

**David Simpler, Elkton, Md.:** "I bought a used 6-ft. Bush Hog for some woods work and needed it in good working condition but the blades were like an old sway-back butcher knife. I bought new ones and went to take the nuts off. The impact gun just spun the nuts, so I had someone hold a 24-in. pipe wrench on the head of the bolt. It still spun and flattened the teeth on my pipe wrench. Now mad, I got my torch out, burned them off the best I could, and got the blades off but needed to burn more up closer to drive the bolt through the top of the mount. Finally, a light switch came on and my brain engaged. I should have welded the bolt head to the blade, then ground it off once out, or used a grinder to cut two flats on the head of the bolt for a wrench."



**Jack Griffith, Venus, Texas:** "To center a drill when drilling into a stepped hole, I stack fender washers on the bit that match the diameter of the hole I'm drilling into the bottom of. In this case, I used a stack of nuts to put the washers at the depth I wanted to drill the hole."

**Daniel Alderfer, Carbondale, Colo.:** "If you're having trouble with small hydraulic leaks, I've had excellent experiences using the BlueDevil Hydraulic Stop Leak to swell existing O-rings, etc."



**David Simpler, Elkton, Md.:** "I've found a great use for tote metal cages - parts storage. Cut out about 18 in. for access. Load and stack them up. Works great."

**Ron Shank, Morrison, Ill.:** "I read the tip by a reader who suggested heating a zerk to get it to take grease. Extreme caution should be used in doing this. I found out the hard way while heating a seized loader pin. Pressure blew the ball out of the zerk, requiring surgery to remove it from my arm. It could've been an eye or worse."

**Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.:** "We do tree cutting and sometimes I have four saws on the job. I take the boot off the saw and mark one edge with a black marker. Then, if the saw chain needs sharpening, I turn the boot black edge up. This helps to not have dull saws on the job."

"I used to dread putting tire chains on our tractor, loader and forklift in the winter. I found it works well to lay out the chains on the ground behind the wheel and then back up onto the chain and attach each end of the chain to the wheel with rubber tie downs or rope. Then I back up until the chain comes around the tire."

**Herb Gurski, Calgary, Alta.:** "I needed a way to hold nuts and bolts for storage and to take them out of the shop when needed. So, I washed out some used liter-sized oil containers and cut off the spout at about a 45-degree angle. It enlarges the opening and leaves a little lip or handle on the end. I put them in a plastic milk crate, nine at a time. Makes them easy to store and carry out to the field. I write the contents on top of each container."



**Don Buse, Mount Morris, Ill.:** "My dad purchased this 1003 Simplicity rototiller back in about 1977. It was used so it's 45 plus years old. The Briggs and Stratton 3-hp. engine wore out 10 or 12 years ago, so I put an old blower motor on it off of a furnace with a regular household switch to turn it on and off. It worked fine except for dragging a 100-ft. electric cord around. About 6 years ago, I got tired of dragging the cord around and put this Predator engine on it from Harbor Freight. It works great and starts well and there's no cord. All I had to do is buy a pulley and new belt to make the conversion. I think the holes all lined up pretty well."

**Paul Halferty, Ottumwa, Iowa:** "The steering on my riding mower got a little stiff so I figured I'd grease the spindles. One took grease easily but the other would not. I removed the zerk and clamped it in a vise. I snapped the grease gun on it, and it took grease. Screwed the zerk back onto the spindle and it still wouldn't take grease. I thought there must be caked dried grease in the spindle housing, so I jacked up the front end of the mower and rotated the steering wheel. Still no grease. I finally figured that maybe the spindle had been tightened down too much so that it bottomed out in the spindle. When I backed it off a hair, it took grease."



**Ben Parks, Austin, Texas:** "I had problems with the thinner gauge alternator bracket on my older 4-cyl. Chevy engine. It kept loosening up, so I had to constantly retighten the bolts to retention the belts. Then I found Davis Speed Equipment. They specialize in making brackets and other parts for Chevrolet inline 6 and 4-cyl. engines from 1937-89 ([www.davisspeedequipment.com](http://www.davisspeedequipment.com);

## Automated Hydraulic Implement Jack

Italy-based Simol Corporation developed the Novel Jack to take some of the frustration of connecting implements to a tractor.

The Novel Jack has an ISOBUS connector that plugs into the tractor, says Giovanni Gabella of Simol USA.

