then someone suggested that I adapt a zerk fitting to the hose on a Porta-Power, so I attached the Porta-Power's 3,000-lb. psi flexible hose to a grease zerk connector. It worked.

"I didn't want water getting into the vertical slant-cut exhaust stacks on my tractors, but I couldn't find an exhaust cover for them. Some farmers use a tin can as an exhaust cover, but the cans always blow off.



"To solve the problem, I came up with what I call my 'spring-loaded asparagus can cover.' I've used this idea on all 3 of my tractors equipped with vertical exhaust stacks, and it works great. However, whenever I need to use the tractor for an extended period of time I remove the can to keep fumes out of my face."

Lawrence Goodman, Ionia, Mich.: "After I installed new brake adjusters on my tandem axle dump truck I needed a way to grease them, so I bought a 90-degree angle coupler that was designed for my grease gun. I borrowed the pipe from an



old grease gun and attached a small pipe coupling onto one end, then installed a grease zerk in the coupling. I also welded a T-handle on the coupling so that it can be easily removed. Works great."

Jack B. Freeland, Mobile, Ala.: "The carburetor on my Deere 19 hp riding mower got gummed up after I used gas with ethanol. My local repair shop wanted \$200 to clean the carburetor, and they had a 2-week service backlog.

"Instead, I went on eBay and ordered a new carburetor for the Briggs & Stratton engine for just \$20. It was delivered in just 3 days with free shipping. It bolted right up in 20 min., and my mower now runs fine."

Bob Moty, Crystal Lake, Ill.: "In your last issue, you wrote about someone who uses a shop vac with a 1 1/4-in. dia. hose to clear out clogged drains in sinks and bathtubs. My idea is to just use a garden hose. I stick the end of the hose down the drain and use a screwdriver to pack wet rags around the hose. Then while someone else holds the hose and rags down to keep them from blowing out, I turn on the water. I figured that since there's already 50 lbs. of pressure in my water line, I might as well use it. That pressure will blow anything out."



Ken Ladd, Minneapolis, Minn.: "My cousin and I were trying to figure out how to store and apply our home brew mix of 50-50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone that we use as a penetrating oil to loosen up rusted nuts. I went on eBay and found some inexpensive vintage oil cans with spouts. The can shown at left in the photo has no gasket that could leak fluid. The other can does have a gasket, but hopefully it will stand up to use."

Power Tool Repair Parts

www.Toolpartsdirect.com; ph 888-358-0332: If you need a part to fix one of your power tools, chances are you'll find it here because the company has about 850,000 different parts for some 30,000 different models of tools. All you do is type the model number in the website's search bar. If you don't have the model number, click on the link underneath and it'll tell you how to find it.

www.ereplacementparts.com; ph 877-346-4816: This company stocks parts for just about every major power tool manufacturer, and ships them quickly. They also explain in detail how to quickly find tool model numbers for many different brands. Extensive "how to repair" guides and videos are provided.

www.MikesTools.com; ph 714-558-8360: They offer a wide variety of parts as well as woodworking and metalworking tools which are listed by manufacturer. The company occasionally will take used tools in on trade, or make a special purchase of factory reconditioned tools, and then list them on the website.

www.Parttree.com; ph 512-288-4355: This company is an authorized servicing dealer for every brand they sell, and they sell only new genuine OEM original parts. As a result, they say you can be certain the parts you order will fit your equipment exactly as intended by the original manufacturer. More than 60,000 parts numbers are in stock, from more than 30 major outdoor power brands.

"Pipe Spacers" Boost Floor Jack's Lift Height

Terry Benoit's standard floor jack didn't reach high enough to lift some of his farm equipment for service work. So the Orange, Texas, man made stackable "pipe spacers" that let him boost the jack's reach 6 in. at a time.

"It works great on a lot of my farm equipment," says Benoit. "For example, I have a pickup with large tires. The jack can lift only about 19 in. high, but by adding 3 spacers I can increase the total lift height to 3 ft.," says Benoit.

He made the scrapers using scrap 4-in. dia. pipe, 1/2-in. thick round steel plate, and some 1-in. dia. steel rod. He used a metal bandsaw to cut the pipes 6 in. long and then welded a plate onto each end.

"The plates already had holes in them that were just the right size," says Benoit. "I welded a 1-in. long rod into the hole on half of the plates. Then I welded a plate with a rod on it to one end of the pipe and an unmodified plate to the other end."

Floor jacks are equipped with a removable, shallow round metal "dish" with a stub rod on the bottom that fits into a hole in the jack's base. To add spacers Benoit removes the plate and inserts the spacers as needed, then puts the dish back on top.

"The spacers work something like lego blocks. I just place as many spacers as needed on top of each other to get the height that I need," says Benoit. "I recently used the spacers to raise the back end of my posi track skid loader so that I could work on the tracks. The floor jack was 2 ft. too short, so I added 3 spacers."



Stackable "pipe spacers" let Terry Benoit boost his floor jack's reach 6 in. at a time.



Benoit added 3 homemade spacers to raise the back end of his posi track skid loader, allowing him to work on the tracks.

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Ceramic-Coated Mufflers "Last Forever"

You can eliminate peeling paint on mufflers and manifolds by having them coated in ceramic. E & S Ceramic Coating can dress them up in either a black or silver coating.

"Ceramics will scratch like paint or porcelain, but it lasts better than even high temperature paint," says E & S owner Ed Vieth. "There is nothing worse to have a pristine restoration and then have paint peel off the muffler."

Vieth offers 2 coating processes. One is the traditional baked coating. However, it is limited by the size of his oven to items 31 in. or less. A second process cures with the heat of the tractor.

"Both processes are good up to 1,800 degrees," says Vieth. "However, I think baking might make a more durable coating."

Vieth sandblasts items immediately before coating. In the case of stainless steel, he blasts it with a black oxide.

"I have to use gloves on prepared pieces to ensure that no impurities interfere with the coating process," says Vieth. "I prefer to sandblast and coat in low humidity."

Vieth emphasizes that ceramic coating is not rustproofing. The coating is made from clay, and it's porous. If the tractor sits outside any length of time, a muffler or exhaust pipe can rust through.

"If the ceramic-coated component is cared for, it can last forever," says Vieth. "If it is out in the rain, the best thing you can do is to fire it up and heat it up."

Vieth has a flat charge of \$50 for mufflers under 30 in. Slightly longer mufflers are priced at \$70. Single manifolds are priced at \$75 and a double at \$85. Exhaust pipes are priced at \$50.



Ed Vieth says you can eliminate peeling paint on mufflers and manifolds by coating them with ceramic.

"If you have an extra large muffler, I need measurements before I can quote the job," says Vieth. "The actual coating material is the most expensive part of the entire process."

Currently, Vieth has a turn-around time of about 2 weeks on most mufflers. However, that may change after the first of the year. When he retires from his full-time job, he'll have more time for E & S. He also does ceramic coating for HAPCO parts when requested by a customer.

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