



String trimmer replacement head before and after cleaning.



Using Ultrasonics To Clean Dirty Parts

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

When FARM SHOW editors saw an article in Green magazine on an ultrasonic cleaner, they told this writer to get one and try it out. The results were impressive.

Decades of oil and dirt residue on an old spring-bottom oil can disappeared. Jewelry was brighter and cleaner. A string trimmer replacement head unused for years but covered in old plant juice and grime cleaned up with a little light brushing.

Overall, the results were positive for the 5-pint machine. While the 5 1/2-in. by 9 1/2-in. by 2 1/2-in. high size limited its use to small parts, it could prove useful in most farm shops.

Ultrasonic cleaners work by creating high-frequency sound waves that agitate a liquid, creating bubbles. The agitation releases contaminants on most surfaces, including metals, plastic, glass, rubber and ceramics. However, the ultrasound waves also penetrate cracks and crevices, pulling out undetected

dirt and grime.

Ultrasonic cleaners are easy to find online as well as in retail stores. We bought ours at Harbor Freight. The unit and a recommended cleaning agent came in at less than \$100.

The Central Machinery Ultrasonic Cleaner offers different settings from 90 to 480 sec. and the option of added heat. We experimented with different settings, repeating when unsatisfied with the initial cleaning or increasing the duration. Naturally, the more grime, the longer cleaning took.

The manufacturer recommends activating no more than three cycles in a 15-min. period to avoid overheating. An automatic shut-off will activate after 45 min. of continuous use. Use can resume after cooling off for 15 min.

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The lift tables are similar to most shop jacks in that they have a pump handle. You can pump the jack to either raise or lower a table. Use the spring-action knob to decide if it's going up or down.



Lift Tables Move And Lift Safely

LiftWise lift tables are a mobile and efficient way to lift and lower a variety of parts into position for tasks like maintenance and other needs around the shop or farmyard.

"Some of America's largest agricultural manufacturers use our lifts," says Bill Coleman, LiftWise Product Manager. "They include Case IH, New Holland, and Deere."

He says many companies lift heavy items with implements like cranes, suspending the heavy loads in mid-air. LiftWise says using ground-based equipment is a safer way of moving loads around the farm or shop.

"We have scissor arms on both our lift tables," he says. "They both have heavy-duty caster wheels that hold up well on the shop floor."

The LiftMaster 4000 has a 4,000 lb. capacity and has a single member in the middle.

"If you want to lift something wider, we have a plate attachment that will spread out like a set of arms," Coleman says. "A person could adapt it to virtually anything they need to lift because it's adjustable.

"The 7000 has a larger top plate," he says. "It's roughly 24 by 36 in., and there are holes in the plate farmers can use to anchor chains."

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"No matter what, the lift tables are extremely durable," Coleman says. "We build them strong, so they'll last a long, long time."

The 4000 has a lower profile and is built to fit into small spaces. Load capacity is 4,000 lbs. The LiftMaster 7000 has a capacity of 7,000 lbs.

LiftWise has representatives around the country, and locations are available on the company website. The LW4000 is \$9,222 and the LW7000 retails for \$18,969.

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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

Allan Von Werder, Morgan City, La.: "Power tool batteries are expensive. However, if you keep your eyes open for special tool deals, you can save. DeWalt often sells a drill with two batteries for \$99, which is cheaper than the cost of two replacement batteries. I stock up on these, so I always have plenty of cheaply acquired batteries on hand."

Ed Doucette, Fort Ripley, Minn.: "My Allis Chalmers diesel would not start after replacing the fuel filter on the 1970 Perkins 3-cyl. diesel. Bio-diesel ruined my entire fuel system. I spent \$800 to have the injection pump rebuilt and you should have seen the crap that came out of it. I now run fuel oil in my tractor. Much better than bio-diesel, which grows bacteria and wrecks your entire system."

and take only 15 min. to make versus paying \$20 for something similar in town. All you need is 5 or 6 in. of threaded rod and 2 in. of light angle iron. I drill a 1/2-in. hole in one side of the angle iron and slide the rod through it. I drill a 1/4-in. hole in the other side for the brace wire to go around the anchor post. Lastly, I weld a large nut to the end of the threaded rod to run the wire through. Lets me tighten up the wire until it has the same tone as the 4th string on my banjo."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.D.: "My dad called this big 1/2-in. electric drill 'Big Bertha'. It's a 1938 model which was patented in 1917 by Black & Decker. It takes a big man to operate and takes two trigger pulls to start and two to stop it. If the bit gets into a tough spot, you've got to really hang on or you will go for a merry-go-round ride."

Ready Davis, Bigfoot Equipment & Repair, Willow Creek, Calif.: "As a Husqvarna dealer I feel I should respond to recent readers who have had issues starting their 562XP chainsaws. I understand their frustration. The manual is less than clear and the 'universal' symbols on the starting decal are virtually unintelligible. I'm guessing their dealer was not too clear when explaining the new control switch design.

"To start, pump the push bulb a few times to prefill the hose and carb with fresh fuel. Next, grab the red control lever and pull it straight out and up before releasing it in the locked 'choke' position. Pull the rip cord until the engine pops or you hit four pulls. Then put the control lever in the 'run' position. Don't touch the trigger yet. Pull the cord once or twice and your saw should start and be running at high throttle until the trigger is pressed, which will release the throttle lock.



Gary Sampson, Freedom, N.Y.: "I glued a plastic piece of bit holder onto the side of my screw gun so when I have to change bits, I've got them handy right where I need them. I also glued a small bar magnet onto the battery to hold bolts and screws."



John Johnston (bald@eagle.ca): "I make these turnbuckles to tighten up a run of barbed wire. They cost almost nothing