**Blair Equipment Co., Swartz Creek, Mich. ph 800 426-7818; www.@blairequipment.com:** Their extended reach metal hole cutters provide up to 2 1/2 in. of additional reach. They allow you to drill holes in pipe, tubing and plate materials up to 1/4 in. thick. The company says they're ideal for making single pass holes in hollow tubing because you can drill 2 perfectly lined up holes. They can be used in 3/8 or 1/2-in. hand drills or drill presses. Available individually or in a kit.

**Charles Hodel, Roanoke, Ill.:** "I used to have problems with the accordion-style seed drop tubes on my 1993 Deere 750 grain drill, which I use to plant soybeans. Seed would get hung up inside the 1 1/4-in. inside dia. tubes and bounce around before dropping to the ground, which resulted in erratic seed placement.

"I solved the problem by replacing the original tubes with Shoup Mfg. seed tubes designed for Deere air seeders (www.shoupparts.com; ph 800 627-6137). They're smooth on the inside for their entire length so seed won't get hung up at all. The tubes are made of clear plastic with a black reinforcement material around them. I bought a 100-ft. coil of 1 1/4-in. inside dia. tubing for $160 and used an abrasive cut-off wheel to cut the tubes to length. I used the original drill hose clamps to install the new tubes."

**Damian Lakatos, Johnstown, Penn.:** "When storing an aerosol paint can or any kind of aerosol can with a shaker ball inside it, I place the can on its side instead of vertically. It makes the material inside the can mix a lot better, which results in fewer clogged nozzles and less waste. It also reduces the shaking time."

**Jerry Maurer, Springfield, Ohio:** "I had trouble getting on and off my zero-turn riding mower, because the operator isn't supposed to step onto the mower deck.

"To solve the problem, I bolted a support post to the side of the operator platform. I welded a "pocket" to the side made from 2-in. material. A removable 30-in. long, 1-in. square bar fits inside the tube. I then welded a length of 2-in. angle iron between the front wheel and deck, and bolted a fold-up military step onto it.

"Now to get onto the mower I just grab the 30-in. tube and the mower's steering handle at the same time, and step safely onto the operator platform."

**M. Freyer, Dayville, Ct.:** "I used NPT 3/4-in. speed rails to raise the handles on my Gravely walk-behind mower by about 5 in. The extra high handles save on my back."

**Richard Zigler, Charles Town, W. Va.:** "If you have aging plastic headlight lenses, don't buy new ones or buy expensive repair kits. Just put a nickel-sized dollop of glass cooktop cleaner on a damp paper towel and 'polish' the lens, then clean off with another damp towel. It'll make a big difference."

**R.A. Knickel, Camden, S.C.:** "Around 1990 I had a Ford 600 tractor which had hydraulic lines running through the transmission. When they rusted out, it looked like it would be an expensive repair. The dealer's service manager told me they could make up a kit to run the hydraulic lines on the outside of the tractor. I picked the tractor up the next day and he charged me just $70. That dealer has since gone out of business so I'm wondering if any FARM SHOW readers have ever heard of doing this and if anyone knows where I could get help doing this again. I'm sure other readers with old Fords would be interested as well."

**Robert Scharlau, Arcadia, Wis.:** "You can improve implement hitch jack stands by welding an additional support to the base of the jack. The problem is that the weight of the implement often tips the jack to the side, putting a lot of pressure on the bottom of the jack. The solution is to weld a metal brace to the bottom of the jack that extends out in the direction where the most pressure is. It stops the side pressure on the jack. Attach it in such a way that when you rotate the jack to transport position, it straddles the hitch frame."

**Richard Zigler, Charles Town, W.Va.:** "In this age of IKEA and other self assembly furniture, sometimes you have to use force when using a hammer but don't want to leave marks. To solve the problem, I slip a sock over the hammer head and fold it back to double the thickness. It gives the hammer a soft blow for tapping without leaving marks."

**Fritz Groszkruger, Dumont, Iowa:** "A cutoff disc I wanted to use on our 4-in. grinder was too thin for the hold-down nut to secure. I fixed the problem by welding a washer onto that nut."

**Koch built on top of on each container to increase headroom under the trusses.**

# Container "Machine Shed" Replaced Collapsed Hoop Building

After his hoop building collapsed last year under a heavy snow load, Minnesotan Dan Koch decided to put up a much sturdier structure on his property near Akeley, Minn.

He started with two locking 20-ft. shipping containers that he bought from a container reseller. Used containers generally sell for $1,500 to $3,500 apiece, depending on location.

Koch planned to run trusses between the two containers but he needed more clearance to store his New Holland baler, Oliver tractors, and other equipment underneath.

So he built up the roofs on each of the containers about 3 ft. and set the trusses on top of those. The benefit of the raised sides is that it provides more storage on top of the containers.

"I've got lots of storage now and it should never fall down," says Koch. "I designed it so I can add sliding doors later to either end."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Koch, 19332 299th Ave, Akeley, MN 56433 (oliverdan1600@gmail.com).

# Fold-Up Shop Elevator

Gary Gradek, Ukiah, Calif., makes the most of an upper storage area in his 30 by 40-ft. shed with a shop elevator he built to get up to it. It's operated by a 110-volt electric hoist he bought for about $100. When not in use it can be quickly folded up out of the way.

"It comes in handy for storing stuff that's too awkward to carry up a ladder," says Gradek. "I came up with the idea after I built a 30-ft. wide by 16-ft. high by 4-ft. deep steel storage rack at one end of my shed. The hoist raises and lowers a 36 by 32-in. wooden platform that rides up or down a pair of tracks at one end of the storage rack. The hoist is rated at 220 lbs. However, I added a pulley on the carriage to raise the lifting capacity to 440 lbs. The hoist is not recommended for lifting people

"I finished building the hoist in early November but have already used it to move containers full of stuff we don't have room for in our house, including kids toys and Christmas decorations."

The hoist came with a remote control and a 6-ft. cord, which Gradek lengthened to 12 ft. He used rectangular tubing and plywood to build the carriage and welded metal hinges on back of it so it can be folded up out of the way.

A pair of chains connect the carriage to a frame made from 2-in. square tubing. The frame is fitted with small wheels that ride on tracks made by welding sections of sliding barn door track together.

Gradek used 2-in. square tubing to build the storage rack and bolted it to the shed's floor with concrete anchors. The rack supports 3 wooden shelves spaced about 4 ft. apart.

"I keep anything that's on wheels on the shed's floor, and made a cut-out in the bottom shelf to make room for a big wheeled air compressor," says Gradek. "I used a pair of 2 by 12 boards to build a 24-in. wide walkway alongside the entire length of the middle shelf, so I can access anything stored on that shelf. I plan to install a guard rail on the walkway to make it safer to use."

**Gradek built this shop elevator to access an upper storage area in his shed. It raises and lowers a wooden platform that rides up or down a pair of tracks.**

**Elevator is operated by a 110-volt electric hoist. When not in use it can be quickly folded up out of the way.**

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