

Steel brackets accept short 2 by 4's that support each sawhorse. A 3/4-in. thick sheet of plywood fits into the top of each bracket.



## Sawhorses Made Out Of Plywood

"My new Little Mule Sawhorse lets you set your skil saw to full depth and work all day long without cutting into metal or weakening the structure of the sawhorse," says Larry Satur, Gillette, Wyo.

He sells steel brackets designed to accept short 2 by 4's that serve as sawhorse legs. Each bracket also accepts a 3/4-in. thick sheet of plywood.

The brackets are made from 1/8 and 3/16-in. steel and come with a 3/4-in. wide gap in the middle. A 2 by 4 is inserted through each side of the bracket until it contacts a rectangular plate, and is then screwed on from the top using a pre-drilled hole. A plywood sheet is then inserted into the gap and screwed into place using another pre-drilled hole in the bracket plate.

Once the plywood sheets are in place you can put any kind of table you want on top of them.

"The brackets are built heavy and will last a lifetime," says Satur. "Each plywood sheet sets on short lengths of welded-on square tubing inside the gap, which gives the plywood more strength and keeps it from wiggling back and forth if the sawhorse is



Brackets come with a 3/4-in. wide gap in the middle where a plywood sheet is inserted and then screwed into place.

carrying a heavy load. You can cut holes for handles into the plywood in order to move the sawhorse."

He says a 12-in. long board is ideal for the legs, but shorter or longer boards can also be used. "A 30 or 40-in. high plywood sheet will provide a comfortable working height for your table," says Satur.

He sells the brackets "bare metal, clean, deburred and ready to paint to the color of your choice."

Brackets and screws for one set of sawhorses sell for \$124 including S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Satur, 26 Nathan Hale Rd., Gillette, Wyo. 82718 (ph 307 689-1365).

## After-Market Ignition Module For Old Tecumsehs

If your reliable, older model Tecumseh engine won't start, a drop-in TCDI (Tecumseh Capacitive Discharge Ignition) from Overnight Solutions may be the answer. As the only bolt-in replacement available, the TCDI replaces the NLA 610748, 610855 and 610906 found on 10 hp. flat-heads through 18 hp. overhead valve models.

Dale Colvert, Overnight Solutions, says the original has an aluminum housing containing all the heat-retaining elements. If any single component goes bad, the entire unit becomes a throwaway. His TCDI has all of the elements out where they have plenty of air circulation and can be replaced individually if anything fails.

"Since 2012, I've sold them from Israel to Jamaica and anywhere else the engines can be found," he says. "Those engines were used on everything from railroad track service cars and ATV's to garden tractors and Miller welders."

Colvert says his TCDI works just like the original, but likely costs less than if the company was still making them.

Most of the engines his TCDI is made for are 30 to 40 years old, but are still serviceable and often times constructed better than today's offerings. However, one bad part can make the engine worthless. Colvert is confident he has improved on the

original ignition module. Most machines like the mini-dozer have an ignition switch to allow the CDI to operate. When the switch is working properly, it is open for running or grounded to starve the circuit of energy and kill the motor.

"Since the ignition switch has 12 volts on it for accessories and solenoid operation, these older switches go leaky, which can put the 12 volts where it is not wanted and not acceptable," he explains. "If it sends 12 volts to the semiconductor in the CDI, it will blow out. Twelve volts should never be involved with a CDI system."

Colvert's TCDI kits come with a diode to protect the CDI from 12-volt damage. "With a silver band at one end facing the ignition switch, the diode stops the stray energy from going on to the CDI. While blocking 12 volts, it still allows current to find its way to ground when the switch is in the off position," adds Colvert.

The TCDI is available on eBay for \$169.95. It is also available direct from Overnight Solutions for \$149.95, domestic shipping included.

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A row of used file cabinets outside Keith Bleicher's shop make tools and parts easily accessible.

## Outside File Cabinets Hold Tools, Parts

"I bought a bunch of used office file cabinets and attached them to an outside wall of my shop. They really work great to hold parts and tools," says Keith Bleicher, Shushan, N.Y.

Bleicher found the cabinets on Craigslist and bought others at an estate sale. Each cabinet came with 4 drawers and measures 52 in. high, 30 in. wide, and 18 in. deep. The drawers are 12 in. high and 16 in. deep.

He parked the cabinets along the entire east wall of his 25-ft. long shop on a gravel base covered with sheets of diamond plate steel, setting the cabinets on 6-in. high blocks to keep the bottoms from rusting.

Bleicher has purchased 8 cabinets so far, but says he plans to end up with about 16 in all. A 3-ft. overhang on the shop wall covers all the cabinets. He plans to add sliding doors under the overhang to enclose the cabinets.

"I'm far from done putting this system together, but already it has made a big difference in helping keep my tools and parts organized. It makes my entire outside shop work area much more enjoyable to work in," says Bleicher, an electrical designer,

licensed master electrician and overhead crane technician who for more than 40 years has also worked as a backyard welder and mechanical designer. He says he owns at least \$25,000 worth of small shop tools.

"I often work outside the shop, and in the past if I was in a hurry or dodging storms I would sometimes leave tools and leftover parts outside in my yard or on the driveway, and then later have to drag them all back into the shop. With the cabinets outdoors and out of the weather I'll be able to access whatever I need. And everything is labeled so I'm able to find what I need quickly.

"The used cabinets were in great shape and I was able to buy them for \$40 apiece, whereas new comparable cabinets would normally retail for about \$700 each. The estate that sold them owned an accounting business that was going digital, so they no longer had use for them."

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## Compressor-Mounted Hose Reel Swivels In Any Direction

"A few years ago I mounted a hose reel on my horizontal air tank compressor, so that if I needed to move the compressor to a different location my hose reel was always with me. Since then I've replaced the horizontal compressor with a vertical one, and made a rod-mounted swivel for the hose reel that makes it easy to pull the hose out from any direction," says Donald Chapman, Billings, Mo.

The hose reel is mounted above the compressor on a vertical metal rod that attaches to the compressor. Chapman cut the hub off a wheelbarrow axle and mounted a bearing on each end. He welded the hub to a metal plate and bolted the plate onto the hose reel mounting bracket, then slid the hub over the rod. The hub rests on a big washer which sets on top of a short metal pin that runs through the rod.

"The swivel allows the hose reel mounting bracket to rotate sideways in any direction so that the hose reel will follow with me as I pull out the hose. I use the compressor a lot in my shop to operate various tools, so this idea really comes in handy," says Chapman.

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Swivel allows compressor-mounted hose reel to rotate freely in any direction.