

Tear Mender Patches Fabric, Vinyl and Leather

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

I've always sewn patches to mend jeans, but after trying Tear Mender that's going to change. I'm not sure what's in the non-toxic adhesive, but patches placed either on the inside of jeans or the outside held up very well, even after machine washing and drying.

Developed by Val "The Bish" Cismoski in 1932, Tear Mender can be found online and at many hardware, farm supply, and even fabric chain stores. The Tear Mender website sells it for \$8, plus shipping. I ordered the premier leather repair kit and vinyl repair kit to test.

The adhesive sticks and holds just as well on an old leather couch that had a couple of sizeable rips. After cleaning the leather with alcohol and placing heavy fabric on the underside of the tears, I squeezed Tear Mender on the fabric and leather. The adhesive is rather runny, and you have to work with it quickly as it dries in 3 minutes.

It has held together very well, even on the armrest. But I can see where it is mended. The kit comes with brown, black and white paints to mix in to help it blend, but I wasn't successful in trying to match the couch's maroon tint. Still, it's a big improvement from the big tears. I think it would work well on small tears on a purse or leather garment. The vinyl kit has big patches that work great to fix tarps, tents and inflatable pool toys.

I also used Tear Mender to glue a loose sole on my husband's work boot and it's held together all summer.

I like that it's acid-free, non-toxic, odorless and easy to clean up. It's also UV-resistant,



Tear Mender is acid-free, non-toxic, odorless and easy to clean up. It's also UV-resistant, water-proof and flexible.

water-proof and flexible. Another bonus is that the Tear Mender employs workers at the Lighthouse For the Blind to package and ship products.

Videos on the website show how to use Tear Mender on a variety of fabrics. For me, it's provided an easier, better way to mend jeans and I can save my sewing machine for better uses, such as creating quilts.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tear Mender (ph 800-542-3697; www.tearmender.com).



Table tops made from maple trees show where syrup taps were.

Tables Made From Maple Syrup Trees

"We make unique tabletops from maple trees where syrup taps were inserted to collect sap," says James Goetsch, Merrill, Wis.

"We use trees that are storm damaged, cutting out 2 1/2 to 3-in. 'slices' out of the tap area. We dry them to remove moisture and then sand the pieces flat to get them ready for glue, which we use to fill cracks that

develop due to drying. A stand is then made to support the tabletop and the table is given a natural finish.

"These tables are great conversation pieces because of how you can see the syrup taps."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James D. Goetsch, 145395 Brookridge Dr., Merrill, Wis. 54452 (ph 715-675-4203).

Simple Pumpkin Cutter

Cutting up a pile of pumpkins with a knife can be hard work and a little hazardous. Steve Faber made it easier by drilling a hole at the end of a large knife and making a bracket with pivot holes at different heights, then bolting the bracket to a board.

"The pumpkins shown in the picture are a kind that doesn't turn completely orange and they don't have hulls on the seeds. We

cut them up to take out the seeds, which we eat like nuts," says Faber.

When making the first cut on the blossom end, the knife is set in the top hole on the bracket. Then he lowers the knife point down to the lowest hole for quartering.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve Faber, 4588 E Township Rd. 130, Tiffin, Ohio 44883 (ph 567-207-5689).

"Flex Seal Pants" Offer Knee Protection

FARM SHOW reader Eldon Linquist has an innovative use for Flex Seal Spray - built-in knee protection for his work pants. Linquist made this discovery after suffering through the use of foam knee pads for years. Not only were these pads uncomfortable, but he found they were always hard to track down when he needed them most. This inspired him to add a coat of Flex Seal to the knees of his work jeans to see whether the rubber sealant could provide the necessary protection.

While modifying his pants, Linquist placed a piece of cardboard within each leg to prevent them from "sealing" together and sprayed on a thick coat of Flex Seal. The result was a pair of pants with extra padding that lets him work on his knees for extended periods.

Over time, Linquist perfected his technique to two to three coats of spray per leg, allowing each coat to fully dry between sprayings.

He uses his custom pants for projects ranging from pulling weeds in the garden to kneeling on the concrete floor of his workshop.

Linquist has more than seven pairs of pants he's Flex Sealed, each of which has held up well to the rigors of his projects. They wash up perfectly in the washing machine, and he line dries them outdoors.



Linquist added a coat of Flex Seal spray to the knees of his jeans for added knee protection.

Overall, this simple project has saved Linquist both the hassle of tracking down knee pads and the discomfort of using knee protection that doesn't fit quite right. "Now that I have my Flex Sealed pants, I wouldn't try anything else," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eldon Linquist (ph 605-945-2211).

Use The Caulking Finger Instead Of Yours

"Why wear out your finger? Just use mine," says Daniel Stephenson, about The Caulking Finger, a handy tool he invented and uses regularly.

As a painter for more than 30 years, his invention was inspired after a job on a big, old house took 15 cases of caulking on the outside and left him bleeding on every finger.

"I was tired of wearing my fingers out with caulk. So I decided I'd make a rubber finger," Stephenson says. He had a mold made of his index finger and experimented with various materials until he found an engineered rubber that has the right blend of flexibility and stiffness to work well.

It's also easy to clean in a bucket of water or with a wet rag.

"I can caulk with gloves on and never touch the caulk," Stephenson says.

The patented \$10 tool will last a long time when used on smooth surfaces, such as bathtubs and painted walls. Stucco and rough siding materials wear the rubber down faster, but contractors tell him they can caulk three houses with The Caulking Finger and that it saves them time.

Stephenson demonstrates using The Caulking Finger in several videos on his website. For a professional, smooth finish he stresses cutting the caulking tube to the width of the crack so there isn't any excess.

In addition to painters and construction workers, roofers use The Caulking Finger when applying Black Jack sealants. Plumbers also use it, and a car upholsterer with arthritis uses the tool to push fabric in corners.



The patented \$10 tool will last a long time when used on smooth surfaces, such as bathtubs and painted walls.

The Caulking Finger is available at some stores and through the company's website, where Stephenson offers a discount on large quantity orders (100+). FARM SHOW readers can use the coupon code "Farm Show" for free shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Caulking Finger, 22 Pigeon Circle, Monticello, Ga. 31064 (ph 678-859-5515; sales@thecaulkingfinger.com; www.thecaulkingfinger.com).



Pumpkin cutter made with knife and bracket.