

after consultation and permission, I cut out a section of the blower housing above the ignition coil to replace the coil without dismantling the tractor and removing the engine. Then, we drill and tap a new bolt hole to secure the cutout piece back in place. It looks like a factory job, and a happy customer is going home with an extra \$300 in their pocket."



Loren Yoder, Grantsville, Md.: "The 1 3/8-in. hydraulic fittings on our 332 Deere skid steer are tough to access. I heated and bent the end of the wrench 90 degrees, then used another wrench for a handle. It worked great."

Keith Streeter, Warren, Vt.: "I save meat tubs and build shelves to slide the trays into. Then, I put labels on them so I know what's inside."

"I cut some 2 by 8s, spaced 2 to 3 ft. apart, so I can stack sap buckets horizontally without them sticking together."

Paul Tylutki: "All too often, we try to get the necessary balance when lifting awkward objects. I generally use a 2-in. ratchet tie-down as a leveler. It works wonderfully when trying to align."

John Hohmann, Pataskala, Ohio: "To help maintain fastener connections in high-vibration settings, I apply a lock washer, tighten it with the nut, and then drill a small hole in the bolt just distal to the nut to prevent the fastener from loosening and failing. A cotter pin or even a nail goes through the hole in the bolt."

Allen Pederson, Nashua, Iowa: "I found a single field cultivator tooth with a spring on the highway. I bolted it to a tractor bucket to dig electric cable in."

"Always carry a needle or stick pin in the lining of your billfold. Use it for slivers, to clean screens, etc."

"Put bright paint or tape around dipstick holders. It'll help make them quicker to find in the engine compartment."

Jeff Hootman, Jeromesville, Ohio: "In 2015, I purchased a Cub Cadet three-stage snowblower. It seems to have been designed for someone 5 ft. 6 in. I'm 6 ft. tall. So, I built a subframe for my Wheel Horse garden tractors (1979 C-81). I can mount the snowblower on the front or back of either tractor, depending on whether I want to drive forward or backward. My driveway is 800 ft. long. It sure beats walking behind it, all hunched over."

"The power windows on my 2002 Ford Taurus quit due to an electrical problem on the driver's door. When they started to come down on their own, I had to do something. I removed the door panel and figured out the motor was still good. I used two double-pole double-throw switches and a momentary

contact switch in the power lead to rewire both front windows. I drove it for 2 years like that."

"I used 16-ft. stock panels from Tractor Supply and Harbor Freight tires to make a place to park my garden tractors and lawn mower."

John Kiminski, North Brookfield, Mass.: "If you have an air compressor that's hard to start in cold weather, tee in a ball valve at the outlet pump pipe. Open it when it first starts for about 20 to 30 seconds, then close it for normal operation. I use this on 3/4 and 5-hp. compressors."

Joe Hanson, Aberdeen, S.D.: "A welding vice grip clamped onto the side of a mower deck works great for holding the blade when tightening or loosening."

Max McCaw, Coal Valley, Ill.: "To rewind my string trimmer, I pull off what string I need for both sides. Insert and wind both at the same time. After winding, I cut the loop and install it. It's a lot easier than winding one at a time. A spray of silicone lube keeps the string from binding in the spool."

Pat Bryson, Canaan, N.H.: "Take the fuel filter out of the bottom of the fuel tank and put it in a place you can easily access."

William Nadeau, Warren, Maine: "My induction heater works well on rusted nuts and bolts without a flamer."

"I've used my heavy-duty nut splitter up to 3/4-in. nuts. It only takes a minute and saves the bolt."

Roger Hathcoat, Nowata, Okla.: "I had a problem with my older Massey Ferguson tractor dying after running for only half an hour. I flushed the fuel tank, installed new coils, and tried other fixes. Nothing worked."

"A friend described having a similar problem with his pickup. He suggested I 'pop' the distributor cap and look for a black spot on top of the rotor bug."

"Sure enough, there was the black spot. I installed a new rotor bug, and the problem was solved. After several years of headaches, it was a few bucks well spent."



