

Dale Osborn, Dickson, Tenn.: "I use bamboo skewers (the kind used for kabobs) to apply a drop of oil in tight places or a speck of touch-up paint. You can also use it for mixing liquids and other things."

Norm Bennett, Newport, Vt.: "I had to feed a bolt into a place where I couldn't fit tools and fingers. A length of dental floss solved the problem. The nut will screw on right over the floss."

Andrew J. Horst, Hagerstown, Md.: "During cold winter months hydraulic hammer paste can't be pumped. So I slide the grease gun into my truck tailpipe with the truck running to heat it up. Works great."

"The tube for windshield washer fluid cracked on my truck. Rather than replacing the whole thing, I cut out the bad section and used electrical heat shrink tubing infused with glue to install a new section. Worked great and saved lots of time."

Ryan Van Der Bill, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.:

"I attach a few magnets to the front of my drill press to hold onto the chuck key when you're not using it. It works great and you won't lose it on your workbench."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: "One of my sons is the parts manager at a local



Ford dealership. He let me come in one day to take pictures of the mechanics working on a truck engine. It's a lot different working on a truck engine today than it was back in the old days when we put a hoist up in a tree to pull the engine. Now they lift the entire body off the chassis. All the wiring has quick disconnects. About a dozen bolts connect the cab to the frame.

"I bought a small tire machine from Harbor Freight. I don't use it that often because it only works on small tires so I



didn't want to mount it in my shop. Instead, I mounted it on an old truck rim and tire. I offset it on the rim so it takes very little effort to tilt it over and roll it to wherever I need it."

Leete Etheridge, Columbus, Texas:

"I enjoyed the story you had about the guy who strapped a fuel tank to the back wheel of a blocked up tractor, then ran the wheel to clean rust out of the tank. Instead of using a tractor, I strapped a tank to the end of a cement mixer with crushed limestone and vinegar inside. Then I ran it for a while on each side. Worked good."



William Watner, St. Marys, Kan.: "Use a welder to build up a sheared-off bolt to where you can twist it out with a vise grips. Be careful or you'll weld the bolt in place. A TIG welder works best. The heat from the welding also helps loosen the bolt."

"Airhose reels and electric cord reels save time and keep the shop neat. Klutch Brand airhose reels from Northern Tool are the best (www.northernrtool.com)."

Doug Clark, Iderton, Ontario: "In your last issue a reader talked about issues with his two Deere Buck 4-wheelers. He said, 'One of them dies whenever the engine heats up, then 30 min. later it'll start up and run a little longer before the engine quits again.' I'm not a mechanic but I'd like to suggest that this issue is very common on smaller John Deere equipment."

"I think the fact that it stops when heated up misleads the mechanics because it has nothing to do with the problem, which is likely to be that the pencil screen on the end of the fuel intake line is so covered with crud that it actually shuts off the fuel and kills the

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 (email: editor@farmshow.com or text to: 952-465-5019).
Mark Newhall, Editor

engine. Whether the engine cools down or not, it will start again after several minutes because the vacuum in the fuel line drops enough to let the crud drop off at least the top of the pencil valve and fuel is then able to get back into the line – until the pencil valve gets plugged again, stopping the engine.

"You can solve the problem by unscrewing the fuel line from the dirty Deere fuel tank and the pencil screen should come out with the line. Just clean the crud off the screen with a blow gun and drain out the tank. This should solve the problem for a few years until crud builds up again in the tank."

Willard M. Stoll, Orrville, Ohio: "We bought a used New Idea 245 manure spreader and had trouble with the apron chain working its way out on one side or the other underneath the spreader. To solve the problem, I attached a 2 by 4 to each side of the underside of the spreader to take up the extra space. Problem solved."

Fred Wheaton, Montour Falls, N.Y.: "I had a 25 hp. Kawasaki engine that sat outside uncovered. Water got into the float bowl and it turned to ice during the winter, cracking the bowl. I used JB Weld to seal the bowl. Amazing stuff. No leaks at all afterward."

Fred Welton, Grove City, Penn.: "Teeth for a Pequa hay tedder are about \$9 apiece at my dealer. With a few minor adjustments, the \$1.99 rake teeth sold at Tractor Supply stores make a good replacement. The savings add up if you have a lot to replace."

Elton Brubacher, Stanley, Wis.: "When I have a rusty or stuck bolt, I use an impact wrench on it to break it loose. Works great."

Nick Petragani, Cheyney, Penn.: "When welding, I use duct tape to hold steel pieces together until I can tack weld them. Works better than clamps and other methods people try to use."

Jeff Grube, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.: "One unique repair I made recently was on my Deere riding mower. The brass sleeve around the driveshaft to the mower deck blades locked up. Deere wanted \$200 for a new sleeve. I took it to my machinist friend Scott Smith and he machined a new driveshaft, then fitted it with two bearings, built a housing around it, and installed grease zerks. This repair instantly quieted down the mower tremendously – it's super quiet now and has been running great for 2 years."



Dave Meiners, Edgerton, Minn.: "I had a hard time using a box end-open end wrench in order to break the stud bolts loose on my tractor's front wheels. To gain more leverage, I hooked the box end of a second, slightly larger wrench into the open end of the first wrench. As soon as I applied pressure, the bolts immediately popped loose."

Ron McMurray, Beverly Hills, Fla.: "In a recent issue of FARM SHOW a reader said he was having trouble keeping the headlights on in his Dodge pickup, even after he changed out the switch. I think he has a bad ground on the headlights. I had the same problem back in 1971 with the dash lights on my new Plymouth Duster 340. The lights would go on and off whenever they felt like it. The problem turned out to be a bad ground on the dash panel. Once I figured that out, no more problems."

David Urban, Hastings, Minn.: "Highway median cable barriers can be used as a substitute for rebar in concrete. Several years ago I owned a construction company and used some highway median cable when pouring the 42-ft. dia. footing for a large grain bin. It worked great."

"Then a heavy rain washed out some of the fill from underneath the footing, with the bin full of corn on top of it. It was a 6-ft. washout, yet not a single crack developed in the concrete. I then pumped new concrete under the bin, and the footing looked like new again."

Highway median cables are often available from RepurposedMATERIALS, a company that puts customers together with industrial waste (ph 303 321-1471; www.repurposedmaterialsinc.com).

Oil Filter Removal Tool For Dodge Diesel Pickups

"The oil filter in 2013-2018 Dodge Ram Cummins heavy-duty diesel pickups is difficult and messy to remove. My oil filter removal tool makes the job much easier and cleaner," says Cody Torgerson, Douglas, Wyo.

Torgerson owns a small automotive lube shop and says he came up with the tool out of necessity. It's made of 6160 aircraft aluminum and comes with a 3-in. dia. disc on top that seals against the O-ring on top of the filter. FARM SHOW previously reported on how Brandon Parks of Cumming, Ga., came up with a somewhat similar tool (Vol. 42, No. 2).

"The problem is that on Ram pickups you have to reach through a small access hole on the passenger side of the vehicle, unscrew the filter, and turn it at an angle before you can pull the filter out," says Torgerson. "Oil spills all over the frame and suspension and makes a mess. This tool threads onto the filter, sealing it so you can get the filter out without spilling a drop."

The filter is designed for Dodge, 2500,



Oil filter removal tool threads onto filter. A 3-in. dia. disc on top seals against filter O-ring.

3500, 4500, and 5500 series trucks. It sells for \$40 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cody Torgerson, P.O. Box 114, Douglas, Wyo. 82633 (ph 307 351-5444; codytorg@hotmail.com).