

# Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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that swivels on a pair of telescoping pipes, allowing vertical or horizontal clamping. It can also be removed for full flat surface welding. The biggest advantage of this welding bench design is that I can't put a lot of junk on it that would obstruct my welding work."

**Max R. Fitzpatrick, Whiteland, Tenn.:** "I have an outside ramp built out over an incline alongside our driveway. Works well as a pit to service and change oil and is comfortable for the operator because he lays on an incline.

"When working inside, I drive onto a rectangular frame made from two pieces of channel iron about 10 ft. long and 12 in. wide, with cross bars welded at either end. I drive onto the C-channel, then hook my engine lift onto the front and raise the vehicle enough so I can work on it. As a safety precaution I block up the front end with heavy wooden blocks."

**John Haldemann, Chinook, Montana:** "My Hesston stack mover was great for hauling hay, except when the terrain was a little rugged or rocky, as it is on much of my ranch. The stack mover tended to bounce and shake when there was no load on it, and when it was loaded, it had very little flex, so we had to go slow with it. To help it handle our terrain better and enable us to pull it faster,

we removed the original walking beam axles and replaced them with the axles and suspension from a new 10-ton trailer. The springs really made a difference. Now it handles loads better at higher speeds.

"Replacing the original axles with the trailer axles was simple. It did raise the bed of the stack mover and the feeder about two inches, but that really hasn't made a difference in loading or unloading stacks."

**PFW Systems Corp., 850 Medway Park Crt., London, Ontario, Canada N6G 5C6 (ph 519 474-3300):** Next time you have trouble finding a repair part, you might want to check out a new Website that lists more than a million parts from North American farm equipment dealers and manufacturers.

"Go to [www.partfinder.pfw.com](http://www.partfinder.pfw.com) to search for the part you need. You can search the entire database or search by your own state or geographic area.

The "PartFinder" database got its start just a year ago but has already signed up hundreds of dealers and vendors, who list their complete parts inventories. However, most of the parts in the database are parts that have been sitting on dealer's shelves for a year or more. They normally don't list everyday parts because they know they'll sell those anyway. There's no charge for using the service. Dealers pay a fee for posting parts to the Website.

## "Can't Fail" Product Stops Battery Corrosion

After listening to his father complain for years about always having to clean corrosion off battery cables on his tractors, Avre Papst, who was teaching school in Omaha, Nebraska, mixed some common household products into a paste and applied it to the cable ends and battery posts.

Six years later, there was still no corrosion on the cables or the battery posts. At that point, Papst figured there just might be a market for his concoction, so he began investigating a way to produce and package the stuff.

To see if it really would sell, he got it into the hands of friends, neighbors and relatives. When it performed just as well for them as it did on his father's old John Deeres, he went into business.

He loaded up a van with Goo-It and headed out on the road. Living out of the van, he drove thousands of miles calling on retailers who sold automotive parts and on farm equipment service shops.

That was about two decades ago. Since that time, he's sold enough product to treat the battery posts and cables on 1.5 million cars, trucks, tractors, combines, etc.

While he won't say what's in it, Papst does acknowledge that it's non-toxic and the ingredients can be commonly found in most homes. "It's a sealant, neutralizer and an emulsifier. It also enhances electrical conductivity," he says. "It won't burn, has no odor and is totally non-corrosive. And it doesn't contain any petroleum products. Petroleum is an insulator and once it gets between the posts and the cable ends, it drops voltage, which can damage some electrical components."

"I knew from the beginning that you could increase battery life if you could keep current flowing and cables and posts from corroding," he says. In some cases, customers say they can double lead acid battery life.

He calculates that for every \$1 spent on his product, users save as much as \$50 in



**"Goo-It" is designed to treat battery posts and cables. It's sold in 2-oz. tubes or 1-lb. tubs.**

increased battery life, labor, materials, and decreased downtime.

"You need to use this only once during the life of a battery. I sell most of the product in 2-oz. tubes, which contain enough product to last the lifetime of a battery," he says. "He also sells Goo-It in 1-lb. tubs for use with commercial fleets, and in automotive and farm shops.

