



Matthew Hempel, Edridge, Mo.: “I added a drain cock to my grease gun to make it easier to pull the grease gun tip off a grease fitting when it won’t take grease. It releases pressure on the grease tip. It even helps when greasing in cold weather. Stops me from breaking off grease fittings and saves time. Also cuts down on the need for those newer \$35 grease gun tips that are too clumsy to use on many grease fittings.”



David Simpler, Elkton, Md.: “It’s hard to put jumper cables or battery charger clips on side-mount battery posts, and they’re poor conductors of electricity. The solution is to install top post adaptors so you can use regular battery post clamps. You can buy them at Walmart, Amazon and other places. Just cut away enough of the rubber on the side mount post so you can get the bolt out and screw in the top post adaptor. Problem solved!”

Bob R., Chandler, N.C.: “I read with interest the comment by a reader in your last issue that he wasn’t able to return his Craftsman tools anymore because he originally bought them at Sears. I wanted to tell him that I recently watched a man return 8 ratchets at our local Ace hardware store.”

Karl Spees, Port Angeles, Wash.: “I came up with an idea while working on an unusual project. It might help out on many projects in the shop.

“I was mounting a mule deer skull on the wall and wanted it to be sturdy enough to hang hats or rifles. I decided to reinforce the weak spots with dowel sticks and Bondo but getting Bondo into the small cavities was going to be tricky.

“I hit on the idea of putting two golf-ball-size blobs of the Bondo resin and hardener into a tightly sealed zip bag. Hold the sealed edge in one hand and squeeze the bag and roll it around until the hardener and filler are thoroughly mixed. Then snip off a bottom corner of the plastic bag and squirt the mixture out through the hole into the nicks and crannies of the project. Makes it much easier to be precise with Bondo and other epoxy products.”

Don Klassen, Harrisburg, S. Dak.: I was frustrated by anchors on small steel electric fenceposts that would bend, keeping me from pushing them into hard soil with my foot. So, I made a lightweight post driver with a length of 1/2-in. dia. pipe that does not reach all the way down to the anchors. I put a 1/2-in. ‘T’ at the top along with two short nipples to hold onto when driving a post. No more frustration even when the soil is hard.”

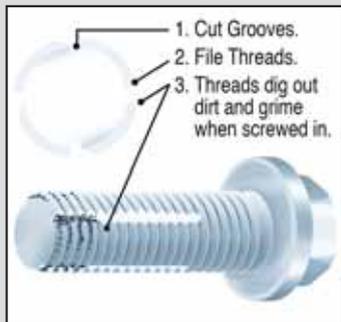
His other idea is electric. “Every time you plug in an appliance that doesn’t have

an on-off switch, a spark burns the ends of the plug and the inside of the receptacle, making them useless after a while. To avoid the problem, I fastened a heavy appliance cord to a double-wide plastic electric box with a switch and a 15-amp GFCI breaker outlet. Now when plugging in or unplugging a small air compressor or tractor battery charger or engine heater, there’s no more arcing because I flip the switch on after the appliance is plugged in and flip the switch off before unplugging the appliance.”



James Edstam, Olympia, Wash.: “I recently bought a 20-volt lithium-ion battery adapter for my older 18-volt DeWalt tools when the NiCad batteries started dying. Now I never run out of juice. The brand name is Swidan, and it cost less than \$20 on Amazon.”

Gary Lee Meeks, Augusta County, Va.: “When old-style shed door rollers jump off the track, I have found that the see-saw tool used to lift the bottom edge of wallboard works well. Just slip it under the door, pry it up with your foot, and work the roller back onto the track. On taller barn doors, I pry them up and then put a wedge under the door. Then I go up a ladder and put the roller back onto the track.”



Classic Tractor Magazine: We recently spotted this tip in one of our favorite British magazines (www.classictractormagazine.co.uk). The idea is to use an old bolt to clean dirt, paint and other debris out of bolt holes. Put the bolt in a vice and use an angle grinder to cut four lines into the threads. Then screw the bolt into the hole. The slots in the bolt will collect debris and can also help align any slightly damaged threads.”



John Matthews, Chapin, S.C.: “I have a zero-turn mower and several push mowers, so it was sometimes tough to tell which blades went on which mower when I needed a set of sharpened blades. So, I built two simple wood boxes that fit under the eaves of my storage shed. Each box holds 6 or 7 of the same size blades. The boxes are sized to fit the blades, so I don’t have to guess which is which.”

Low-Cost Hydraulic Chain Drive Retrofit

David Nolt is making manure spreading easier with his hydraulic chain drive for older New Holland and Gehl spreaders. His farm-shop manufactured drive system does the job better and costs less than OEM rope-controlled gearboxes.

“With the hydraulic chain drive, you simply toggle the control to stop the apron or increase or decrease apron speed to match the amount of manure left in the box,” says Nolt. “It gives you infinite speeds, from very slow to high speed versus changing gears one at a time with the rope control.”

The valve control box is equipped with a magnet so it can quickly attach to any metallic surface in a cab or on a tractor. “No more reaching around to tug on a rope,” says Nolt.

The control box with its toggle switch activates an electric actuator on the assembly mounted to the front of the spreader. It controls the valve to the hydraulic motor powering the apron drive.

Nolt developed the hydraulic chain drive as an economic alternative to replacing a worn-out OEM gearbox. “You can get a new rope-controlled gearbox for \$3,500 from New Holland or buy mine with everything needed for \$2,200,” he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Nolt, 307 Eagle Rd., Kutztown, Penn. 19530 (ph 610-914-1248).



Chain drive installed on a spreader.



Actuator with a toggle switch on a magnet attached to spreader front.



Tech-Patch polymer patch kits create a permanent bond to seal holes and cracks in containers, tanks and pipes.

Quick-Stop Patch For Leaks & Other Tough Repairs

Tech-Bond Solutions sells a polymer patch that works on pvc, galvanized, and copper pipes, and any kind of water tank except for stainless. Designed to quickly seal up cracks or holes, the patent-pending patch is made with flourosilicone and creates a chemical reaction with heat once applied, to create a permanent bond that’s impervious to gas, water, oil, weather, dirt, grease and salt.

Patches come in standard, XT for up to 120 psi and MX patches with copper foil for over 120 psi.

The company reports a permanent Tech-Patch costs about 20 percent of installing replacement pipe. They offer a money-back guarantee for the life of the patch. Their kits have a 2-year shelf life.

Tech-Patches will seal holes up to 3-in. dia. and cracks up to 5-in. long and 1-in. wide.

“This product really works. My Tahoe had a big crack on the side of the dash and nothing could hold it together. I tried Tech-Bond and presto, it was strong as new. I also tried it on some clay tiles I had broken and I

got the same results. It’s a very strong bond. It works just like they say and the price is fair,” says Tech-Patch user Barry Finkle on the Tech-Bond website.

Kits are available online starting at \$15 and go up to \$160 based on the kit and patches ordered from the company website. We also found these on Amazon at \$27 for a standard 3 in. by 6 in. or \$43 for a 6 by 6-in. patch. The company notes a basic poly kit is also required (\$32 on Amazon) which includes surface prep, activator, and adhesive. Heat from a hairdryer or heat gun is required to finish the sealing process. Shipping costs are additional. The single patches and poly kits listed on Amazon had limited but good reviews.

A few patches and a kit may be worth putting in the work truck or shop for when a fast repair is needed.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tech-Bond Solutions, 384 Old Ballard Ave., Newark, Ohio 43055 (ph 877-565-7225; www.tbonding.com).