

Battery Adapters Offer Tool Flexibility

As professionals, hobbyists, and homeowners look to expand their power tool collections, they often feel limited to one brand due to exclusive battery systems. Going outside the brand means investing in additional batteries and chargers and finding storage solutions.

Battery adapters allow users to use batteries from one brand with tools from another, giving users the flexibility to choose the best tool for the job without concern for battery compatibility. Most adapters are compact and easily attached to tools.

We looked to social media accounts we follow for any standouts. "Modern Milt" from Instagram recommends two different adapters. One is the ZDTAN MIL18DL for Milwaukee M18 18V batteries to DeWalt 20V lithium-ion battery tools (\$21.99 on Amazon). The other is the Echoyee for DeWalt 18V or 20V lithium batteries to Milwaukee M18 tools (\$16.88 on Amazon).

While battery adapters offer a compatibility solution, there are a few things to consider before purchasing. Some adapters may not support all the features of the original battery, including battery life indicators.



Adapters for popular battery brands are available online at Amazon and other retailers.

Most don't contain a cut-off system to stop the battery from being used past the point of rechargeability, so it's important to stop using the battery when performance starts to drop. The adapters need to be compatible with the voltage and power requirements of the tool to avoid damage.

Cleanout Door Cut In Skid Steer Frame

Indiana crop and livestock farmer Simon Oyler has a simple way to clean out trash, dirt, and other materials from inside the pan of his and his dad's L220 and L230 skid steer loaders.

"Instead of having to vacuum or blow out all the crud from inside the chassis, I cut a small trap door on the front of the frame where the hydrostatic motors are. Now I can blow out or wash out the debris, then replace the plate cover until it's time to clean it again."

After cutting the frame, Oyler made a plate to cover the opening, then drilled tap holes and screwed the cover in place.

"It's a simple idea that doesn't affect the machine operation," Oyler says. "Now, when we tip up the cab to clean the machine, we remove the cover, and cleanout is very easy."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Simon Oyler, Delphi, Indiana.



Cut out door makes cleaning out the chassis easy.

He Stores Extra Metal In Tote Frames

Richard Arcement uses IBC tote frames as storage racks for scrap steel. Even better, by mounting the frames on a boat trailer, they're mobile. The retired sugar cane farmer and mechanic can take them wherever he needs the steel. The trailer also makes it easy to get them out of the way when he needs space in the shop.

"I store signposts, angle iron, steel pipe and pvc pipe, anything I need to pick up around the shop," says Arcement. "It's nice to have everything in one place, but also nice to be able to move it around as needed."

Arcement had the frames, and putting them on the boat trailer made the concept more user-friendly. The trailer, which once carried a small aluminum boat, was wide enough to mount one tote frame at the rear over the 12-in. wheels.

"I just welded it in place," says Arcement. "To mount the other tote frame, I needed to add some cross pieces over the trailer frame where it narrows closer to the hitch."

He welded two pieces of bed frame angle iron to the trailer frame and then welded the tote frame to it.

"Bed frame angle iron is great," says Arcement. "It's made of stress-proof steel, and you can't bend it. I use it for all kinds of projects."



Arcement had the frames, and putting them on a boat trailer made the concept more user-friendly. The trailer, which once carried a small aluminum boat, was wide enough to mount one tote frame at the rear over the 12-in. wheels.

Moving the trailer around even when loaded with steel is easy, thanks to a short boom Arcement made for his 32-hp. Ford tractor. "The boom mounts to the 3-pt., making it easy to pick up the hitch and pull or push the trailer around."

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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, Managing Editor



Larry Goodman, Ionia, Mich.: "I accidentally cut the cord while I was trimming shrubs with my electric hedge trimmer. While I was fixing the cord, I had the idea to hook a carabiner clip to my belt loop and run the extension cord through it. The cord moves easily and it's out of the way."

I've done this over 10 times without failure. It also works on some other engines."



Dale McLaen, Rutland, N.D.: "Repeated plug-ups in the fuel filter between the tank and carb caused me to follow the fuel.

"I did an autopsy on the fuel filter and found it full of tiny, black, rubber-like particles. The tank was spotless, so I cut open the rubber fuel line. It looked fine on the outside but was junk on the inside.

"The rubber line had degraded and was falling apart internally. As it did so, rubber particles found their way to the fuel filter.

"A new fuel hose fixed the problem. If you see black particles in the fuel filter, check the fuel line."



Ronald Hurst, Knoxville, Tenn.: "This is a handy, fairly inexpensive tool that turns a round hole (3/8 in.) in sheet metal into a rectangular hole, any size. I use my nibbler mostly for squaring holes in electrical/electronics projects (holes for things like digital displays, fuse holders, snap-in rocker switches, etc.).

"Nibbling tools exactly like this one sell online for anywhere from \$7 to \$16. One nibbler that I saw was a slight variation on this tool and was being sold for around \$75. It was sold as a special tool for fine trimming of new metal frets for guitar necks, but from the look of that tool and the reviews that I received, I don't think it was any better quality than the less expensive one pictured here."

Larry Harrington, Western, Neb.: "When adding the additional front generator pulleys on Deere irrigation engines, sometimes the original pulley comes loose, and the new pulley won't stay on the crankshaft. In many cases, I've machined the crankshaft straight and rebuilt the pulley without removing the crank from the engine. The engine does have to run for this to work.



Grady Hurst, Knoxville, Tenn.: "For lack of a better name, this is a 'Pedal Presser Downer' tool. You press down the gas or brake pedal of a car or truck and put this tool in place to hold the pedal down. This idea came from an auto mechanic whom