

Thomas G. Herriman, Bainbridge, Ga.: "I put two 7/16-in. eye bolts over my garage door opening and put a chain through them to lift my Deere 125 mower for blade work. Works great and is safe. Don't forget to put the gas cap on tight when you tip it up."

Thomas Dart, Northport, Ala.: "To hook up heavy 3-pt. implements to a tractor, I use an engine hoist to do the lifting. It works well because it'll slide in under the hitch."

"To service my zero-turn mower, I mounted a boom pole on my tractor. Makes it easy."

John Kiminski, North Brookfield, Mass.: "To back out Phillips head screws, place some valve grinding compound on the tip of the screwdriver. It'll give it a lot more grip. Also works on sockets, too."

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: "When working on radiators in older vehicles, often the drain valve is stuck. So when we need to drain or lower the level of liquid to add antifreeze, I use a siphon hose through the radiator cap."

M. Freyer, Dayville, Conn.: "I raised the handles on my Gravely walk-behind mower 5 in. higher using 3/4-in. Speed-Rail fittings. Saves my back."

Mark Musser, Beecher City, Ill.: "When I have a mechanical problem, I check my old FARM SHOWS and usually it's problem fixed."

"One tip I have is that I keep my welding helmet wrapped up in an old T-shirt in a cabinet so it's always ready to use. No time wasted cleaning it."



John Daugherty, Gray, Ga.: "Here's how I made some insulating buckets to put over our outdoor faucets in the winter to keep them from freezing. I bent some wire into a cylinder, taped some newspaper around it, and put it in the center of a 6-gal. bucket. I then used a can of insulating foam sealant used to seal large cracks and filled in the bucket around the wire. Once it hardened, I took the wire out. That way the middle is hollow and I just set the bucket over the top of the faucet instead of letting it drip, or wrapping it with towels or blankets. This has worked well for 3 winters here in Georgia."

Henry Niemiec, St. Clairsville, Ohio: "I put Vaseline (not petroleum jelly) on V-belts before storage, then run the unit for a couple minutes. It keeps pulleys from rusting and wearing on the belt. I've been doing this for years and it really helps."

Tony Ryba, Johnstown, Penn.: "Wanting to inspect the brakes on my Ford truck, I found that all 4 wheels were stuck to the rotors. Working on one wheel at a time, I applied penetrating oil to the joint between the rotor and wheel and let it sit a bit. Then I lowered the truck to the ground, removing the jack and jackstands, with the lug nuts left loose. Driving forward a couple feet, the brakes were applied. With a loud clunk the wheel would come loose from the rotor. When I reinstalled the wheel I applied a thin coating of grease between the wheel and rotor so it won't happen again."

Matthew Kurt Tucker: "Lose a screw in your glasses? Use a stripped-down twist tie from a loaf of bread. Poke it through the hole and twist it tight until you can get a screw back in."

Travis Jensen, Dell Rapids, S.Dak.: "I run well water through an old tractor radiator and have a fan blowing through it from behind. Makes a cheap air conditioner for my shop."

Eric Dyck, Sevenpersons, Alberta: "I keep a shopping cart in my shop with my most commonly used tools. Makes them easy to find and I can quickly take them to where I'm working."

Gordon Bradshaw, Innisfail, Alberta: "I use an old refrigerator to hold new oil filters and other stuff that I want to keep away from mice."

L.D. Shumaker, Richfield, Ohio: "I wish there was a company out there that sells new or rebuilt rear drives for zero-turn mowers. They're usually the first thing to go on these machines, especially the left drive since we trim counter clockwise. Or maybe there are some tricks for extending the life of these drives, like heavier oil."



Lee Shepherd, Wabash, Ind.: Lee runs a small engine repair shop for lawn and garden tractors. He recently made a custom exhaust "tip" out of an old fire extinguisher that he had laying around. It sticks off the front of one of his tractors and is a real eye-catcher.



