

Frank Peters, Lacombe, Alta.: "I was changing a bearing on my baler by myself. Seems like I can never find a kid when I need one. The carriage bolts that fit the bearing flange are inserted from inside the baler. Then you mount the bearing flange. As you do that, the bolts inevitably slip back out. What I did was put a tiny O-ring on the threads of each bolt to hold them in position. I could then fit the outer flange and the nuts. The O-rings can just be left in place as the nuts will tighten down normally. Saved a lot of frustration."



John Rochester, Deerfield, Fla.: "It's hard to hold a funnel in place when refueling my flatbed pickup. A C-clamp works great to hold the funnel steady against the sideboards. No more spills."

Glenn Riley, Graceville, Fla.: "I spray paint hand tools with some red paint. Makes them easier to find, especially when used in long grass."

Tony Ryba, Johnstown, Penn.: "My Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine lost compression due to carbon buildup on the exhaust valve, which held it open. After cleaning and lapping in both valves and seats, it was time for reassembly."

"Lacking a proper valve spring compressor, I used two small nylon zip ties on each spring to hold it compressed. Once the keeper was installed, the ties were cut and removed. An arduous task was simplified and over in a few minutes. A few pulls on the starter rope and the 21-year-old mower came back to life."



Ryan Neuman, Fenton, Mo.: "My portable air tank could only be filled through a built-in Schrader valve, which was cumbersome and time-consuming. So, I replaced the chuck on the tank's hose with a



female quick coupler. Then I built an adapter using two male quick coupler fittings and a shut-off valve. Makes it quick to fill the tank by back-feeding through the hose and you can also fit the adaptor with a blow gun for cleaning off radiators, blowing out garden hoses, or cleaning an exhaust fan in your bathroom. All the parts you need can be purchased at Harbor Freight for \$12."

Gerald Ripps, San Antonio, Texas: "Some trucks have a winch under the bed to let down the spare. It can be clumsy and awkward to do. I cobbled together a pipe with a lug nut on the end that fits over the winch nut. The pipe extends out past the bumper on my older Dodge truck. Makes it easy to drop the spare."

Mick Hartsock, Laurens, Iowa: "Every year the rockshafts on our Deere 7800 and 8000 Series tractors get stuck in the up position. We wrap a chain around a post and hook it to the top of the quick hitch. Then we lower the hitch and give a little tug by driving forward. Works every time."

Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.: "I have 200 ft. of 3/4-in. hose for my impact wrench. It was always getting tangled, and it was too big for the hose reels I had around my place. So, I started storing the hose in this

55-gal. barrel. Doesn't tangle up nearly as bad as it would if it were left out on the shop floor."



Dale Fisher, Jackson, Mich.: "When you install a turnbuckle that's going to be there a while, you need to add a jam nut to keep it from working its way loose from where you set it. Then you still might need to adjust the jam nut later if it starts working loose."

"I found that if I weld a small weight to one side of the adjusting yoke, the turnbuckle will hold. The weighted side will swing to the bottom and stay there. I've used this idea for several applications but using it on my 3-pt. hitch arms is the most satisfying."



Rick Bohl, Cedaredge, Colo.: "I found a good use for empty coffee containers. I fill them with Sakrete and put a U-bolt in the center. Makes a great anchor for holding down canopies, tarps, or as a portable dog/leash anchor. It's especially handy when you have to set up on a street or parking lot where you can't drive stakes."



When the final coats have been laid down, he uses a blacklight to find spots that were missed.

Metal Clean Up Using Baking Soda And Vinegar

When Jim Deardorff started restoring an 1893 brass bell for a nearby church, a local body shop operator gave him the recipe to clean it. He advised Deardorff to use baking soda and vinegar.

"I had a company lined up to sandblast it and polish the brass, but they wanted me to remove the grime first," says Deardorff. "The baking soda and vinegar worked great. I later used it on an old toolbox, and it brought it back to a brand-new appearance. It worked great on the hinges."

He notes that hinges can be especially difficult to clean and often rust out as a result. Once he cleans them with the solution, he sprays them with Picklex 20, his preferred rust preventative.

Deardorff uses a mixture of a cup each of baking soda, vinegar, and hot water on projects. "Mix the baking soda and water and then add the vinegar," he says. "Let it foam up and then brush it on. Let it sit overnight. I'll come back the next day with rubbing alcohol and a scrub sponge to get any remaining dirt.

Depending on the amount of material, it can take several rounds."

The baking soda has an added benefit for Deardorff, a long-time advocate of preventative coatings for extending the life of all types of equipment. It leaves a white residue on dirt. One of his favorite tools for ensuring a proper paint job is a black light (Vol. 24, No. 1). He uses a fluorescing undercoat. When the final coats have been laid down, he uses a blacklight to find spots that were missed.

"Baking soda contains an optical brightener that shows up under black light," says Deardorff. "It shows pits and cracks in a coating before they can create a problem, as well as where I need to do extra cleaning. A regular application would let you see where maintenance is needed."

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Making Ladders More Secure

"We had to remove bees high up on our house on a piece of uneven ground. Two men were going to be up on two ladders, so we wanted to make it safe for them," says John Rochester, Deerfield, Fla.



"We took a rigid piece of 3/4-in. plywood and blocked it level with pieces of wood and then screwed the blocks to the plywood with drywall screws. Then we placed an anti-skid strip on top and tied the two ladders together at the top. We added a ratchet strap at 6 ft. The men were up there most of the day and said they appreciated having a solid platform to work from."

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