Jim Stone, Warrenton, Ga.: "We've always used bailer twine around the farm, and inevitably, it'll become a tangled mess which eventually just gets thrown away. Our simple solution is to put the twine in an old 5-gal. oil bucket and run the string through the spout on the lid. No more mess, no more fuss. It'll feed without knots until it's completely consumed. Sometimes, I run it through the plastic handle to make it more accessible."

Warren Zimmerman, Wheeling, Mo.: "Case IH Maxxum tractors have a foam seal under the cab roof that deteriorates and drastically reduces A/C cooling capability. No longer OEM, I used Emseal sealing foam to repair them."

"A 630 Bobcat skid steer hydrostat pump had the input shaft seal retaining snap ring groove destroyed. Rather than buying a new housing or pump, I ground down the housing flush with the mounting flange and had a fab shop cut out a different mounting bracket with only a small hole around the input shaft. That held in the seal instead."

"I've added small flat free wheels to each front corner of my 7-ft. Brush Hog. It now doesn't gouge or cut in like it used to."



Sowinski made rugged side extensions for his pickup box out of used diamond plate running boards.

Pickup Sideboards Made From Diamond Plate

"I'm always hauling items that have to be tied down in the truck box, so I made rugged side panels out of used diamond plate truck running boards," says New York antique dealer Peter Sowinski. "They protect the top of the truck box, and the aluminum handles I mounted on the sides work great to attach tie-down straps." Hooks on the inside hold a ladder, straps and other tools.

Sowinski says nothing he hauls in the box of his Ram pickup will damage or dent the custom side panel extensions. He bought the used boards at an auction along with other scrap aluminum and formed the parts into rugged 14-in. high-side box extensions.

Mounting brackets on the original running boards elevate the side boards about 4 in. above the top of the truck box. That space is filled with two pieces of square aluminum tubing that run the length of the box. Both pieces are bolted to aluminum posts and bolted into the stake pockets on each end of the pickup box. Sowinski cut two 2-in. by 8-in. planks for the front panel and bolted each end to the corners of the diamond plate sides. He says the sides and front are so sturdy they don't even squeak or rattle.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Sowinski, Wild Goose Chase Antiques, Hammondsport, N.Y.

Ontario Farmers Solve Tractor Fuel Intake Problem

In April 2023, Brussels, Ontario, farmer Wayne Hopper bought a used Deere 8650 4-WD tractor from a farmer near Aylmer, Ontario, thinking he'd gotten a good deal. However, as he drove it to a dealer in Walton, Ontario, to hook up a field cultivator, the tractor stalled on the road. Hopper says he was disgusted, so he called the seller, who told him to change the fuel filters because they'd been a problem.

"That fixed the problem for a few hours, but the darn tractor stalled again," Hopper says. "At that point, I was thinking I probably bought a lemon." He called Huron Tractor, a Deere dealer in Blyth, Ontario, for help. Mechanics discovered the fuel tanks had sludge in the bottom that needed to be dumped. "The cost to do that was \$6,000, but that got the tractor running," Hopper says.

In the spring of 2024, Hopper used the tractor for tillage, and he says, "The same engine stalling crap started again. I drilled a hole in the fuel cap and attached a rubber hose, drawing fuel out of the tank so the tractor would run. Then I had a mechanic from Huron Tractor out again to keep it running. That was another \$1,000."

Hopper told his neighbor Bill Garniss about the issue, and together, they decided the problem wasn't the tank or the filters but probably involved the steel fuel pickup line in the tank. Hopper says, "We decided the line was either crushed or broken. Bill drilled a hole in the side of the fuel tank about 2 in. up from the bottom. We installed a fitting with an external hose to bring fuel up to the lift pump and filters."

Hopper says the tractor ran perfectly after they installed the new line, and he didn't



Wayne Hopper and his neighbor Bill Garniss fixed the fuel draw on a Deere 8650 fuel tank by installing a fitting 2 in. above the tank's bottom and running an outside line to the filters.

experience any more stalling issues during spring 2024 field work.

"Bill and I figured the farmer sold the tractor because neither he nor his dealer could figure out the problem," Hopper says. "Meanwhile, Bill and I, a couple of dumb farmers from Ontario scratching our heads and thinking out loud, fixed the problem. Apparently, the dealers don't know everything."

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