

3-Pt. Crane Helps With Tractor Tire Changes

Stanly Thomas of Ashville, Ohio struggled to change the large tires on his tractors without help, so he built a 3-point crane with a 12-volt winch to do it himself.

He made the crane from 2-in. square tubing and part of a rear hitch with a 2-in. insert. This was then mounted to an old drawbar and attached with a 12-volt winch. A small pulley was attached to the end of the crane, which he mounted on his Ford 8N 3-pt. The final product is perfect for lifting tractor tires and works completely without hydraulics. "This crane lifts with ease, but I had to add 200 lbs. to the front end to balance the load lift so the front end doesn't come up," says Thomas.

Thomas already had the material and winch available. "I fabricated an aluminum battery box since I've done industrial maintenance for 50 years and had material around from jobs I've done."

Using this crane, Thomas has changed multiple heavy tires and even lifted large tree



Thomas' 3-pt. crane lifts tractor tires without hydraulics.

branches. It's also proven critical for placing strut supports during fabrication.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Stanly Thomas, Ashville, Ohio (ph 614-361-8896).

Multi-Position Creeper Makes Awkward Work Easier

Mechanics love the adjustable, rolling Ergo-RS creeper chair that goes all the way from an upright sitting position to a flat lay-back for sliding under vehicles.

The 56 in. long, 350 lb. capacity Ergo-RS easily rolls on four 3-in. swivel, ball-bearing supported castor wheels.

"It lies flat like a regular creeper or can be locked in position anywhere that feels comfortable," says Daniel Rodriguez, BendPak sales specialist. "The seat height can be raised up to 10 in. with the back support locking at multiple angles through 75 degrees of motion. You can even sit completely upright under a car hoist."

The padded creeper features a cup holder and trays on either side to hold tools and hardware. Its connected backrest moves up, down, forward and back, ergonomically keeping the body as comfortable as possible during any task.

The Ergo-RS sells throughout North America for \$545 with free S&H, either by ordering on the BendPak website or directly from Daniel's contact information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Daniel



Ergo-RS creeper chair lies flat like a regular creeper, or the seat back can be locked at multiple angles.

Rodriguez, BendPak, 1645 Lemonwood Drive, Santa Paula, Calif. 93060 (ph 805-933-9970; www.bendpak.com).

Go-Anywhere Tankless Water Heaters

PrecisionTemp developed the first electronically-controlled tankless heater and the first for RVs in 1996.

"Their size and technology lend them to numerous uses, including horse trailers, tiny houses, RVs, outbuildings, and in barns," says Kay Anderson of PrecisionTemp.

PrecisionTemp offers water heaters that vent from the bottom, the side, or even one that top vents if they want to use it on a gooseneck trailer. "PrecisionTemp water heaters also have applications in dairy barns," she says. They can run on propane or natural gas.

Weighing in at about 25 pounds, they're easy to install. They're about 1 cu. ft. in size, using 12-volt battery power for ignition and temperature control. Turn on the water, and the burner ignites. Turn off the water, and the burner turns off, wasting no energy.

PrecisionTemp heaters are the only tankless heaters built in America.

The company also offers TwinTemp heaters that provide on-demand hot water and hydronic space heat in one compact unit. Tankless heaters are available on the company website.



Precision Temp tankless heater shown with cover removed.

Pricing varies by unit. The RV-550 EC Tankless Water Heaters retail for \$1,290. The TwinTemp heaters that provide both endless hot water and hydronic heat start at \$4,275.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kay Anderson, PrecisionTemp, 3428 Hauck Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 (ph 800-934-9690, ext. 102; KAnderson@precisiontemp.com; www.precisiontemp.com).

FARM SHOW®

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money-saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Managing Editor

Milton T. Webster, Taylor, Texas: "To fill up a portable air tank off my air compressor, I put a female air coupler on the tank and made up a length of hose with a male fitting on either end, so it plugs into the tank and the air hose. It's easier than holding the chuck on the air tank fitting while it fills. Just be careful not to overfill.

"I put a can of Sea Foam in the gas tank whenever I go on a long trip and have never had any problems with fuel injectors. It works on any engine and is cheaper than Stabil.

"I use an AM107421 relay kit on different solenoid starters to solve starting problems. The kit will not work on remote solenoid starters."

Paul Tierney, Bloomington, Minn.: "I mounted a heavy-duty vise on a 4-wheel heavy base so I can move it around wherever I need it in the shop or out in the yard. Very handy."



Jim Morey (jimm@mineralarea.edu): "Many thanks to Husqvarna expert Ready Davis for his tip on hard-to-start saws (Vol. 46, No. 6). I have a 5-year-old 450 Rancher that now starts easily every time. His tip to put the control lever in the 'run' position but don't touch the trigger yet, which keeps the throttle open, does the trick.

"On another note, I was having trouble with the chain seizing at the tip of the bar. The bar has a sealed bearing at the top but over time crud works into and binds the sprocket. To solve the issue, I drilled a 1/8-in. hole on each side of the bar in order to grease the sprocket. Be careful not to drill all the way through so as not to damage the sprocket. Then occasionally apply grease to the sprocket. It saves having to buy a new bar prematurely."

Tom Forst, Hewitt, Wis.: "I remove broken bolts by putting a nut on top of the bolt and stick welding it on. You might have to do it a couple of times, but I've found it even works on bolts broken off below the surface. A guy at a machine shop showed me that trick."



Gary Lee Meeks, Verona, Va.: "Many years ago I had the same problem filling air tanks as Ryan Newman in your last issue. His valve shut-off is a nice idea, but you can get by without it if your compressor hose has a self-closing quick coupler and your tank has a shut-off valve. I made a second with a T, so I can walk away while two air tanks fill."

Abe Snake, Peebles, Ohio: "I keep about a dozen hi-lift jacks on hand and have moved several buildings intact using them. Once I even moved a 13 by 15-ft., 35,000-lb. concrete slab using them."

Carrol Jones, Louisa, Va.: "After each use of a spray paint can, remove the nozzle and clean it from the inside with carb cleaner and a straw.

"If you have a dead refrigerator, strip the magnets out of the door edges. You can also get magnets out of speakers that no longer work."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.: "I recently had a flat tire on my walking tandem trailer about 35 miles from home with no spare. Fortunately, I had a jack and an extra safety chain. So, I jacked up the flat wheel, tied it in place, and drove slowly home. Next time I'll have a spare with me."