

Jim Pettis, Plainview, Minn.: “You need a good cutting fluid for drilling and tapping work, and I really like Amsoil compressor fluid. It was recommended to me by a friend. I’ve been an industrial mechanic for about 30 years, and this compressor fluid works as good as anything else I’ve used and costs a lot less. A one-quart container costs about the same as a few ounces of other fluid products.”



Donald Chapman, Billings, Mo.: “I use inexpensive dog collars purchased from our local Dollar Store to hold cords, tow straps, and cargo ratchet wraps together for tidy storage. You can buy different size collars and adjust them to fit. The collars come with attached rings for dog tags which comes in handy for hanging items on a wall.

“Another solution for small strap storage is to place a wrapped-up strap inside an old sock. I store several straps together this way inside a duffel bag so all my straps are in one place when I need them.”

Milton Webster, Taylor, Texas: “I’m a small engine mechanic, and over the years have noted that the solenoid shift starters on riding mowers sometimes make a ‘clicking’ noise caused by a hot battery. Many people think the clicking noise means the solenoid is failing so they need to buy a new starter. However, I recently found a service bulletin published by John Deere that says otherwise.

“The company makes a relay harness (part number Am107421) that fits on the starter’s hot lead. It results in a hotter spark that boosts the amperage to the starter and causes the solenoid to kick in.

“Solenoid shift starters come standard on

many brands of ‘high end’ riding mowers, including the Deere STX38 riding mower. This relay can’t be used on riding mowers equipped with remote solenoids.”



Import Tractor Parts, Cobden, Ontario: “We’d like to tell FARM SHOW readers that we now sell new CAV-style fuel injection pumps for IH “B” Series tractors such as the B414, 434, 276, 354, and 444 models. We also have new, original-type manual solenoid or lever-style starters for the IH B275 and B414, the Fordson Major and Dexta, and the Nuffield 10/60 and 4/60. We also carry many parts for the Leyland 154, including new pto gears and shafts.”

Kevin McClain, Albany, Ore.: “I rigged up a little tool to put bleeder valve caps on. With no room to reach some fittings, this simple idea lets me put caps over valves. I also plan on using it to cap grease fittings wherever dirt is an issue. The cap is held in a fitting attached to the end of a pipe. Vacuum from a small hand vacuum pump holds it in place until you can put it on. That tray of old fittings I kept saving finally came in handy.”



Roger W. Meihak, Forest Lake, Minn.: “I recently had a problem with a windshield wiper on my Buick and came up with a fix that your readers might be interested in. The wiper stopped working after making a noise for a while as it loosened. The aluminum



To pull his trailer’s floor chain tight again, Lacey made a pair of 8-in. long “fish hooks”. An eyelet welded onto one end attaches to hook on chain hoist.

“Fish Hooks” Help Tighten Trailer’s Loose Floor Chain

The floor chain on Ted Lacey’s 30-ft., self-loading round bale trailer was loose, and he was worried that it might jump off the frame. He had already taken out all the slack he could by using the trailer’s adjustable tail idler. His solution was to make a pair of inexpensive “fish hooks” that attach to an ordinary chain hoist.

He used 1/2-in. square steel to make the 8-in. long hooks, and welded an eyelet onto one end that attaches to a hook on the chain hoist. He also ground a notch into the opposite end of each hook so that it would fit over any of the chain’s rollers.

“After turning the trailer’s jam nuts out and pulling the idlers all the way back in, I use

the chain hoist to pull the chains tight so I have the extra jam nut capacity for later use,” says Lacey. “Most of the time I can remove a chain link and then use the chain hoist to pull the floor chain tight again. But I can also install a connector link, which will make it easier to remove the slack the next time the chain gets loose. It’s important to weld the eyelet vertically onto the fish hook instead of horizontally, which could cause the chain to lift too high above the trailer frame.”

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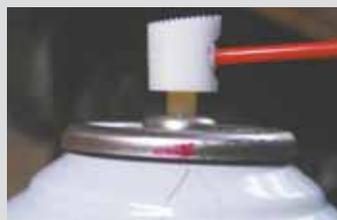
Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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

serrations on the wiper post had worn away so I designed a replacement shim that would fit any wiper arm where the posts are tapered. The shim fills up the space on the worn arm. I used .004-in. thick stainless steel to make the shim, cutting it with tin snips. It worked so well I’m selling a set of two shims for \$5 with instructions. Call me at 651 433-2600 or email rlmehak@yahoo.com.”



Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: “Many spray cans for paint, penetrating oil, and solvents have a dot marking the orientation of the pickup tube inside the can. The dot always seems to get washed away by the contents of the can so before I start using it, I scratch an inverted ‘V’ into the can to mark it permanently.”

Dwight Veldhouse, Norcross, Minn.: “I’ve found that writing the oil capacity of a machine on its oil filter with a permanent marker saves time when servicing equipment.”

Charles Butch Beck, Hope, Ark.: “A 2-post car lift in our shop doubles as an adjustable height, heavy-duty work station for heavy farm tool and equipment repair. You can pick things up from floor level to any convenient working height, even above your head for working underneath something.”

Len Mallas, Fond du Lac, Wis.: “When I needed to repair the drain pump on our washing machine, I first had to get water out of the tub. I did it by attaching a wet vac to the drain hose on the machine. Worked great.”

Mark Gillen, Sterling, Mich.: “We use a number of small electric fans around the farm that run day and night, sometimes for months at a time. The bushings get dry and sometimes the fan won’t restart after being shut off. To keep them running, I drip a few drops of 3-in-1 oil onto the front shaft and allow it to run into the bushing to relube it. I also lube the rear bushing if I can access it by removing the motor cover.”

E.T. Greene, Harriman, Tenn.: “I have found that placing a flat blade shovel under a tractor tire and wheel, and then putting your foot on the handle for leverage, is useful when one person has to line up the bolt holes when remounting a wheel.”

Alfred J. Wolter, Breckenridge, Minn.: “I’ve found that many times when faced with stuck bolts or other parts, if I melt candle wax into them it will help loosen them.”

Wayne Hamel, Hopwood, Penn.: “I added 3 chain links to my ratchet straps so the ratchet body does not ride on the corner of my trailer frame. Works great.

“I also added 4 LED lights to the outside edges of my trailer and 12 small bed lights to help see the trailer and where I’m backing up at night. It’s a big help.”

Dan Flood, Toledo, Ill.: “A cover board spring broke on my Landoll Tilloll due to dirt buildup. It was constantly swinging back and forth. I solved the problem by bolting chains to the back of the cover board and pulling the chain back around a frame member and bolting the chain to itself. That stopped the flopping and spring breakage.”

Joe Potteiger, South Coffeyville, Okla.: “When my New Holland RB450 round baler stopped tying bales consistently, a friendly mechanic suggested I check the fuses. I had been having a problem with the automatic tie mechanism. The arm wouldn’t cross the bale to get the twine started. The manual said to hit reset, which I did. Sometimes it would help for 10 bales or so, and other times it wouldn’t help at all. I would have to manually tie the bale and then reset it.

“I discovered that the spade-type automotive fuses were loose inside the weathertight box on the wiring harness. The intermittent problems occurred when they jiggled loose. I opened the box, pushed them back in, and then cut a piece of lightweight foam insulation and shoved it into the box. That holds the fuses in place and solved the problem.

“It has been a good baler otherwise. It is such a simple thing that a lot of technicians don’t even realize it could be a problem.”

Andrew Horst, Excel-ER-ate LLC, 20918 Millers Church Rd., Hagerstown, Md. 21742 (ph 240 382-0459): “Factory-