full and open the shut-off lever. Then I start walking backward so I don't leave tracks as I go back and forth down the driveway. The sealer drips out of the metering holes in a series of thin strips, and after I've covered the entire driveway I go back and squeege the material at an angle to smoothen it out.

"This method is much easier and cleaner than pouring sealer out of a 5-gal. bucket and having it splash all over me. If I'm careful, I don't even get my feet dirty.

"To avoid leaving footprints, I trace around an old pair of shoes on a piece of plywood and then attach the shoes to the plywood with 1 5/8-in. sheetrock screws. They protrude about 1/4 in. out the bottom of the shoe, so I'm walking only on the tips of the screws.

"When you're drilling or milling metal, shavings which can fly everywhere and make a big mess. To catch the shavings that come off my drill press, I place a small magnet from an old car speaker on the table around the drill bit. The magnet catches 99 percent of the shavings.

"The photo shows a compound vise that I mounted on the table, which allows me to use the drill press as a milling machine."

Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: "The sweeps on my field cultivator use 3/8-in. dia. bolts, but I wanted to use a sweep that takes larger bolts. As a result, the square under the head of a 3/8-in. plow bolt wouldn't take hold. Bolts with oversize heads are available, but I didn't have any. So I took a couple of larger bolts I already had and drilled and tapped them to 3/8-16. I then cut off the heads and used hex head bolts to mount the sweep."

Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kan.: "We couldn't remove the rear wheels on our 1996 Honda Civic no matter what we tried. Then our local mechanic suggested that we carefully and firmly hit the tire – not the wheel – with a sledge hammer. The wheel came right off while I was holding my cell phone with one hand and the sledge hammer with the other."

Dave Edens, Babcock, Wis.: "I use GE Silicone Household Glue instead of gaskets because the glue isn't affected by gas or oil. It's available on Amazon and at Home Depot, Walmart, and other stores."

Nick Wiederhold, Williamsburg, Ohio: "The engine on my Swisher Trail Mower kept dying while I was mowing. I thought the problem might be that I was going up and down hills with a gravity-flow fuel system, so I made a bracket that's designed to raise the fuel tank. Problem solved."

Joe Macha, Plainview, Texas: "To keep equipment in top condition, I always grease bearings after I'm done working. It keeps moisture and dirt out while the equipment is sitting around."

Bruce Noel, Leslie, Mich.: "A large roller bearing failed on my combine. It would have been unsafe to use a torch to remove it. Instead, I used a Dremel tool to cut it off. That fixed the problem.

"I recommend using Never-Seez wherever you can to keep bolts, nuts and other parts from locking up."

Jim Shover, Somerset, Ohio: "I bought a Harbor Freight battery-powered polesaw and spotted a small hole near the nose of the bar that was not mentioned in the owner's manual. I called the company and they said it's a 'micro grease port' for the rotary nose of the bar. Everytime I use the saw, I put grease in the hole until it comes out the other side using a small micro grease gun with a needle nose. I've noticed my chainsaw has the same kind of hole on the bar. It makes a big difference in performance of my saws."

Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: "I needed a swivel hook to use on my engine hoist so I made one out of a piece of heavy-wall steel tubing. I used a 2 1/8-in. long piece of 2-in. sq. tubing. I cut a slot in the top of the tubing for a chain link to slip through. The link is held in place by a 1/2-in. grade 8 bolt with a lock nut. A hook with a threaded shank fits into the bottom of the tubing, held in place with a castle nut and cotter pin so it can't come unscrewed.

"This swivel is especially handy when removing my quick hitch, which is too heavy for me to lift by hand. Space is very limited in my shop so I was always fighting to keep the hitch from twisting while it hung from the chain. The swivel makes handling much easier whenever I need to turn a load.

"Here's a tip for whenever you have to wash up outside at a hydrant in the yard after working in the shop. Any cheap soap will work. Just pick up a pinch of dirt to use as an abrasive along with the soap. It'll all wash off clean when you're done."

McLaen attached 2-in. hitch tubes to several metal working tools . That lets him quickly insert them into the top of the tool mount.

Multi-Tool Mount Bolts To Floor

Dale McLaen can quickly mount shop tools at a convenient working height, thanks to the receiver hitch-style tool mount he bolted to his shop floor. The 34-in. tall, 2 by 2-in. steel tube is welded and braced to a square piece of steel plate.

"I have several metal working tools that I have mounted on 2-in. hitch tubes with set screws that fit into the receiver tube," says McLaen. "The tool holder is mounted solidly to the floor so I can pull or push as hard as I need to. Plus, I can quickly remove one tool and install another."

The base is 1/4-in. thick, 16-in. sq. steel plate. It is mounted to the floor with four 1/2-in. anchor bolts. The upright tool holder is braced with four 1 1/4 by 1/8-in. angle irons.

The tool holder mast is 3 by 3-in. square tubing that McLaen "bushed" down to accept the 2-in. square tubing. Set screws are 1/2-in. screw-type bolts with T-handles welded to them.

McLaen installed mounting tubes on small and large benders, a rotary sheet metal shear, a 90-degree welding fixture, a 2-in. pipe saw, a paint shaker and a flat iron bender.

"It also works great for a vice when you need to do some serious pulling or pushing and don't want things moving around," says McLaen. "I've got other tools too, but anyone who makes one will have their own stuff to mount."

McLaen notes that for some tools he likes to work at a lower height so he can take off a 16-in. upper extension.

Top section of the tool mount can be removed to position tools closer to the floor for better leverage.

"A lower height is just right to shear metal, and the taller height works great with other tools. It lets me work standing straight. I hate stooping over to work on things only slightly more than I hate working on the floor."

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"Roller Stands" For The Shop

"I built these heavy-duty, infinitely adjustable roller stands out of angle iron and square tubing. I use them with my drill press and table saw when handling long material. When spaced 4 ft. apart, they provide a sliding surface for moving objects along," says Dave Sand, Avon, Minn.

"Using one or more of the roller stands, I can make straight cuts on material of virtually any length. A pair of 1/2-in. bolts makes it easy to adjust the height. The bolts squeeze 2 vertical angle irons together to form a clamp."

The stand's base is made from more angle iron and tubing. To keep the stands from moving, Sand lined them up in a straight line every 4 ft. and then drilled holes in his shop floor. He inserts pins through each side of the base and into the holes to keep the stands straight in line.

Sand used the same idea to install adjustable wheeled stands on his chop saw and drill press, allowing him to roll the tool in line with the rollers stands. "It saves time because I can cut or drill a piece of metal, and then roll it back onto a rack for storage without having to drag it across a sawhorse," says Sand. "I recently broke my foot so I set the stands only about 2 ft. high, which allows me to work from a wheeled chair and scoot myself along."

Sand lined up the stands in a straight line, spaced 4 ft. apart, and drops pins through them into holes he drilled in the floor.

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