

Charles Matthews, Petersburg, Tenn.: “Here’s a simple idea if you ever need a gasket to stop a minor leak that’s not caused by pressure on an odd-shaped housing. This will work if you can open the cover a fraction of an inch but don’t want to take the whole assembly apart. For example, I used this idea on a Case rear tractor axle and on a differential flange on a 1959 Ford.

“Coat a long thin piece of string with flexible permatex gasket sealer, then hang it up to dry. Once it’s dry, loosely coil it into a ziploc bag and keep it until needed.

“To use, separate the assembly just far enough to tuck the coated string into the gap using a thin flat screwdriver. Be careful not to damage the existing gasket. Overlap the ends on the string on either side of the leak. Retighten the assembly and you should be good to go.”

Robert Moulder, Cheboygan, Mich.: “One of the leading causes of house fires is lint in dryers. You should clean out the lint after every use. One of the best ways I’ve found to get all the lint out is to use an old toothbrush. Really works well.”

Joe Pietsch, Warren, Mich.: “In your recent article about the 17-year-old boy who was restoring an antique tractor, he said he broke the heads off bolts and had to drill them out.

“Here’s a better way to remove bolts that break off flush. Drill a hole in the end of a piece of strap iron that’s a bit smaller in diameter than the bolt. Put the strap iron hole over the bolt and arc weld the strap iron to the bolt. Let the bolt cool and then turn it out.”

Kevin C. Jones, Bradford, Ohio: “When you throw away an old dishwasher, keep the bottom rack. It’s great for organizing various sockets and wrenches

and has rollers so you can roll it under a workbench out of the way. Another benefit is that it’s made of wire so dirt and dust fall through.”



Al Cavasin, Concord, Mich.: “Do you ever have trouble finding an equipment manual or parts list when you need it? Because I’ve kept every piece of literature that came with whatever I’ve bought over the past 40 years, I had drawers and cabinets filled with paper. When I needed something, I’d have to search through the pile, getting everything greasy in the process.

“So several years ago, I bought 20 3-ring binders and a heavy-duty 3-hole punch. I separated the manuals into groups that made sense like “MF235D & Implements” or “Garage Power Equipment” and “Stationary Power Tools”. In some cases I cut apart manila file folders to use as dividers, labeling the tabs.

“I made big labels for the front of each book that tell what’s in them, slipping them into the transparent plastic covers on the outside. Now I don’t have to search for hours. I just grab the book I need.”



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 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 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

Henry Bergfelder, Harrington, Del.: “I always had trouble with female quick couplers leaking. I solved the problem by putting zip ties between the 2 cam locks. Works great.

“I’ve had trouble with the LockNLube grease coupler that other people seem to like. I found that it wouldn’t stay on the grease fitting and is useless in tight places.”

Ron Mason, Beaufort, N.C.: “I use Kiwi shoe polish on my table saw. I live in a very damp environment on the coast. If I put a coat of clear Kiwi on the cast iron saw table, it’s good to go for a year. Works good on shotgun barrels, too.”

the blade normally. Just be careful not to go too fast.”

Paul Peyton, Ava, Mo.: “I used JB Weld to fill deep rust pits in a tractor 3-pt. hitch hydraulic cylinder. I honed it down until smooth, then polished with wet/dry sandpaper – 600 grit – 1000 grit – 1500 grit. Worked perfect.”

Steve Schurman, Randolph, Neb.: “Recently I had to deal with 6 twisted-off manifold bolts in a John Deere cylinder head. I remembered some tricks I’d read about in FARM SHOW and decided to try them.

“When I heated the head with a torch and applied candle wax, it flared up and lit my beard on fire. Then I welded a washer to one of the bolts, applied more wax, and burned my eyebrows off. Finally, I welded a nut to the washer, applied more wax, and soon had to leave the shop to go get ‘first aid’.

“When I returned 20 min. later, I applied PB Blaster to the bolt. Started working the nut with a wrench and it came right out. The rest of the bolts came out the same way.

“If a moron like me can do this, anybody can. Thanks to all the guys who’ve sent in their ideas for dealing with this situation. A machine shop would have charged a fortune to extract the bolts. Next time, though, I’ll use 24-in. barbecue tongs to apply the candle wax.”

David Smith, Crystal Falls, Mich.: “On my old combine the belts are worn and slip when cold. I put just a little bit of Pine Tar adhesive on the belt. That solves the problem.”



James Nicholson, Lisbon, Ohio: “I work on small engines and had need of a puller to remove an exhaust valve seat. I had recently been to a local garage sale and I purchased some small gear puller legs. I decided I could make a puller out of one. I cut one leg in half and welded it into a 3/8-in. threaded bolt coupler. Now it screws onto my seal puller and works great.”



Tom Cogger, Washburn, Wis.: “I always used to have trouble with crimped wire connectors not holding. Inevitably, I’d crimp them and then they would fall off when I went to attach the wire. I came up with an easy fix. Take a needle nose pliers and pull off the plastic part of the wire connector. Cut a short length of electrical shrink tubing and slip it over the wire. Crimp the connector to the endpiece and then slide the shrink tube over the connector and shrink it with heat from a heat gun. The result is a tidy secure connector that works and looks great. I use the same idea when attaching alligator clips to wires to make electrical wire jumpers.”



Glenn A. Haley, Andover, N.H.: “A quick and easy way to thoroughly shake a spray paint can is to attach it to the blade in a reciprocating saw. Just use a couple hose clamps to hold the can on the blade and insert



Extension ladder is suspended horizontally below shop loft when not in use, and is hinged at one end. It can be lowered to floor by releasing a rope tied to a boat cleat mounted on shop wall.

30-Ft. Extension Ladder Tucks Under Shop Loft

C.J. Bunce needed a ladder to get up to the loft above his dad’s shop, but he didn’t want it to take up valuable floor space. So he converted a 30-ft. extension ladder into an “attic ladder” that’s easy to raise and lower when needed. The ladder is suspended horizontally just below the loft when not in use, and is hinged at one end allowing it to be lowered to the floor by releasing a rope tied to a boat cleat mounted on the shop wall.

He bought the 30-ft. extension ladder at an auction for \$10 and hinged the upper end by inserting a length of pipe through the top rung of the ladder and hanging the pipe between two of the shop’s rafters. The rope rides over a pair of pulleys bolted to the shop’s rafters, with one pulley located above the bottom of the ladder and the other above the wall cleat.

Bunce releases the rope from the boat cleat to let the ladder down, and pulls on the rope to raise the ladder back up.



Upper end of ladder hinges on a pipe that runs through ladder’s top rung.

to drag out a big extension ladder which is cumbersome and heavy, especially if there’s much stuff inside the shop. Permanent stairs weren’t worth the cost or the wasted floor space.”

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