



Bern Smith, Madison, Fla.: "I've found that if I run out of time painting and need to stop and come back later, wrapping the brush or roller in a plastic shopping bag keeps it soft, allowing me to resume painting later. I've come back four days later, unwrapped the plastic, and begun painting again."



"Rubber bungee cords, hooked where convenient, make great, easy-to-use hangers for cords and hoses. Just attach the bottom hook to the top hook."



"A couple of springs, short pieces of chain, and U-bolts made a simple, inexpensive lift assist for my trailer tailgate."



John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.: "A clamp and a washer can be used to prevent a cut from dropping down and splitting. This works for bigger stuff using a piece of wood."



"Fold a piece of barrier tape into a repair manual you use often. Label if needed. It saves a lot of searching."



"These socket hangers are meant to be screwed into a wall. If you use a toolbox like I do, they often slide off and get lost. The fix is to add a small bolt, pointed upward, at each end."



"To ground a vehicle battery to the frame, connect the negative terminal of the battery to the vehicle's frame using a wrench and metal clamp, making sure the connection is tight and free of corrosion. This allows the electrical current to flow properly throughout the vehicle's electrical system."



"Store a 4 by 4 and a plank behind the seat until needed. Use them for parking on a hill or changing a tire."



Buckner cut down a receiver hitch, then used mounting brackets to fit it around the scraper's pivot.

Made-It-Myself Tractor Scraper Receiver Hitch

Jeff Buckner from Canon City, Colo., created a versatile tractor scraper receiver hitch.

"The scraper is usually attached to my tractor," Buckner says. "I needed a way to attach different tools to it, so I took a receiver hitch that a Navy buddy gave me (we served on the USS Constellation CV-64) and cut it down."

He then used mounting brackets to fit it around the scraper's pivot.

"I drilled and tapped holes for it so that I

could remove it if ever I needed to."

Buckner has a variety of tools and equipment that can fit in it.

"Along with the normal hitches, I have an engine hoist, vice, winch, engine mount, etc. I made it so that it wouldn't interfere with the basic operation of the scraper."

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Get More Workbench Space With The Tool Swing

Rich Meyer, inventor of The Tool Swing, aims to improve the functionality of your workbench. This specially designed workshop aid quickly and easily swings up a vise, bench grinder, sander, chop saw or other tool, then swiftly unlatches and swings it out of your way.

"Growing up on a farm with an innovative father, I learned to create solutions," Meyer says. "In the early 90s, my cramped garage led to the invention of The Tool Swing. I quickly realized its potential, then patented and designed versions for vises and bench grinders."

Meyer currently offers two models: one for a vise and the other for a bench grinder. The bench grinder model is rated for over 500 lbs. and made of 10-ga. steel, broken in four directions. It's laser-cut and CNC-formed from a 10-ga. PO plate.

The vise model is made of 1/4-in. plate, broken in four directions to create a highly solid vise platform with 3/8-in. thick swingarms. Both are laser-cut and durable enough to last several generations. Meyer plans to offer lighter-duty models in the future.

"Anyone with limited workbench space can use The Tool Swing," he says. "I don't know of any other device like it out there."

The Tool Swing Vise costs \$395, and The Tool Swing Grinder is \$260, with free shipping within the contiguous United States, on the Paragon Pro Manufacturing website. "This has been a long time in the making,"



The Tool Swing easily swings up a vise, bench grinder, chop saw or other tool, then quickly unlatches and swings it out of your way.

Meyer says. "I've done a lot of the work myself in my little backyard shop—welding, cutting, threading, you name it. Now I'm partners with Paragon Pro Manufacturing. They'll be producing and marketing The Tool Swing."

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