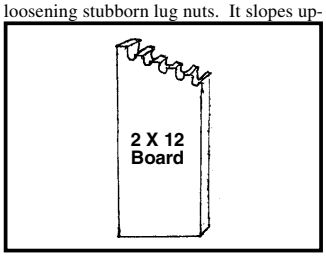
the swather frame and a new rear engine plate to hold the starter and frame mounts. I machined a stud shaft for the drive pulley to mount to the rear of the crank shaft. To cut down on air movement and to protect the operator from thrown objects, I cut the rear panel of the combine and mounted it between the engine and operator. Then I fitted the gauges and engine controls to this panel."

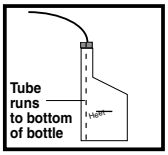
William C. Reeks, Cromwell, Kent.: "I've made a support board for using with a lug wrench or breaker bar extension when loosening stubborn lug nuts. It slopes upward along the top edge with a series of slots so you can fit it at any height.



"A 2-liter pop bottle works great to collect oil out of 'empty' 1-qt. oil containers. They fit perfect in the top of the pop bottle. You'll be surprised at how much oil you recover.

"I always had trouble steering my engine hoist around the shop. It rides on four caster wheels. To solve the problem, I clamped two 24-in. long pipe clamps to the upright mast to use like handlebars. Now I no longer have problems steering it around the shop. And the two clamps are always handy when I need them for other jobs."

George Martin, Merrimac, Wis.: "You can make a handy squeeze-type oiler out of an empty yellow Heet bottle, or other similar container, and a piece of small diameter air tube of the type used on air shocks. Cut off a piece of tubing about 2 in. longer than the height of the container. Then pierce the cap with a hole slightly smaller than the outer diameter of the tube so you've got an air-tight fit. Air pressure when you squeeze the bottle pushes oil up out of tube.



"My oiler works great to reach out-of-the-way spots on electric motors, electric fans, sprockets, etc. Lots of uses."

Vernon L. Vogel, Marion, Kan.: "I put 55-gal. oil drums on caster wheel carts to make them easy to wheel around the shop. The drums are fitted with hand pumps and hoses long enough to make it easy to service tractors and combines. Saves a lot of steps and is a clean way to handle oil.

"One labor-saving idea we came up with to handle our 62-ft., 8-in. dia. auger was to take the hydraulic leveling motor off our Deere disk and mount it on the auger to raise and lower it. Works great for going up or down."

George Holsapple, Jewett, Ill.: He built this cutting and welding center along one wall of his farm shop. It has a grid across the top made from iron bars above a sloped catch basin below that cut-off metal falls into. A sheet metal framework around the back protects the walls of the shop, and Holsapple installed a metal hood over the top which sucks away acrid fumes as they're generated and blows them outside.

Jim Murray, Lakeview, N.C.: "Here's a tip that may save other farmers some money if they own diesel engines with glow plugs. My 1985 Ford F-250 4-WD with 170,000 miles on it and had the original glow plugs in its 6.9 IH V-8 engine. Something malfunctioned in the relay/electrical circuit and the glow plugs burned out. I replaced all eight plugs with Champion plugs bought at NAPA and also replaced the relay and other electrical switches. All eight glow plugs burned out again, so I headed off to the Ford dealer. The news was bad. The glow plugs had swelled and both heads had to be taken off the engine. After 6 months, Champion finally covered the cost of the repair and admitted that they have bad plugs on the market. I had to threaten to sue and discovered through the legal process that they had nearly 20 cases like mine that they were paying off. This happened in November 1995 and as far as I know, there has been no attempt to notify NAPA suppliers to replace the bad lots. So buyers beware."

Dan Krenzel, Cullman, Ala.: "With so many different sizes of oil filters, you need to keep a variety of filter wrenches around to handle them. To make an easily adjustable wrench, cut a 3/4-in. wide strip of cardboard off the box the filter came in and line the inside of the filter wrench. A too-large wrench with cardboard inside will sometimes snug up tight enough to break a filter loose. You could make a variety of size adjustments from sheet metal."

Roy Wadsley, Nemaha, Iowa: "The locking collar came loose from a bearing allowing it to ruin the shaft. Rather than welding or replacing the shaft, I relocated the bearing by using large nuts as spacers. This moved the bearing onto an unworn area of the shaft."

Scott T. Frank, Loveland, Colo.: "I put 2-in. wide strips of industrial velcro along the top rail on each side of the bed of my Ford F-150 pickup. Then I put some under my cross-mount toolbox which holds the toolbox in position anywhere on the bed. I also apply small square patches of velcro to my tools which allows me to set them anywhere on top of the bed rail when I'm working. I even use the velcro patches on back of my cellular phone.

"Industrial velcro works well for a lot of things and has a thousand different uses."

Ryan Roiko, Wadena, Minn.: "I use my old New Holland 850 round baler to make about 600 bales a year. The roller chains wear out fast on the floor. I've had to replace the baler's seven sets of chains twice, at a cost of about $100 per chain. I solved the problem by cutting old sicklebars into 3-ft. lengths and then welding them to the center of the floor slides. The chain now rides on top of the bars.

"The cutterbars are 3/16 in. thick and 1/2 in. wide. The chain is a little wider than the cutterbar so only the rollers ride on the bar which reduces friction - and wear - on the chain. Saves wear and tear on both the chains and slides. I made the conversion three years ago and haven't had to replace any chains or slides."

Roger & Bruce Elliott, Montrose, Ill.: "We put on a 40 by 60-ft. addition with 16-ft. of clearance in 1992 so we could pull combines inside to work on them," explains Roger. "The extra ceiling height also allowed us to set up a handy storage area above our 10 by 12-ft. office, which we built in one corner of the addition."

They built four 32-in. wide heavy-duty shelving units designed to hold a variety of parts. Access is gained by climbing a ladder to the loft. They hold parts for combines and tractors.

The Elliotts built a hydraulic hose center where they make their own hose. They built a 7 1/2-ft. tall by 2-ft. wide stand out of 2-in. box tubing. It's fitted with four wood reels holding four different types of hose. A home-made cut-off machine mounts on the left side of the stand. It's powered by a 1/3 hp electric motor and uses a worn out blade off their Makita chop saw as a cutter. A Weather Head collar crimp they bought at a sale for $140 quick-taches to the right side of the stand. It handles collars up to 3/4-in. in dia. and is portable so they can take it to the field.

Another improvement the Elliotts made is a pair of extension cords suspended from the ceiling. One is a 110-volt cable fitted with a standard 3-prong plug and the other is a 220-volt cable fitted with a 50-amp plug to run their Mig welder and plasma cutter. The 50-ft. cords are wound in 8-ft. coils that hang from iron rings that slide back and forth loosely on a 9 ga. steel wire about 1 in. below the ceiling.

New-Style Adjustable Strap Wrench

You can get a firm grip on anything from the smallest pipes to the biggest oil filters with this industrial strength clamping tool from New Zealand that's just being introduced in the U.S.

The "Boa-Constrictor" consists of a heavy-duty 9-in. long plastic handle that's equipped with an oil and solvent resistant reinforced rubber strap that loops and tightens around whatever you're gripping. With a tensile strength of 4,250 psi, it's adjustable to fit anything from small pipes or jar lids up to 9-in. dia. oil filters.

Sells for $16.50 plus $3.50 S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steward Enterprises, 931 Main St., Manson, Iowa 50563 (ph 800 646-3816 or 712 469-3816; fax 2668).