

Ed Panchyshak, Windsor, Ontario: "If you need an owner's manual for an older model car or truck, there's a company in California that can help. Call Faxon Auto Literature at 1-800-458-2734 or write to: 1655 East Sixth St., Corona, Calif. 91719. The cost is \$10 plus \$4.95 shipping."

David Buss, Clayton, Ill.: One of the hassles of operating most dry fertilizer spreader wagons is that you have to get on or off to set the wheel-driven fertilizer buggy



gears by hand to put the rig in and out of gear. Buss solved the problem by welding a small hydraulic cylinder to brackets on the side of the tank and then connecting it to the length of chain used to lift the drive wheel off the ground wheel. Now, just a touch of the hydraulic cylinder raises or lowers the wheel. "It's convenient for transport and makes it nice when crossing waterways and the like," notes Buss.

Roland Schild, Greenview, Ill.: You'll get a better grease job with an air-powered grease gun, according to Schild, who bought his gun at a NAPA auto parts store. He mounts the grease gun, which fits on top of a 5-gal. bucket of grease, on a 2-wheeler to make it easy to move around. It hooks up to a conventional air hose.

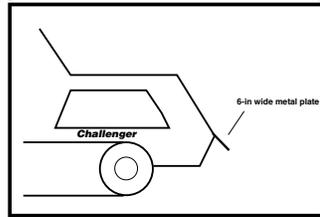


Wayne Hutsul, Southgillies, Ontario: "Last winter the fan belt broke on my furnace. Not having a spare belt, I looked all over the farm for an extra one from another application. Then I recalled that panty hose or nylons can be used in an emergency. I dug out a pair of my wife's panty hose and made up the length required, and then tied it down over the fan belt pulley and motor. It worked fine until I was able to get a replacement belt." (*Countryside Magazine*)

Gary Molnar, Leonard, Mich.: "I use a paint pen to write the size of wrench needed for the oil plug and type of filter needed under the hood of all my vehicles. This allows me to have the right tool when I go under the vehicle, saving time.

"One other thing I do is to use dental tools to get into tight spots to clean. They're strong and there's nothing like them for certain jobs."

Gary Branum, New Madrid, Mo.: "My Caterpillar Challenger 65 had problems with the radiator getting clogged with dust. I solved the problem by mounting a steel plate at the front of the tractor under the big



screen. It stopped the big fan from making a whirlwind that sucked dirt from the ground.

"Another idea that works well for us is a seat I built that slides onto the tow hooks of my GMC 4-WD pickup. It rides low to the ground, extending out to the left side of the truck. We use it to flag fields for grading land. I use a Calc-N-Acre monitor to measure the distance for flags."

Allen & Linda Gullikson, Lonepine, Mont.: "This drill press 'table saver' lets

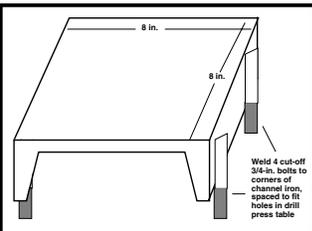
FARM SHOW

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 farm 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.

Mark Newhall, Editor



you drill holes through without marring the drill press table. We used an 8-in. square piece of channel iron, welding four 3/4-in. bolts to the corners that are spaced to fit holes in the drill press table. You can clamp your work to the table saver with a vise grips or small C-clamp. When you get too many holes in it, you just throw it away and make another one."

Roland Schild, Greenfield, Ill.: Schild made a spring-loaded, cantilevered work light that'll extend 18 ft. out from the wall.



Equipped with a 300 watt halogen bulb, he simply patterned the light after a small desk lamp. He took measurements off the small lamp and increased them proportionately, using 1-in. sq. steel tubing and three garage door springs to hold it in place. The light pivots on the end of the hinged arm, and it swings 180°, so it can be positioned at almost any angle. Schild built another light for another wall of his shop that reaches out 12 ft.

Jim Kaufman, Moundridge, Kan.: "Over time, field cultivator shanks tend to straighten out so that sweeps no longer run level. Rather than attempting the difficult task of recurving the shank, I bend the sweep. The method I use is to clamp the pointed end of the sweep in a vise. Then I

slip a 3 to 4-ft. length of pipe over the shank portion of the sweep and let the pipe hang free. Using a torch, I heat the shank at the point where it meets the body of the sweep. The weight of the suspended pipe causes the sweep to slowly bend. With a little practice, sweeps can be easily and safely bent to any desired angle. I've used this technique on all sizes of sweeps and have never had a sweep break at the point at which it was bent.

"An inexpensive method of building a high volume air compressor is to use a small compressor and a large volume tank. I use a 300-gal. tank off an old NH3 applicator. These tanks are cheap, fairly readily available, and heavily built. To save shop space, the tank can be placed outside. In the past I used a piston-type automotive air conditioning compressor powered by a 2-hp. motor. But under heavy use these compressors have a limited life since they rely on freon for internal cooling. When used as an air compressor, they eventually overheat. To avoid this problem, I switched to a compressor from an ammonia rather than a freon system. These compressors can be found in old locker and meat processing plants. The compressors have fans and fins for air cooling and are heavily built. For an investment of approximately \$150, I now have a compressed air system that handles any air tool."

Tom Schmitz, Harlan, Iowa: If you have trouble getting sweeps to penetrate hard ground, fiddle with the bolts on top of the sweeps, tilting the sweep forward a bit. He's made the modification on his Deere 875 cultivator. "It changes the pitch on them. Real easy and inexpensive." (*Iowa Farmer Today*)

Francis Roberts, Seligman, Mo.: "My simple corrugated metal cutter is a great way to cut through corrugated sheet metal roofing or siding, whether you're cutting straight across or at an angle," says Roberts, who made his metal cutter out of scrap materials.

He made it with four 2 by 4's and two 1-in. boards. The bottom two 2 by 4's nail to the top of the two 1-in. boards in an "H" configuration, spaced only about 1/8 in.



Adjustable Table Makes Welding A Snap

"It makes welding a snap because you can adjust the table to any height that's comfortable for working," says Sam Ellis about a heavy-duty welding table that raises and lowers hydraulically on scissors legs.

Ellis, of Chrisman, Ill., bought the table, which was originally built for working on lawnmowers, five years ago at an auction for \$200.

It has a 3 by 5-ft. top that Ellis recovered with 3/8-in. thick steel. A 2-in. air-operated cylinder mountS in the table's scissors system to adjust height from as low as 8 in. off the ground to as high as 4 1/2 ft.

To vent welding fumes out of his 48 by 68-ft. shop, Ellis built a 5 ft. sq. hood out of sheet metal and suspended it above the table with chains from the ceiling. The hood contains a small electric squirrel cage-type furnace fan that blows fumes out of the building through an 8-in. dia. vent pipe attached to the hood.

"Besides welding, we also use the table to spray paint small parts and the hood is also great for venting paint fumes," says Ellis.

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