Richard A. Rice, Waverly, Tenn.: "I made a caddy to make it easier to locate and access various spray cans I use around my place. I used a 1 by 8 board that's 34 in. long, with a couple dowel rods at the center for a handle. I fastened tin cans with a single sheet metal screw across the board to hold the spray cans. To keep track of the straws, I drilled 7/64-in. holes in a couple circular wood discs at the base of the handle. I can carry this on my Polaris Ranger so they're always handy when I need them."

Jim Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio: "Harbor Freight recently sold 2,500-lb. electric winches for less than \$50 each. I bought 3 and installed one each on my Cub Cadet mowers and golf cart. No more running to get the big tractor when they get stuck in mud."

Larry Frederickson, Monmouth, Ill.: "Years ago I stopped using liquid soap to mount tires on steel rims because it causes rusting along the rim edges and takes some of the softness out of the tire bead so that it tears when dismounting the tire."

"I use automatic transmission fluid in all my hydraulic jacks. It ended all my jack problems."



Turning a rotary wheel on gate valve causes a threaded shaft to push a pad against tire bead and break bead off wheel rim.

"Gate Valve" Bead Breaker

"My son Scott and I came up with this heavy-duty 'gate valve' bead breaker that we used on the rear tire of our old Massey Ferguson tractor. It isn't fancy, but it works and saved the cost of going to a shop," says Ralph Altenweg, Dayton, Minn.

"The wheel rim was badly rusted due to calcium chloride that hadn't been changed in years. My dad always said, 'use what you have on hand around the farm first, before you buy anything new' and that's what we did."

Scott works as a sprinkler fitter, and he already had some gate valve parts. The complete valve is designed to shut off the 6-in. water line to a building, and is equipped with a rotary wheel that turns a threaded shaft with a yoke at the bottom. "The valve shaft has 6 in. of travel," says Ralph.

The 2 men bolted the valve's base onto an L-shaped steel plate, then welded one end of a 2-in. dia. pipe perpendicular to the plate. The pipe sets on a wooden block and goes up against the far end of the wheel rim to hold the tool steady. Turning the valve wheel causes the threaded shaft to push the pad against the bead and break it off the rim.

"It works somewhat like an apple cider press except that instead of pressing the juice out of apples, we're breaking a tire bead. If the bead is stubborn and still won't come off, we can remove the wheel and use a 2-in. open end wrench to provide extra torque," notes Ralph.

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Loader-Mounted Tool Holders

"I got this idea from a friend's Facebook post, and my father-in-law and I put it into action on our Kubota 46 hp. loader tractor. It gives us extra room for storage, and we always know where our chains and tools are," says Ryan Foley, Powell Butte, Oregon.

The loader frame has a 4-in. dia. tube between the arms just ahead of the tractor. Foley bought a pvc tube to fit inside the tube and cut a wide slot along the top of it, then threaded a pvc cap onto the end of the tube.

"I used to keep chains on the operator's platform but they were always in the way or falling off the platform. My tool holder is a better way to hold a few chains and small tools," says Foley.

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Foley stores chains and tools in a 4-in. dia. pvc tube on his Kubota loader tractor, cutting a wide slot along the top and threading a pvc cap onto the tube.

Pickup-Mounted Mower Lift

Dave Meiners uses the receiver hitch on his pickup, 2-in. square tubing, and a come-along to lift his riding mower so he can clean the deck and sharpen the blades.

"I came up with this idea about 10 years ago and have used it ever since. Unlike cradle-type lifts on the market, there are no arms in the way when I want to service the deck," says Meiners. "It's also easy to store - I just hang the tubing on my garage wall."

He started with a 4-ft. length of tubing and welded a horizontal 14-in. piece on the bottom and an 8-in. piece on top. He also bolted a metal ring to the top piece. The come-along hangs from the ring, with the cable attached to the mower's front bumper.

To lift the mower, Meiners just jacks up the come-along.

"It lifts the mower about 1 ft. off the ground, which gives me enough room to clean the deck or remove the blades for sharpening," says Meiners. "I have another mower with no front bumper, so I just hook a chain up to the come-along and wrap it around the front axle."



To lift his riding mower, Meiners jacks up a come-along that has cable attached to mower's front bumper.

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