



Air tank is 12 in. diameter and 24 in. long and has a 2-in. ball valve. It's used to clean air filters and set tire beads.

Bead Blaster Does Double Duty

Dan Erdman's homemade air blaster serves double duty setting tire beads and cleaning air filters. His 12-in. dia. and 24-in. long air tank has a 2-in. ball valve that dumps a lot of air fast for either chore.

"Big filters can run \$100 to \$200 each," says Erdman. "Some guys replace them whenever they plug, but I just blast them. When that air hits a filter, there's a cloud of dirt."

Erdman has to take care not to damage the filter. He can control the flow of air with the ball valve. He simply sets the filter in place ahead of a 2-in. pipe screwed into the ball valve.

"I slip a small square of plywood with a hole slightly larger than the pipe over it," adds Erdman. "This keeps the pipe aimed at the filter. Ring clamps on the pipe to either side of the board hold it in place."

To use the air blaster to set beads on tires, he screws a shop-made air diffuser onto the ball valve. It's simply a piece of pipe that he split and hammered one end flat. After welding filler steel into the gaps, he had a diffuser about 4 in. wide with a narrow

opening of about 1/4 in.

"I remove the valve core and attach a free flow air chuck to the valve and let air flow," says Erdman. "I put the diffuser between the edge of the rim and the tire bead and give it a blast. Once the bead sets, I replace the valve core and bring the tire up to pressure."

Erdman suggests buying a deep pressure air bead tire mount tank at Northern Hydraulics or Princess Auto. "If you don't know pressure welding, don't make your own as I did," says the journeyman welder.

The only problem Erdman has had with his blaster is the size of the air tank. With big and very dirty filters, he may have to refill the tank. He has an idea for fixing that problem but hasn't done it yet.

"I have a 250-gal. propane tank that I've thought about using," he says. "Having enough air wouldn't be a problem with that tank."

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Willett created a power outlet from his pickup hitch connector so he could easily work on his tailgate.

Handy Remote Electrical Outlet

Harley Willett had a dull chainsaw with no outlet to power the sharpener, so the Texas man got creative.

"I was looking at the trailer hitch on my 2007 Dodge 2500," Willett says. "I thought if I could plug it in there, I could work on the tailgate. It's a great work surface, as long as you can supply power," he says.

The ability to work on the tailgate meant he wouldn't have to balance the sharpener under the hood to clip onto the battery.

So, he went shopping. He bought a Buyers TC2007P trailer connector from Surplus Center, 6 ft. of 12-ga. landscape wire from Home Depot, and a pair of alligator clips. The total bill was about ten dollars.

"Almost all of the newer trucks have the 7-pin connectors that support battery connections, which means this would work," he says. Willett says the TC2007P is marked inside with the correct pins for battery and

ground, which worked well with his Dodge truck. Ford, Chevy, and other truck models may be different.

"Most trailer battery connections are fused for about 10 amps," he says, "so make sure what you're using doesn't overload the wiring."

Willett's inspiration for this idea came from wiring up his trailer. "I put one of those trailer connector boxes on it and noticed it had all the wiring codes right in it," he says.

"I know someone has a 12-volt blender and will figure out how to plug it in to literally have a tailgate party," he says with a laugh.

"I'm not doing this to make money," Willett says. "I just wanted to share an idea I thought would work well for others."

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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

Kenneth Stadler, Clio, Mich.: "When the plastic strap breaks and you lose the cap to your fuel can, rather than buy an expensive replacement can or spout, I just use an old 12 ga. shotgun shell as a cover (or plug) depending on the spout size. They're cheap and keep the dirt out of the fuel."



Robert Fonfara, Omaha, Neb.: "When searching for a key to fit a particular padlock, it can take a while to find the right one. If you spray paint the lock and key the same color, it's easy to find. I use a bunch of different colors."



Mark Yax, Solon, Ohio: "I had an electric stove that I was tossing out. When removing the bottom drawer, I noticed that the stamped steel tub would make a nice drain pan or parts washing tub. I removed the front door panel and cut off the ears that held it on with my angle grinder. The only other thing I had to do was to weld up some small holes. This should work well for changing the oil in some of my equipment as it holds quite a bit. I will also use it for cleaning some larger parts."



Tom Hansen, New Hartford, Iowa: "I welded a socket to a 3/4-in. drive extension and put crossbars on the extension and a big washer on the handle with a hose clamp to keep it all from falling through the grates."



May Wes Company, Hutchinson, Minn.: (www.maywes.com; ph. 800-788-6483) "Our rear debris screen for Bobcat skid loaders shields the radiator, helps with overheating, and is made from UV-resistant HDPE. Less expensive than OEM shields and made for ag, landscape and forestry applications, the shield easily installs by drilling and bolting into place. Made in the USA."