

Drill Mods Make Table Moves Easy

Tony Foale says the Startrite drill press he's owned for years has always performed well, except for one frustrating feature: raising and lowering the table is always difficult because the press lacks a rack-and-pinion table lift.

"After all those years, I finally got fed up with using two hands to raise the table and let it down, so I built a counterweight system to fix it."

Foale says his counterweight is simple, but integrating it onto the press had two issues. The table would quickly jam going up or down if there was too much weight on it, and if the counterweight was too heavy, lowering the table would be quite difficult.

Foale solved the problem by inserting a long, round counterweight inside the drill column. He attached a metal cable to the top of the weight and ran it over a pulley that he mounted on top of the column. He connected the other end of the cable to a metal bracket, about 6 in. long, that he attached to the back of the table.

Now, when he loosens the lock, the table lifts easily with one hand. The counterweight helps with the upward movement. To lower the table, he loosens the lock and gently



Foale added a cylinder counterweight inside the column of his Startrite drill press, running a cable across a pulley and down to the table, making it easier to raise and lower.

presses on the top of the metal bracket while slightly raising the front of the table. The table then slides down slowly without dropping. If he's working with heavier parts on the table, he'll add a one or two-pound counterweight to the bracket on the back of the table for better balance.

Foale is an accomplished engineer who's invented more than 100 shop-made parts and tools. He says the counterweight system is a great improvement for moving the table, and he wishes he had thought of it years ago.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Foale (www.motochassis.com).

Trailer Valet hooks up to a standard trailer frame via the coupler (or optional bracket) and can be operated manually by using the included hand crank or used with an electric drill.



Valet Moves Trailers With Ease

Trailer Valet makes moving and parking trailers up to 10,000 lbs. easy, even in tight spaces. With high and low gear options, you can switch between speed and control. It's available in both ball and bracket options and comes in several makes and models, capable of supporting various loads.

The XL connects to a standard trailer frame using the coupler or optional bracket. It can be operated manually with the hand crank or with the included attachment and a 20 to 24-volt drill for powered movement.

Designed to maneuver large trailers without a vehicle, the XL is made from steel with zinc-nickel plating. It weighs 56 lbs. and measures 29 in. high, 11 in. wide and 11 in. deep. It has a 9-in. solid rubber wheel.

With a 10,000-lb. hauling capacity, the ideal tongue weight range is 500 to 1,000 lbs. The XL has a low gear ratio of 27:1 and a high gear ratio of 11:1. It features an integrated brake that automatically engages when the handle is released.

The XL is built to operate on tightly packed grass with hard soil or tightly packed gravel. It's not designed to move on sandy, muddy, rocky or severely bumpy ground.

The company notes that repeated or

prolonged contact with water will damage the gears and chains that operate the Trailer Valet and erode lubricants.

Users report that it performs well on flat ground but has some difficulty with inclines, tight turns and gravel. Many noted that having the correct trailer weight on the tongue is necessary to maintain wheel traction.

"I purchased a Trailer Valet XL about two years ago and use it regularly to move a 27-ft. camper about 100 ft. on a level concrete driveway. It takes this 73-year-old about 10 min. The trailer weighs about 8,000 lbs. If the wheels get off the driveway, I move the handle to the lower gear. I don't use any battery power to assist. At my age, I don't think I could do it on an incline or on gravel. I'll leave that task to those who are younger. It's well constructed and easy to use," says Dan Ryland in a customer review.

It includes a one-year manufacturer's limited warranty. Trailer Valet XL costs \$850 on the company's website, with free shipping on orders over \$200 within the U.S.

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**FARM
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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.

Scott Geyer, Editor & Publisher



John Lubinski, Plainview, Minn.: "Using a small shovel to lift a tire into position when changing makes it much easier to move and get the tire back on, especially for us old guys."



Keith Peterson, Moorland, Iowa: "When using car ramps, I cut a piece of material about a foot longer than the car ramp and set the ramp on top of it to keep it from moving around."



Pat Hiebert, Victoria, B.C.: "I made a shelf using some old skid racking. I cut the racking to length and ensured that the vertical uprights were lined up and straight before cutting. I welded hooks to the top and now have a shelf I can park motorcycles under."

Fred J. Hall, Monmouth, Ill.: "When bearing mounting areas become worn and can't be quickly repaired, we don't center punch the race (that doesn't replace lost material). Instead, we use a 6 to 12-volt battery with jumper cables and a clean hacksaw blade to add material to resize the race before installing a new bearing."

Don Rowley, Emery, S.D.: "I've had many back and hip surgeries and now have trouble putting on my socks. I took a 5-in. piece of schedule 40 PVC and made my own sock aid device. The ones you can buy didn't work well for me."

"I also took a 4 by 4 and dug a 12-in. hole in the floor that was 3 ft. deep. I filled in the hole around the post with cement to use for a vise."



John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.: "To make it easier to install a tire, I use a board with something under the far end to get it to the right height so I can install the washer and cotter pin without having to try to hold up the wheel at the same time."

Shop Tips Found Online: "Use old garden hose for weather strip along the bottom of a garage door. It can also be cut to fit over a saw blade for protection."

"Use duct tape to make a 'V' on top of an open paint can for easy and accurate pouring."

"Putting two nails into an electric drill will allow enough space to get the end of a