Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Pry Bar In A Toolbox

The Devil's Finger from Jersey Discount Tool Co. (JDTCo.) puts a mini-pry bar in every toolbox. Handy for prying loose oil pans or other small jobs, it's a sturdy alternative to indexing pry bars.

"Indexing pry bars often tend to break," notes Nick Morello, Jersey Discount Tools Co. "You have lots of options with the Devil's Finger. You can use a breaker bar on tu, a straight wrench, or even pliers. Lots of guys use a ratchet with it all day long with no complaints."

JDTCo. initially introduced the Devil's Finger with an 8-pt. 3/8-in. drive. However, they found that it didn't always stay on a ratchet or breaker bar. They redesigned it with a 4-pt. drive and flattened the sides, making it easier to use with a wrench or pliers. Additionally, it can be hammered into place to wedge apart two surfaces.

They added 1/4-in. and 1/2-in. drives for more options.

"A technician who works a lot on trash compactors told us he really likes the 1/4-in. for getting into the compactors," says Morello.

The 3/8-in. Devil's Finger is available directly from JDTCo. for \$24.95. A three-



Redesigned tool works with a 4-pt. drive and has flattened sides, making it easier to use with a wrench or pliers.

piece set with 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2-in. Devil's Fingers is priced at \$59.95. The 1/4 and 1/2-in. sizes are also available individually.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jersey Discount Tool Co., 273 Union Blvd., Totowa, N.J. 07512 (ph 833-573-6348; help@jerseydiscounttool.com; www.jerseydiscounttool.com).

Traction Aids Help Vehicles Get Unstuck

Most of us have been stuck in snow, mud or sand with our vehicle. Usually, we end up paying for a tow or using a lot of energy to shovel and push until we get free.

U.S. Safety Solutions developed the skidproof Save-A-Tow traction ramps, a unique product to handle this scenario.

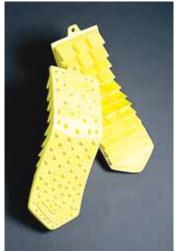
"Stronger than steel and engineered for cars, vans, pickups and sport utility vehicles, these mini traction ramps are a must for fishermen, hunters, outdoorsmen, campers, farmers, travelers, emergency personnel and anyone who drives in the snow, mud and sand," says Deryck Wade, company owner.

The lightweight 3-lb. hump-shaped ramps measure about 6 in. in width and 17 1/2 in. in length. Made of tough, high-density, rigid polymer, mini studs grip the tire, while alligator teeth on the underside grip the road, supporting more than 2,000 lbs. in the process.

"Just slip the ramps under the wheels," Wade says. "The car sends power to the track on the ramp, and you just drive out. The humped shape keeps them from spinning out from under the tire."

The Save-A-Tow traction ramps are made in the U.S. and sold throughout North America for about \$99 a pair. An optional handy storage bag is available. They come in a standard yellow color, but can be specially ordered in a different color.

"They save shoveling, pushing, overexertion, injury, time and dollars in towing costs



Made of tough, high-density, rigid polymer, mini studs grip the tire while alligator teeth on the underside grip the road.

or transmission damage."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, U.S. Safety Solutions LLC, 875-A Island Drive, Suite 111, Alameda, Calif. 94502 (ph 510 356-6543; info@ussafetysolutions.com; www.ussafetysolutions.com).

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Step features a flip-up/down design and incorporates rotatable hitch balls compatible with either 2 in. or 2 5/16 in. sizes (select when ordering).

Hitch Step Makes Vehicle Access Easy

The Hitch Step by Proven Industries Lock Technology offers a solid stepping platform for accessing any vehicle.

"Our DualBall Hitch Step Combo stands out thanks to its precision-engineered construction and built-in multi-functionality," says Tonya Fortin, company representative. "It's crafted using CNC sheet laser cutting and press forming from 3/16-in. steel for exceptional durability and structural strength."

The Step has a flip-up/down design and features rotatable hitch balls that fit either 2 in. or 2 5/16 in. sizes (select when ordering).

"It includes an integrated anti-rattle bumper and tightener—a patent-pending combination designed to enhance reliability and versatility," Fortin says. "Everything comes with a robust black powder-coat finish."

She states that the Hitch Step demonstrates the same quality that has established Proven Locks' reputation.

"Our products show a commitment to American craftsmanship and real-world functionality. Using domestic alloy carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminum, we manufacture in-house with CNC machines and robotic welding cells."

A 500 lb. weight capacity ensures the Hitch

Step works in a variety of settings.

"It's ideal for those who tow frequently," Fortin says. "The added feature of rear bumper protection from low-speed impacts makes it especially valuable for workhorses and commercial vehicles."

Fortin shares that installation is straightforward.

"Just insert the Hitch Step into your standard 2-in. receiver and secure it with your hitch pin. The flip-down step is immediately usable, and the stainless steel pins and integrated tightener help minimize vibration for a secure ride."

Four models are available on the company website: 12 in. (\$150 or \$200 with integrated receiver drop for 2-in. hitch) and 24 in. (\$175 or \$225 with integrated receiver drop).

Customer reviews highlight the design's high quality and functionality, especially for the 24 in. version.

Each purchase includes a lifetime warranty against manufacturing defects.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Proven Industries Lock Technology (ph 877-400-8423; support@provenlocks.com; www.provenlocks.com).

Heavy Puller Makes Light Work Of Bearings

Like most farmers, Gerald Peters occasionally faced the prospect of replacing the bearings on the packers of his air drill.

"The bearings on my Flexi-Coil 5000 drill last quite some time, so when they go, it's often impossible to pull them off the packers to change them out," Peters says. "They're manufactured with surprisingly thin steel, so damaging or completely wrecking them is easily done as they get seized to the shaft."

Peters imagined a puller that applied pressure to both the packer wheel and the weld on the center pipe might work, so he designed the pieces for an open-to-the-bottom puller and had them cut at a local welding shop. From there, he welded the three 1-in thick side and top pieces together. To manage the weight, he uses a small yard tractor loader and a chain to support and position the heavy puller.

"I slide the puller over the top of the wheel, and it fits precisely through the slot, snug enough to pull on the weld," he says. "I use a 20-ton bottle jack to apply the pulling force."

Peters says that occasionally he might apply some heat and pound on the puller a little to get things moving, but he's changed 14 bearings without damaging a single wheel.



Open-to-the-bottom puller has three 1-in. thick side and top pieces welded together.

He made the puller longer to reach the bearings between the second and third packer wheels. Once the wheels are removed, he has free access to cut off the bearing remnants.

He estimates he spent about \$500 to \$600 building the unique puller.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Peters, La Crete, Alberta, Canada (ph 780-821-0986).