

Keith Fisher, New Palestine, Ind.: "Instead of using penetrating oil or a breaker bar to remove rusted bolts, nowadays I just use a portable grinder to cut them off. Quick and easy."

"Whenever I can I use stainless steel fasteners and Never-Seez. Avoids the rusted bolt problem."

"After sharpening mower blades, I put vinyl tape on the sharp edges until I'm ready to put them back on the mower. It prevents a lot of small cuts."

Daniel Bjorkman, Pembine, Wis.:

"I used to have a lot of problems with gummed-up carburetors on equipment that gets used infrequently. I eliminated the problem by using Star Tron fuel enzyme before storage. It works much better than Seafoam or Stabil and if you have an engine that's already gummed up, just remove the old fuel and double dose the new fuel with StarTron. This has saved many a carb rebuild for me."



Eldon Reese Jonesburg, Mo.: "One of the handiest ideas I've added to my farm shop is putting in motion detector lights right by where I come in. Not only is it safer and easier when entering the shop, especially when my hands are full, but I can tell after dark if a cat or dog got locked in there because the light will keep going on."

Roy Crofoot, Fowlerville, Mich.: "Here's a quick tip that I use all the time around my shop and farm equipment. I buy shrink-wrap plastic in 4-in. wide rolls

and use it to protect all kinds of tools and parts. For example, I wrap up ratchet straps that store under the seat and in the toolbox. If you roll them up nicely, then shoot the ratchet with a little WD40 and wrap them completely with shrink-wrap the straps will stay clean and working like new. Before I started doing this, it seemed like I had to replace straps every year or so.

"I also use it to wrap hydraulic lines, covering the end fittings so they stay clean. If I pull bolts out while working on a piece of equipment but won't get back to the repair for a while, I just shrink-wrap the bolts to the equipment. When storing garden hose or electrical cords, a couple wraps hold them together. There are thousands of uses and I keep finding them all the time."

Jeremy Simon, Blooming Prairie, Minn.: "I set up a battery charging station using an old Dewalt tool case. Using a rotary tool, I cut out the dividers in the



case to make room for the chargers, which are held in place by a zip tie. The lid can be closed with the batteries hooked up to the 3 chargers. The chargers plug into a 3-way

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 at: editor@farmshow.com, or text to: 952 465-5019.

Mark Newhall, Editor

splitter. This idea solved my problem of daily mess of tangled cords when going to jobsites and then charging batteries at night back at the shop. There's also room in the case to store extra batteries. The case is fairly weather-proof and most days it's in the bed of my truck. This is just an easy way to get all my batteries charged for the next day."

John Engle, Sunman, Ind.: "Here's a tip I learned a long time ago for an easy way to check points to see if you're getting a good spark without turning the engine over with a key. Just pull the distributor cap and rotor, pull the coil wire out of the distributor, take a popsicle stick to break the points, and hold the coil wire 1/4 in. away from the engine block. You should see a good spark. If not, replace points and condenser."



The ones that are plugged up will stay wet longer. If they're plugged, drain the fluid and add water, vinegar and a pinch of salt. Run the engine until the plugged cores are all open and then flush and refill with anti-freeze."



Cal Miner, Willmar, Minn.: "Replacing a bad fuel line in a small plastic gas tank, such as on a weedeater, can be a difficult job. Over time the fuel line hardens and doesn't seal properly against the hole where it enters the tank, which allows fuel to leak out. It's best to pull the fuel line out and replace it with a new one, but the tank's fill hole is often too small to reach in with a needle-nose pliers. Some older tanks come with a molded-in fuel barb that clamps on, but newer tanks don't have that."

"My solution is to wrap fishing line several times around the top part of the fuel line and then knot it to keep it from unraveling, which compresses it. I also cut off the end of the line at an angle, which makes it easier to pull and push the line through. I make sure to attach the in-tank filter and weight on the line at the proper length, and then I pull the line out and install a new line. It's resilient and forms a tight seal. I make sure that the new fuel line is the correct diameter."



"I use an old drop-down lawn fertilizer spreader to apply asphalt sealer on my driveway. I cover all the holes in the spreader with duct tape, except for the metering holes at the bottom. I fill the spreader about 2/3

Schulz started making cutting discs like this one 20 years ago by attaching a length of chainsaw chain to a round disc.



"Made It Myself" Chainsaw Disc

The article in our last issue on the Zoha grinder disc fitted with chainsaw teeth prompted 87-year-old Niles Schulz of Loweville, N.Y., to send FARM SHOW a photo of a similar grinder disc he made himself about 20 years ago.

The Zoha is a 4-in. disc for a hand-held grinder that's fitted with 22 chainsaw teeth so you can cut in any direction. The cutting disc Schulz made is 5-in. dia. and fitted with 8 chainsaw teeth. He uses it on his hand-held grinder.

"I came up with the idea because a local feed mill needed a wooden handle for a specialized tool they use to move railroad cars into position for loading grain," says Schulz. "Over the years I've also used it to make several long wooden peavey handles for friends, and to make the handle for a cant hook."

He used a protractor to make a template for the disc, then cut out 2 circular steel plates and bolted them together. A local chainsaw

shop made the chain.

"We started with 4 teeth on each side of the chain, but I soon realized the teeth on one side weren't cutting anything. So we took the chain apart and remounted all the teeth on one side," says Schulz.

"It's amazing how well it cuts. The first time I used it in my shop wood chips went flying all over, and since then I've only used it outdoors."

Schulz mentioned the FARM SHOW article to a local Amish man, who said that many years ago he used to sell similar grinder discs at a small chainsaw store in Pennsylvania. "He thought those grinder discs were made for hand-held weed trimmers. He didn't remember the name of the manufacturer, but said they had to quit production because their insurance company wouldn't provide coverage," says Schulz.

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