Shop-Made Grill For Allis-Chalmers 185

Replacement grills for older tractors are hard to find, so Doug Barlow made his own. All it took was a good eye, steady hands, angle iron, cattle panel and expanded sheet metal.

"The front grill on the Allis-Chalmers 185 I was rebuilding was missing," says Barlow. "The company that used to make a fiberglass replica seemed to have gone out of business, so I decided to make my own."

Barlow used scrap 1-in. angle iron for the frame and filled the top half with a piece of 1/8-in. expanded sheet metal. However, the bottom half of the grill covers the air filter housing, and he wanted it visible.

"I used the expanded sheet metal for the top half for protection," he says. "I used a section of cattle panel for the bottom half to see the air filter housing and would be reminded when I needed to change the filter."

Barlow designed his replacement grill to match the flanges that held eyebolts for the original grill. "It took very little time, turned out great and is durable," he says. I like it so much that I don't want an original now."

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Barlow made his own grill for his AC 185 using scrap from around his shop.

Low-Cost Shop Elevator Makes Storage Easy

Bill Boyce of Texarkana, Ark., built an inexpensive elevator to access an overhead storage area in his shop. "I made the elevator frame from 2-in. by 2-in. tubing that was leftover from another project," he says. "The power is supplied by a repurposed 2,500-lb. winch from a side-by-side."

Boyce attached the "car" to common sliding barn door roller channels with the matching rollers. "These were purchased new, and they keep the car very stable," he says. "I attached the channels to the wall's framework, and the winch is mounted to a truss beam above the car. The winch is controlled by a corded remote that travels with the car."

The project took him about 2 days. Boyce's main expense was purchasing the barn door tracks and rollers, which cost about $275. He estimates that other costs came to $50. "The winch to raise and lower the car, the battery to power the winch, and the metal to build the car were all repurposed items I had on hand. So, my total cost was about $325."

Boyce's winch is rated at 2,500 lbs. "I use the elevator to move heavier items to the overhead storage area in my shop, items that would be awkward to carry up the stairs." Overall, the project has worked exactly as planned. "My only advice to someone would be to build a sturdy car and have a secure mounting for the winch."

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"I use the elevator to move heavier items to the overhead storage area in my shop, items that would be awkward to carry up the stairs," says Boyce.

Repurposed Fans Help Around Shop

William Greyerbiehl of Bad Axe, Mich., repurposed two broken XL tall shop fans for his workshop. "I turned a fan base into a holder for my trouble light," he says. "When working on my vehicles, I'm always looking for a place to hang a light. The thought came to me that I could use that disabled fan. The fan has an adjustment to raise or lower it for the best work height. It's simple to do; you just put a block of wood where the fan motor was."

He repurposed the second fan to keep his workshop comfortable. "I had no room on the floor, and it was getting in my way," he says. "So, I got to thinking for a place to put it and decided to hang it from the ceiling above my woodstove. When the fan gets going, it moves heat around my shop."

Fan mounted upside down to save space and fan mount used for shop light.

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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.

Scott Geyer, Editor & Publisher

Dan Bjorkman, Bronson, Mich.: "I did a simple table saw upgrade that has made woodworking much easier. I bolted two table saws together. It gives me a larger work surface. It also simplifies my woodworking.

"I no longer have to change blades when making dados or cutting different types of material. I can keep dado blades on one table saw and a ripping blade on the other."

Dale Witham, Rainier, Ore.: "After drum lines break on my logging Cats and skidder, I replace the line with a new or good, used 5/8-in. line. Usually, the lines are dry and in good shape, with a lot of life left in them. I reel up the lines on the drum, then take a cup of used motor oil and pour it across the top, allowing it to drip onto the wound-up lines. Since I've been doing this, the oiled lines will roll up more easily. There's less over-wrap of lines. The winch lines lay where they're supposed to."

Steven Janis, Howell, Mich.: "When pulling an engine in the gravel driveway, casters don't roll, and it'll sink. Get a couple of 1/2-in. sheets of OSB and lay them end to end under the vehicle. Put the picker on them when you don't have a concrete slab. Half or partial pieces can sometimes be substituted for a full sheet. This can be used to move or cart heavy items around.

"If you don't have the skills to rebuild an engine, seek a local builder for classes to help you (for a fee). Learned skills, problems solved, and pride in yourself. I trained my son for backup skills. It wasn't always easy, but he's now done 20+ engines. We now have over 300 engines, 110 transmissions and 50 rear axles. We also build our own. It's fun, rewarding work.

"I bought a gantry crane from Harbor Freight to help with body/chassis swaps. You just can't use farm jacks and cement blocks all your life.

"If you have an old AMC/Jeep with low engine pressure, do a copper tube oil bypass under the intake manifold from the front oil passage to a drilled and tapped hole between the number six and eight cylinders in the valley. You can go from 5 lbs. to 30 lbs. pressure with this help. You may have to drill the block oil passage, which was cast too small to a 9/16 bore, and from there, the front cover mounts. Mine was 5/16 dia., which did not provide enough volume. The drill bit was too short, so I cut the end to fit an oil pump drive shaft."

Travis Weber, Ontario: "It seems the plastic tube on the metal wire handles on pails disintegrates quickly with daily use. After dealing with sore finger joints, I discovered a 3 1/2-in. piece of 3/8 or 1/2-in. braided water hose makes a more comfortable handle and lasts much longer than the original plastic one."

Dr. Karl Spees, Port Angeles, Wash.: "Three decades after taking a welding course, my stick welding machine and I periodically have issues. I had no idea what amperage I needed for a 3/32-in. 6013 rod. Also, my ground lead has spring weakness, dulled contacts and oxide build-up, which sometimes cause problems.

"I solved one problem by first watching a YouTube video by @TimWelds. He shared the amp setting windows, plus other critical factors.

"I found a set of new jumper cables at a garage sale at a price too good to pass up. I connected both cables to my work and the other ends to my ground lead clamp. I had a fire extinguisher handy, just in case. The job went smoothly with Tim's refresher course and a soundly grounded project."

William Ridgway, Salem, Ind.: "My wife had trouble removing the battery from our Ryobi string trimmer. So, I glued some rubber feet onto the pads of an inexpensive squeeze clamp. Although it won't win any beauty contests, it sure does work."

David J. Byler, Brockway, Penn.: "For most lawn tractors with a 2-cyl. engine, the engine needs to be completely removed from the tractor to replace a faulty ignition coil. To save the customer labor costs,