The jack attaches to the underside of the implement tongue and can be operated from the tractor cab.

Push a button and the Novel Jack will lift the implement tongue to the right height to connect to the tractor.

The Novel Jack also has sensors to help operators avoid tipping over in transit. The system's tilt sensors record the incline variations of a connected implement while moving through the field. Too much tilt and a sensor will go off to alert the operator.

For questions regarding price or ordering Novel Jack, contact the company directly.



**Novel Jack connects to tractor and can be controlled in cab.**

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mario Giacomelli, Simol USA Corporation, 18 Bridge Street, Unit 2A, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 (ph 437-981-8594; [sales.usa@simol.com](mailto:sales.usa@simol.com); [www.simolnoveljack.com](http://www.simolnoveljack.com)).

## Tree-Mounted Machinery Lift

It's easy for Marshall Berkoski to get under the equipment he's working on with the help of an old forklift mast and a big tree. When his old forklift was vandalized to the point of no repair, Berkoski salvaged what he could. The vandals had broken off knobs, smashed dials, and removed levers.

"I tried reselling it, but I had no takers," says Berkoski. "So, I took the hydraulic pump off the engine and put it on a stand. I took the hydraulic controls from the dash and replaced the levers."

He also salvaged the oil reserve tank, hoses, and mast. He connected the pump to a 16-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and ran a 10-ft. piece of pipe from the pump to the forklift mast, which he tied to a big tree.

"I used channel iron to extend the forks and added a pipe to the side of one of the forks," says Berkoski. "This lets me drive my lawn mower on, and the rear wheels sit on the saddle formed by the pipe and the fork. This ensures access to the blade spindles."

The tree gets double duty, as does the lift. Berkoski has a chain hoist hanging from a large branch. He uses it to unload stuff from his pickup.

He also uses the lift for other equipment. When his 3-pt. mounted finish mower was clumping up grass, he set it on the lift and raised it for easier modifications.

"At first, I took out the drop chains, which



**From a forklift, Berkoski salvaged the oil reserve tank, hoses, and mast. He connected the pump to a 16-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine and ran a 10-ft. piece of pipe from the pump to the forklift mast, which he tied to a big tree.**

reduced some clumping," says Berkoski. "I then removed a shield welded to the bottom of the deck at the edge of the blades. It hung down lower than the blades. Cutting it out made a world of difference. Working on it was easy with the lift."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marshall R. Berkoski, 110 W 5th St., Cantril, Iowa 52542 (ph 319-397-2205).

ph 608-469-4927). Their brackets are made of thicker gauge steel in a one-piece design that's easy to install and works much better. Bolts don't come loose."

**Norman Sletting, Rapid City, Mich.:** "I believe that beeswax works better than candle wax to remove stuck bolts. Just melt it onto the threads."

**Mark Zielinski, Harbor Creek, Penn.:** "I bought a used 2-post car lift for my shop and now I wouldn't ever want to be without it. It eliminates using a creeper and oil changes or brake jobs are much easier. Time, labor and back saver."

**Michael Munson, Preston, Idaho:** "I made an oil removal system for small engines that don't have drain plugs, like push lawn mowers. It eliminates the need to dump them over on their sides to drain oil. I cut a hole in the lid of a 5-gal. bucket and inserted a short piece of 3/8-in. metal brake line that's fitted with rubber 3/8-in. hose that's long enough to reach down into the crankcase through the filler opening. To suck out the oil, I insert a shop vac hose into the bucket to create suction. Works great and makes the job much neater."

"I use the tops from gear oil bottles to add oil to small engines and chainsaws. The tops will screw onto quart oil bottles making it much easier to get oil into small engines without spilling."



**Dan Erdman, Claresholm, Alta.:** "My riding lawn mower drive belt had been slipping. I'd put belt dressing on, and it would work for a while and then continue slipping. This morning I put a new drive belt on, and it started slipping."

"So, I took the pulley belt off and slipped a 1/4-in. thick O-ring about 4 in. in dia., over the drive pulley. We use O-rings like that on our Cat dozers. I slipped the belt back on and started up the mower. I did as much moving in 1/2 hour as I'd been doing in 2 or 3. It works great now."

"I wanted to share this with other FARM SHOW readers as it may help with a slipping belt on mowers or other equipment."