Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Jim Hafner, Chatfield, Minn.: "I had a belt that had been slipping on my

riding mower for quite a while. I tried various belt dressings over the years without much luck. I went searching on the internet for a solution and came across the idea of using rubberized undercoating for



cars. I picked up a can from Walmart for \$4.77 and tried it. I ran the belt at idle and sprayed it where it meets the pulley for about 20 sec. It has worked great now for several weeks of use. Maybe other users can give it a try and let us all know how it worked. So far, I'm impressed."



Mark Linda, Waterloo, Iowa: "When the metal body of my trusty old ShopVac rusted out, I got the idea of trying to fit the still-functioning vacuum onto the top of a plastic 5-gal. bucket. It was a perfect fit! The handle makes it easy to carry around."

Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: "I learned the hard way that you should never buy the cheap 134a refrigerant that you see on sale all over the place. This stuff is mostly propane, which is why it's so cheap at \$4 to \$5. It does not cool as well as the

new synthetic A/C fluids. I use the STP A/C Pro kit available for about \$32 on Amazon.com. Easy to use with its gauge filler kit that even a kid could handle. Just be careful because this stuff can do a lot of damage if it gets in your eyes."



Elden Reese, Jonesburg, Mo.: "I use a mixture of used motor oil and transmission fluid on rusted parts or bolts. After applying some, I soak an old sock and put it over the parts to keep them soaked. In fact, old socks often come in handy in my shop. They're a good way to keep loose parts together.

"I bought a tilting car ramp from a car dealer going out of business for \$175. I couldn't build one for that. I set it up outside on a sloping concrete pad so it's self-cleaning."

Scott W. Townsend, Spring Church, Penn.: "Having a small shop, I don't have a lot of room to attach tools to the floor – such as my metal bender, tire changer, vise, etc. So I put a pocket in the floor to accept posts made from 3-in. sq. heavy wall tubing that attach to each tool. When done, just pull the tool out and store it out of the way."

Terry Morgel, Avon, Minn.: "When I buy products in aerosol cans, I write the date on the cans with a permanent marker so I can always tell which cans are older and use those up first."

Donald Bunch, Aberdeen, Miss.: "There are times I just need a little 'swoosh' of air

to blow something off. Not enough to mess with an air compressor. Instead, I keep a little 1-quart pumpup sprayer nearby to use. It works surprisingly well."



Steiner Tractor Parts (www.steinertractor.com; ph 800 234-3280): You can update your Farmall tractor's worn governor rockshaft bearings, seals,



and bushings with Steiner's new governor rockshaft repair kit. It's designed to fit IH/ Farmall A, B, C, Supers, $100,\,130,\,200,\,$ and 230 models.

The 11-piece kit includes a key and pin, bushing, 2 needle bearings, a plug, bumper spring, felt seal and retainer, and gasket. Sells for \$89.94 plus S&H.

Bill Knutson, Centerville, S. Dak.:

"I made this simple tool that makes releasing pressurized hydraulic couplers as easy as turning a T-handle. I removed the ball and spring from a coupler and screwed on a 4-in. long nipple, then welded a 1/2-in. nut to the other end of



the nipple. I also drilled a 3/16-in. dia. hole in the coupler and welded a 1/2-in. threaded rod to a T-handle. Screwing the rod all the way into the nut pushes on the ball at the end of the hose and releases the pressure. Works great."



David Simpler, Elkton, Md.: "I needed a low-cost way to protect the hydraulic couplers on my skid loader, so I cut up an old heater hose that I already had into 3 to 4-in. lengths that friction fit onto the coupler. I used 1-in. hose for the male coupler and 1 3/8 in. hose for the female coupler. The hoses keep water out of the couplers. Works great.

"I wanted a spreader bar that I could use with my skid loader to pick up equipment, so I ordered some chain hooks and used a standard 3-ft. long, Cat. I drawbar to serve as the bar. It's lifted by an I-bolt through a hole in the center of the drawbar, with chain hooks attached to both ends with small hitch pins and clips. The photo shows the spreader bar being used to lift a disk off the ground. It does a nice job of balancing the load."



Andy Sewell came up with the idea of making a 3-handed sandblast cabinet, cutting up a second cabinet and adding half of it to his existing cabinet.

"3-Handed" Sandblast Cabinet

"I made what I think might be the world's first 3-handed sandblast cabinet," says Andy Sewell, North Yorkshire, England.

"I cut up a second cabinet and added half of it to my existing cabinet so now there are 3 hands. I can easily reach the blast gun through either of the two right hand holes. The extra hand lets me hold parts very close to the blast gun for detail work or further away.

"If I had enough room in my shop I would have added a fourth hand to the left side as well, using the remainder of the cabinet.

"I added a fine screen inside the cabinet so even very small parts don't drop down into the hopper. The screen is recycled from a bent front grille off a tractor. The hopper also has a sight gauge.



"The extra hand lets me hold parts very close to the blast gun for detail work or farther away," he says.

"This sandblast cabinet is more useful than ever with these improvements."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Andrew Sewell, North Yorkshire, England (classiccombines@aol.co.uk).

Flange Bushing Rebuild Kit Saves On Planter Repair Costs

"Our new flange bushing kit for planters makes old and worn parallel linkage arms and bushings work better than new. All the wear takes place on replaceable parts instead of on your planter's parallel linkage arms," says Dave Burgei, S.I. Distributing, Spencerville, Ohio.

He credits the idea for the flange bushing kit to Ron Jackson and his son Cody, who farm near New Boston, Mo.

According to Burgei, worn parallel linkage arms and bushings are a common problem with today's planters and, with the newer high-speed planters, the likelihood is that the problem will only get worse. "In the past, worn parallel linkage arms and bushings have always had to be replaced with new and expensive ones," says Burgei. "With our flange bushing kit, there is no longer any wear on the parallel linkage arms. All the wear is on the kit's replaceable parts."

Those parts include a hardened flange bushing with a small built-in "dowel" that fits into a hole drilled into one side of the arm, and a threaded hex bushing that fits into the flange bushing. The operator drills a small hole into the arm for the dowel, and reams out the existing worn hole in the arm a little larger for a more precise fit for the bushings. A special shoulder bolt holds the 2 bushings together.

"The dowel locks itself into the arm to keep the flange bushing from turning. The design keeps the bushings and arms tight so that the wear now takes place on the bushings instead of the parallel linkage arms," says Burgei.

The flange bushing kit is designed for John Deere, Case IH, Kinze, and New Holland



"With our flange bushing rebuild kit, all the wear takes place on replaceable parts instead of on your planter's parallel linkage arms," says Dave Burgei, S.I. Distributing.



Flange bushing has a small built-in "dowel" that fits into a hole drilled into one side of parallel linkage arm, and a threaded hex bushing that fits into the flange bushing.

planters. Price varies from \$65 to \$119 per row depending on the make and model of the planter.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, S.I. Distributing, 13540 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, Ohio 45887 (ph 800 368-7773; www.sidist.com).