

Shield Protects Garage Entry Points

A garage is the largest opening in a home, yet one of its smallest vulnerabilities can create its biggest problems. The lower corners of a garage door are common targets for rodents, insects and other pests that exploit damaged weather seals and deteriorating wood framing to gain entry.

Hern's Pro Pest Shield Protection Armor Kit was developed to address this weak spot with a durable, patented solution. Designed for universal fit, the kit consists of a manufactured seal and an aluminum auxiliary component that together form a complete protective barrier around the garage door corner.

"Often, new houses are built in what used to be fields, and the mice and rats that lived there will chew at the vinyl-rubber weather seal or the wood frame," says company owner Roberto Hern. "Our product removes the bite opportunity, so they can't grab onto anything. It's a small package that solves big problems."

Since most modern garage doors are already made of aluminum, the product creates a durable, damage-resistant aluminum-to-aluminum connection. The material is also flexible enough to conform to existing weather seals and accommodate the normal movement of a garage door without compromising the seal. Installation can be completed in less than 15 min.

The product is designed to fit a variety of framing configurations, including 2 by 4-in., 2 by 6-in. and 2 by 8-in.



Aluminum material is flexible enough to conform to existing weather seals and accommodate the normal movement of a garage door without compromising the seal.

"Garage construction varies, but security shouldn't. Our pest shield is engineered with the versatility to adapt to any architecture. This universal fit eliminates the guesswork and the 'hardware store run' cycle, providing a snug, professional-grade retrofit that looks like it was built into your garage from day one," Hern says.

Manufactured in Texas, the all-in-one kit includes matching screws and the required drill bit for installation. Available in matte black or matte white, the Pro Pest Shield Protection Armor Kit is sold throughout North America for \$44.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hern's Pro Products (ph 469-557-5758; info@hernspro.com; www.hernspro.com).

Solutions For Smoother Sliding Doors

Large sliding doors are essential for shops, storage facilities, equipment sheds and farm buildings, but keeping them secure, properly aligned and easy to operate can be challenging. Specialized door accessories from Propel Sliding Door Automation address these issues, whether the doors are operated manually or automatically.

One of the company's innovations is a patented door Cincher, designed to eliminate traditional over-center latch systems. Rather than requiring manual engagement and disengagement of a latch, the system automatically pulls the door tightly into the jamb as it closes.

"We developed the Cincher so operators wouldn't need to touch the door during remote operation," says Mark Gazda, founder and owner of Propel Doors.

The Cincher consists of two components: a jamb-mounted roller assembly and an 18-in. angled L-channel installed near the door's trailing edge. As the door nears the end of travel, the roller engages the channel and gradually pulls it inward, creating a tight seal. This action works with both manual and automated operation.

Another common challenge with large sliding doors is maintaining alignment while preventing them from blowing in or out in windy conditions.

"Most barn doors also have a lip so the doors can't blow in, but they're blown out on a windy day by convection wind," Gazda says. "Our door guides and shims keep them stable and running in a straight line."

The company's floor guides are made of durable nylon and feature a tapered design that continuously redirects doors back into proper alignment during travel. Typically, two guide sets are installed per door, providing multiple points of control for smooth tracking.

"Pushing it inward toward the lip is key to



As the door reaches the final stage of travel, the roller engages the channel and gradually pulls it inward, creating a tight seal.



Floor guides are made from durable nylon and feature a tapered design that continually redirects doors back into proper alignment during travel.

keeping a door straight and under control," Gazda says.

Manufactured in Illinois and shipped throughout North America, the guides sell for \$50 per set, including shims and mounting hardware. The Cincher is priced at \$65 per door, with all hardware included.

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Powered-Up Pipe Wrench

When even a big pipe wrench won't do the job, Dylan Rausch and his brother Dan have a solution. Their pipe wrench handle helper lets them apply hydraulic power to the task.

"We have the PIRTEK franchise for hydraulic and industrial hose maintenance and replacement for central and southern Wisconsin," explains Rausch. "Sometimes we get a challenging job, like the 3,000-lb cylinder for a big CAT loader, or an unusual one, like a cylinder on a casket stacker."

Rausch notes that they rebuild at least one hydraulic cylinder a day, as well as do hydraulic and industrial hoses and adapters while the customer waits. When muscle won't do the job, they use their stationary hydraulic power pack with their handle helper jig.

The jig consists of a short piece of 5/16-in. square steel tubing sized to slip over the pipe wrench handle.

"We drilled a hole in the tubing and welded a nut over the hole," says Rausch. "A matching bolt with a short piece of steel rod welded to its head serves as a T-bar tensioner to lock down the pipe wrench handle."

The tubing is welded to a piece of approximately 4 by 6-in. 5/16-in. steel plate. Two pillow-block bearings, welded to the side opposite the tubing, serve as a clevis hitch for the eyelet on the end of the cylinder rod. Once the wrench is in place and the jig is



Bracket pinned to hydraulic cylinder eye.

tightened, Rausch slips a trailer pin through the clevis and the rod eye.

"It works great for loosening a cylinder head, coupling port, nut or any other component that doesn't want to move," says Rausch.

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Customers in the agricultural, trucking and industrial markets want a more visible lubricant that can be easily seen through sight glasses and tubes, while also making it easier to identify the source of a leak.

They're Adding Dye To Fluids

For nearly 40 years, King Oil Lubricants has manufactured premium heavy-duty motor oils, agricultural fluids, and industrial lubricants at its Hagerstown, Md., facility. Unlike private-label resellers or distributors, King Oil blends its products in-house, maintaining complete control over formulations, additive packages and quality standards.

"Recently, King Oil has begun re-adding dye to select lubricants as a direct response to customer feedback," says Caleb Ryan, King Oil Business Development Manager. "It wasn't something we had originally planned to do, but more and more customers in the agricultural, trucking and industrial markets wanted a more visible lubricant that could be easily seen through sight glasses and tubes, while also making it easier to identify the source of a leak in the field."

Ryan explains that modern refining processes remove many naturally occurring compounds that once gave lubricants their color. As a result, base oils are as clear as water, making many finished lubricants difficult to distinguish by sight alone.

"By adding a distinct dye, such as green, blue or red, the lubricant becomes much easier to identify during everyday maintenance," Ryan says. "This provides a clear visual reference when checking fluid levels, helps identify leaks, and reduces the chance of confusing one lubricant with another during service."

Currently, King Oil Lubricants adds spe-

cially formulated colorants only to its transmission and hydraulic fluid categories. The oil-soluble colorants are designed to remain stable in petroleum-based fluids. Passenger car motor oils and diesel engine lubricants are not dyed.

The company's primary customer base for dyed lubricants has been the agricultural community.

King Oil brand products are manufactured in Hagerstown, Md., and are available throughout the U.S. through its strategically located distributors.

Ryan explains that larger lubricant manufacturers focus heavily on minimizing production costs and maintaining the most competitive pricing possible. Adding dye introduces additional costs through raw materials, manufacturing processes and inventory management.

"What sets us apart from our competitors is that we see the difference in the decision to add dye to additional fluid categories where visibility provides a practical benefit for the end user," he stresses. "It's an additional cost, but at King Oil, we believe the added value of easier fluid identification, improved maintenance visibility, and faster troubleshooting provides a meaningful benefit to our customers."

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