



**Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.:** “When working under or inside a machine, visibility can be a problem - even in a well-lit shop. I’ve tried different kinds of strap-on lights and really like the Streamlight 66318 light, which clips onto the bill of a cap. It uses one AAA battery that lasts for a couple hours or more of continuous use. It’s great to have bright LED light right where you’re looking. You can buy it on Amazon.com for \$18.21 with free shipping.”

**H.D. Weaver, Baird, Texas:** “I read where a reader had trouble with the control cable freezing in cold weather on his front end loader controls. I had the same problem on my New Holland skid steer loader’s throttle cable. I finally figured out the problem was caused by rainwater freezing in the housing. So I poured a little antifreeze into it. Problem solved.”



**Ted Lacey, Hay Manager, Trent, S. Dak.:** “You can make an air preheater for gas or diesel tractors by taking heated air off the outside of the muffler and directing it through a pipe to the air cleaner. The preheated air goes down into the carburetor, keeping it from icing up and preventing frost build-up. The photo shows the setup that’s been on my Case 930 tractor for

about 25 years. It does take some time for the manifold to warm up. It has worked like a charm ever since I installed it, and it should last a lifetime. The idea would work on many tractor models.”

**Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.:** “I got tired of always having to pump up my wheelbarrow tire, not to mention the cost of replacing the tube. So I installed an old 16-in. steel wheel off an old piece of equipment. No more flat tires.”

**Glenn Wilson, Crittenden, Ky.:** “I store log chains in 5-gal. buckets with the hooks hanging on the edge of the bucket. Makes it easy to grab and go and you don’t have to search for the ends.”



**Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.:** “To store long-handled tools, I cut the top off a plastic 55-gal. barrel and fill it with pieces of 4-in. dia. thin wall pvc pipe. The pipe holds the tools separate from each other. For D-handle tools, I just stick the D part down into the bucket between the pipes.”

**James L. Fetzer, Maiden Rock, Wis.:** “To remove the oil filter from my 2015 New Holland T4.75 tractor, I first have to remove the two fuel filters. Afterward, I have to call my neighbor – who is a service technician – to get the air bled out of the fuel system. It takes 2 hrs. to get the tractor running again. The company says this tractor is easy to service. I wish a company rep would come out to help with the next oil change.”

**Jay Taylor, Hinton, W Va.:** “In answer to the fellow who said the headlights on his 2000 Dodge Ram come on and won’t go off until he unhooks the battery, I think he may have put a single contact bulb into a double

**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](mailto:editor@farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

contact socket. What happens is that the single contact bulb bridges the contacts.”

**Anthony Siciliano, Redding, Ct.:** “The axle on my 1993 Scag mower broke in half. Since it was welded into the mower’s frame, a replacement part would have cost \$1,000. I cut out the old welds, removed the axle, and got a piece of 1-in. cold-rolled bar stock. I cut it to length and took it to a friend who has a large lathe. All we needed to do was to cut grooves on both ends to accept retaining clips to hold the wheels on. Then I welded it into place. After reassembly, it was good to go for another 24 years. Total cost was \$25.”

**James M. Driss, Lindley, N.Y.:** “I had a manifold leak on the exhaust of my 2003 Ford F-150. To find the leak, I taped the nozzle on my shop vac to the tailpipe so it’s blowing into the exhaust system. Then I splashed soapy water over the manifold and found the leak. It was cracked and would stop leaking when hot, which made it tough to find.”

**Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.:**



“The grain tank gearbox on my Deere combine, which moves grain from the clean grain elevator chain to the bubble-up auger in the hopper, failed a few years ago. A new one cost more than \$2,000. The housing is aluminum and the two bevel gears inside are made of steel. The gears, bearings, and shafts inside run in 80/90 gear lube. There is a seal on one end that is always in the grain. If this seal fails, dust gets inside the gear case and before long it is full of sludge and makes the bearings go out.

“When that happens, the gears shift to the side and wear a groove in the aluminum housing and the belt that drives it comes off the pulley and you’re done combining for the day. If you fix it yourself, you’re looking at \$2,500 in parts. If a Deere technician fixes it, it will cost \$3,500 to \$4,000.

“My tip to avoid the problem is to lower



the fold-down bubble auger and find the star-shaped drive wheel below it. Take that off and then the oil seal is easily accessible. Examine it for any kind of damage. If it looks bad, pry it out with a screwdriver and pound in a new seal. Also, check the oil in the case with the dip stick. If it looks dirty at all, dust is getting inside and that will tell you the seal is failing. Replacing a \$10 seal will save you a lot of money in down time and repair costs. Also, running the hopper to overflowing – or using a hopper topper – puts tremendous stress on this gearbox, the clean grain elevator chain, and the bearings, not to mention the final drives, transmission, and tires. It might look cool to have a heaping full hopper but you’re not doing your combine any favors.”



**Brandon Parks, Geno’s Garage, Cumming, Ga. (www.genosgarage.com; ph 800-755-1715):** “The oil filter in 2013-2018 Ram Cummins heavy-duty pickups is notoriously difficult and messy to remove. Our oil filter cap-off tool threads onto the top of the filter, allowing you to easily pull the filter straight out without spilling any oil. The cap is threaded on the inside and comes with a screw-in finger loop on top.

“The problem is that on Ram Pickups you either have to remove the air filter assembly to get access from above, or go through the fender well area with the wheel removed.

“When you pull the filter out, you have to twist and turn so oil spills all over. This tool

Hydraulic unlock tool snaps onto the end of a hose that’s under pressure and lets you quickly relieve the pressure by just turning a screw.



## Hydraulic Unlock Tool For Skid Loaders, Tractors

“Our new hydraulic unlock tool for skid loaders is designed to snap onto the male or female end of a hose that’s under pressure. It lets you quickly relieve the pressure for easy hose hook-up by just turning a screw,” says Steve Boling, Boling Machine Shop, Lentner, Mo.

The tool makes use of a center screw with a roll pin. A male hose coupler hooks up to one end and a female coupler to the other. Turning the roll pin one way causes the screw to push against the plunger inside the coupler, which opens a valve to relieve pressure on the hose.

According to Boling, thermal expansion in hydraulic hoses is a particularly big problem during hot summer weather, especially if the hose is exposed to sunlight which can cause the oil to expand. “When enough pressure

builds up inside the hose you can’t hook it up to the tractor. The only solution is to hit the end of the hose with a hammer, or unscrew the hose end to relieve the pressure.”

Hooking up auxiliary equipment to a skid loader requires two hoses, one male and the other female, and the unlock tool is designed accordingly, says Boling. “We also offer a different model for Pioneer hose ends, which are designed for tractors where only a male hose is required.”

Each hydraulic unlock tool model sells for \$49 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Boling Machine Shop, 2357 Shelby 418, Lentner, Mo. 63450 (ph 660 699-3717; [bolingmachine@gmail.com](mailto:bolingmachine@gmail.com); [www.bolingmachine.com](http://www.bolingmachine.com)).