"I give a money-back guarantee with the product and my name, address and phone number is on every package. In all the years it's been on the market, I've never had one complaint about it not working. The only way this product will fail is if you fail to use it," says Papst.

In addition to protecting lead acid batteries and cable ends, it will also keep moisture and dirt out of other electrical connections. It is exceptional for protecting electrical connections for monitors and controls on planters, fertilizer and herbicide application equipment, even where highly corrosive fertilizers are used. He says a study on using it to protect dry cell batteries and their connections looks promising.

Suggested retail price for a 2 oz. "toolbox-sized" tube of Goo-It is \$9.95. His commercial sized 1-lb. package lists for \$39.95. If you order from him direct, shipping is included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Avre Papst, Fullerton, Neb. 68638 (ph 308 536-2618; fax 308 536-2571).



Gilbertson welded two 20-ft. sections of steel I-beams together to make this 20-ft. long, 30-in. wide workbench. Note receiver hitch built into bench (at left in photo).

## I-Beam Workbench Built Like An "Anvil"

Russ Gilbertson is pretty sure no one is going to carry off the workbench he and his father Ron built for their repair shop in Glasgow, Montana.

Gilbertson does a little farming, and has a small beef herd. He also sells and repairs trailers.

"We needed a substantial workbench for the shop," he says. "I looked around the farm and came across some steel I-beams that had been around for awhile. We got them for nearly nothing when our old high school was torn down. The flat sides of the beams are 15 in. across, so we welded two 20-ft. sections together to make a 20-ft. long, 30-in. wide workbench."

Gilbertson says the steel in the beams at their thinnest point is 1/2 in. thick.

"We put four legs made of 3-in. square tubing on front and mounted the back side of it to the wall. The worktop is about 30 in. off the floor," Gilbertson adds.

To mount tools, they welded trailer hitch receiver tubes at various locations along the front edge of the table. Then they attached

hitch insert tubes to their shop tools, including a vise, bench grinder and hydraulic hose maker. "This method holds the tools solidly, but makes it easy to move them where we need them, or just take them off if we have to put something big on the bench," he says. "There are some old rivet holes, about an inch in size, in the top that come in handy for bending things, too. As heavy as it is, you can use it just like you would an anvil. And because it's steel, it makes a good welding table too."

He figures the entire bench cost less than \$200. "These old I-beams are really good quality steel. Welding them together took some time, but wasn't all that difficult," he adds. "I don't know how much the bench weighs, but we had a heck of a time getting it up into place, even using the tractor to lift it."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Russ and Ron Gilbertson, RR1, Box 4855, Glasgow, Mont. 59230 (fax/ph 406 228-8900).

## Tool Removes Lawn Mower Blades

Have you ever mowed the yard with a dull blade because you didn't want to go through the hassle of taking it off to sharpen it?

If so, you'll be interested in this new tool that makes it easy to remove and install blades.

It simply fits over the blade. Tabs on either side hold it in place. You put your socket wrench through the center to reach the bolt and hang onto the tool's rubber-gripped handle.

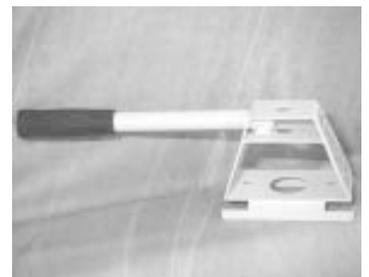
"It eliminates the need to grab the blade with your hands or use something to block the blade," says Larry Holstein, who along with Kevin Sterling invented the tool. "For mowers equipped with a large brake or mandrel, an adapter can be bolted onto the bottom of the tool. The adapter extends beyond the brake or mandrel and allows the tool to catch either side of the blade."

Sells for \$49.95 plus \$10 S&H (\$18 S&H in Canada).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry Holstein, 4606 S. Gid Hall Pt., Inverness, Fla. 34452 (ph 352 726-4931) or Kevin Sterling, 16315 S.E. 92nd Ave., Summerfield, Fla. 34491 (ph 352 307-5700; Website: [holstein@citrus.infi.net](mailto:holstein@citrus.infi.net)).



Tool fits over blade and is held in place by tabs on either side.



You put your socket wrench through the center to reach the bolt and hang onto tool's rubber-gripped handle.