



John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.: “In Vol. 49, No. 3, Rick Nudd shared a tip for using a box, especially open-front boxes from discount grocery stores, to disassemble and reassemble small items like carburetors. It’s a great idea. Consider lining the box with a bath towel. The parts won’t bounce or slide, and if you don’t finish, you can fold the towel inside to keep everything in place.



“Cargo straps are a total pain. So I took a wall hook rack and made a removable hanger for straps. It’s hung on a ladder we use maybe once a year. I get double use of the space.



“A paint bucket used as a stool helps you keep a steady hand while working at low levels. Leave the lid on for a wider base, especially when sitting on soft dirt.



“Taping a nail to the clip on a test light makes a good handle and is easier on the fingers.



“Screwing a piece of auto brake line onto an air hose blower makes a very precise blower for tall or hard-to-reach places.”

Darrell Cooper, Chillicothe, Mo.: “When splitting or having a hydraulic or oil line open, wrap aluminum foil around the line. This keeps dirt out of the oil line until you get it fixed. The foil can form to various shapes.
“To keep oil containers clean, store them in a 5-gal. bucket with a lid.”



Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “When my ATV wouldn’t start, I knew loading it onto my trailer would be a challenge. I’d been meaning to mount a winch on the trailer hitch for years. I even bought a hand-crank winch for that purpose about 20 years ago. It was cheap, and I couldn’t justify a 12-volt winch.

“Necessity is the enemy of procrastination. To load the ATV, I finally got around to mounting the winch. I had a large piece of channel iron in the junk pile. It was oversized for the trailer tongue but wide enough to mount the winch.

“I drilled holes in the channel iron to match the existing holes in the winch and bolted it in place. After setting it in place on the trailer tongue, I drilled a hole through both sides of the channel iron and the tongue, then pinned it in place.

“Winching the ATV onto the trailer to haul it to a repair shop was easy. The winch strap also provided an additional way to secure the ATV, in addition to my usual ratchet straps.

“As described in my ‘Best Buy’ in this issue, my 22-year-old Honda ATV was a goner, fit only for parts. Since the trailer was nearly as old and showing its age, I decided to buy a new trailer before bringing home a new ATV.

“I suppose it’s possible I’ll mount my winch on the new trailer tongue before another 20 years go by. We’ll see.”

Stephen Herlocker, Laurinburg, N.C.: “Old bolt bins make handy storage for sockets (metric and ASAE). It’s not original, but it’s easier than trying to keep sets.”

Russell S. Smith, Waco, Texas: “Take care of what you have — it won’t need much repair, just regular maintenance. Grease is much cheaper than parts. I’m 84, and I still have almost all of the set of Craftsman hand tools I gave my Dad for Christmas in 1960.”

George Yaple, Saint Croix Falls, Wis.: “Use only non-ethanol premium gas. Even if the manual says you need not change the oil, change it.”

Richard Albrow, Silverdale, Wash.: “I’ve found that water or pool ‘noodles’ make very good pipe insulation and can be inexpensive in the fall, when stores are clearing shelves for holiday items.”

Richard Carey, Shell Rock, Iowa: “Flat cookie sheets with curved sides from thrift stores make good trays for sorting items. I lay down a paper towel for small-item teardown. The cookie sheets come in a variety of sizes and are easy to store. Handy items.”

Bed System Makes Pickup Access Easy

The Truck Bed Access System™ from DJT Innovative Solutions offers a safe, supportive way to access truck beds.

“I’ve been a pickup truck owner since my very first vehicle,” says cofounder Jeannie Tuohy.

Like millions of truck owners, she relies on her truck to haul tools, equipment and gear.

“Over the years I’ve climbed into hundreds of truck beds — and, if I’m being honest, I’ve taken a few falls along the way.”

As Tuohy has gotten older, she’s realized she still needs a safer way to access her truck.

“I no longer want to stand on my tire, balance on my bumper, or jump in and out of my truck just to reach what I need. I wanted a safer, more reliable way to gain access in, out and around my truck without compromising the way I use it every day.”

This simple idea inspired the development of the Truck Bed Access System.

“We didn’t set out to create another truck ladder. We set out to solve a problem that millions of truck owners face every day by creating a complete access system that’s safer, more secure, and more practical than anything else,” says Tuohy.

This patent-pending, fully collapsible bracket-and-ladder system is designed to provide safe access for entering, exiting and moving around a truck.

“Installation takes about 10 min on your tailgate, cab or crossbody toolbox and creates a stable, secure entry point without permanently sacrificing valuable bed space,” says Tuohy. “The ladder can be deployed in seconds, and the brackets fully collapse to prevent a trip hazard.”

It stores under one of the three bracket systems when not in use. The bracket systems are fully lockable and store inside the truck bed.

“Unlike permanently mounted tailgate steps that can interfere with everyday use or tire-mounted systems with limited



Access System kit includes a 3-step ladder, a choice of Tailgate, Cab or Crossbody Toolbox system, and mounting hardware.

functionality and storage needs, our patent-pending design locks securely in place for use, stores neatly inside the truck for transport, and preserves full bed access when not in use. It’s a complete access solution designed around how truck owners actually work, travel and use their trucks.”

The Truck Bed Access System is available with an MSRP of \$149.99. Each complete kit includes an ANSI-certified 3-step ladder, your choice of a Tailgate, Cab or Crossbody Toolbox system, all required mounting hardware, and installation instructions.

“Whether you’re a contractor, RV owner, overlander, tradesperson or simply someone who uses their truck for work and recreation, the Truck Bed Access System was designed to reduce the risk of slips and falls while making everyday tasks easier. We believe safe access shouldn’t be an afterthought — it should be standard equipment,” says Tuohy.

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Conversion Kit Turns Drawbar Into Receiver Hitch

The QuickDraw was Mark Bernegger’s idea after he grew tired of repeatedly attaching and removing a ball hitch from his tractor’s drawbar, depending on the equipment he needed to tow.

“It became a pain in the you-know-what, and I knew there had to be a better way,” Bernegger says.

After some trial-and-error models, he developed the QuickDraw, a tractor drawbar conversion kit that slides over a drawbar to create a standard 2-in. receiver hitch. No tools are required. It can be flipped 180 degrees to raise or lower the receiver to match a trailer or attachment’s height. It also features a side “lateral stabilizer” adjustment for excessive play, plus integrated loops for secure chain connection points.

“It goes on and off by way of a single pin in seconds,” Bernegger says. “It’s made of strong 11-ga. steel and universal to drawbars up to 2 3/8 in. wide by 1 1/2 in. high, typically for the most popular 50 and 60-hp tractors. It delivers the strength and flexibility you need around the farm, homestead or job site.”



Tractor drawbar conversion kit slides over a drawbar to create a standard 2-in. receiver hitch, and no tools are required.

The QuickDraw is made in Mississippi and is available on the website for \$59.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, QuickDraw, Whitetail Windows, West Point, Miss. 39773 (ph 662-295-5702; whitetailwindows@gmail.com; www.whitetailwindows.com).