

make hitch pins. The photo shows a hitch pin made to have an extra long leg. I used it to make a retainer pin for a freezer paper roll holder that I'm making. We do home butchering with family and friends so we buy freezer paper in 1,500 sq. ft. rolls."



**Tom Chaney, Chrisman, Ill.:** "I didn't like wall-mounted oil funnels dripping oil down my shop wall and making a mess, so I shoved the neck of an empty plastic soda bottle up onto the bottom end of a transmission oil funnel. I place my other funnels inside the top of the transmission oil funnel, so any oil that drips out of them will run down into the bottle. Once the bottle is full I just pull it off and empty it out."



**John Matthews, Chapin, S.C.:** "A short length of pvc pipe serves as a holder that keeps my mini grease gun handy right outside my storage shed. I cut a slot in one end of the pipe to accommodate the handle and then screw the pipe to the shed wall."



**Trouble Free Lighting, Allegan, Mich. ph 616 994-9970; www.troublefreelighting.com:** Their Trouble Free LED work light is said to be the brightest handheld directional worklight on the market. It consists of a long 35,000-hr. lamp inside a shock-absorbent protective cage – a no-glass shell that's designed to handle bumps and drops. The lamp operates cool, with no excess heat, and is sealed so it can be safely used around fluids.

The light retrofits to your existing cord handle. Just remove the reflector from your cord and install a metal clamp (provided) around it. Then slide a provided rubber washer over the screw base of the light and screw it into the cord.

Sells for \$55 with a safe-attaching magnet and no cord.

**Peter Crabbs, Redfield, Iowa:** "Our chicken yard always seems to be muddy, so 3 years ago I got permission from local new house construction work sites to salvage material from their dumpsters. I laid down some scrap plywood and particle board to make a 'sidewalk'. It works great and the smooth surface makes it easy to scoop up snow. The particle board is in bad shape now and needs to be replaced, but the plywood is still holding up great. However, it does get slick so I need to be careful when walking on it."

**Gary L. Ahlbrecht, Brownton, Minn.:** "When storing coolers or insulated boxes, it's a good idea to keep the lid open slightly in order to prevent mold. To hold the lid open, I cut foam pipe insulation designed for 3/4-in. copper pipe into 2 to 3-in. wide strips and space them evenly along the top edge of the cooler. The strips will hold the lid open about 1/2 in. to allow air flow.

"Every year I use a remote-controlled plug-in module to turn my outdoor Christmas lights on and off. I use the same unit the rest of the winter to remote-start the block heater on my diesel lawn tractor, which I use to blow snow. It saves making an extra trip outside in cold weather. I've also used this idea with my pickup. Just remember when you're done working to plug the heater back in for the next time."



**Tom Wessman, Albert City, Iowa:** "I had an old wooden 40-ft. extension ladder that was almost impossible for one man to handle, so I cut it up into various lengths to make several shorter ladders. They really come in handy around my farm."



**Michael Heron, Lloydminster, Sask.:** "Here's what I do when I need to replace a drive belt and want to measure it without cutting it. I tape one end of a fabric measuring tape onto the belt, and then rotate the belt pulley until the tape winds back around to its starting point. If you want to try this idea but don't have a fabric measuring tape, you can use an old, longer belt that's already cut. Rotate the belt around the pulleys and mark it, then remove the belt and measure it. If none of these methods work, just make equidistant marks at convenient lengths on the belt and tally up the total length."

**Richard McMeekan, Viola, Ill.:** "I always keep a short metal shoe horn in my toolbox. It really comes in handy when installing radiator hoses."



**Lubinski fitted his air blow guns with 1/4-in. steel brake lines and made this wall-mounted rack to store them.**

## Air Tools Modified For Easy Access

John Lubinski, Plainview, Minn., often uses air tools on his farm to clean dust off everything from riding mowers to hydraulic couplers, air conditioner coils, radiators, and so forth. He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of how he set up his shop to make it easy to use those tools.

He installed a wall-mounted air tool rack, and nearby is a big air compressor equipped with a 50-gal. tank and a 50-ft. flexible hose. The compressor is operated by an AC electric motor that plugs into a nearby wall outlet.

"Everything I need to use my air tools is in one place, neatly organized and easily accessible," says Lubinski.

To store the tools, he bought a 1-ft. long tool rack and mounted it on the wall by the air compressor. He pop riveted a 3 by 5-in. piece of sheet metal onto the rack to make a friction bracket that holds a 30-in. curved blow gun, as well as a dual tire inflator, a 1-ft. long blow gun, a 2-ft. long straight blow gun,

and a 30-in. straight blow gun with the end cut at a 45-degree angle. All blow guns are fitted with 1/4-in. steel brake lines and can be quickly connected to the 175 psi stationary air compressor, which is set up next to the wall-mounted rack. The 50-ft. hose is stored on a garden hose rack mounted to the motor base of the compressor.

"The rack and hose are easily accessible as I move between the shop and shed, or go outside through a nearby sliding door on the shed," says Lubinski.

A metal pipe runs down from the tank and is fitted with a moisture collector equipped with a small petcock at the bottom to drain off water. A 1/2-in. ball valve with a quick connector is used to release air pressure, in order to disconnect Lubinski's 3/4-in. air impact wrench.

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**A homemade system of ropes allows George Collins to quickly change the blade angle on his Arctic Cat 4-wheeler.**

## ATV Snowplow Uses "Reindeer Hydraulics"

George Collins can change the blade angle on his 2000 Arctic Cat 4-wheeler without ever having to get off the machine, thanks to a homemade system of ropes that he operates from the 4-wheeler's seat.

"I call it my 'reindeer hydraulics' system because it uses one long, continuous rope to control everything," says Collins. "The ropes are fitted with red, green, and silver handlebars that create a colorful effect."

One portion of the rope runs over a small pulley at the center of the blade and attaches to the blade's spring-loaded rotation lock. The other 2 ropes attach to the blade's corners.

"Pulling on the center rope releases the blade lock, which allows the blade to rotate. Pulling on the other 2 ropes causes the blade to angle left or right, and when I let go of the center rope the blade locks back into position," says Collins.

The center rope extends over the machine's handlebars, while the left and right ropes go through small pulleys mounted on the front



**Center rope extends over 4-wheeler's handlebars and releases the blade lock, allowing blade to rotate.**

wheel fenders and up to the gas tank. "The beauty of using one continuous rope is that it can't fall down onto the ground," notes Collins.

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