James L. Cotner, Danville, Penn.: "I built a heavy-duty welding table that's unlike anything I've ever seen. The top is 7 ft. wide and 42 in. deep and is made out of 1/2-in. thick steel steel. It mounts on 4-in. dia. steel pipe legs. A large vise is welded to a

larger 4 1/2-in. dia. piece of pipe that slips up and down one of the legs so it can be positioned wherever needed by simply tightening set screws. It's useful because I can raise it up above the table or align it with the top of the table.

"I mounted a seat on one leg using another piece of 4 1/2-in. dia. pipe. The seat bolts to the pipe so I can raise it up or down as needed. It's great for working on small projects. My welding leads are on a reel under the table and the welder is on the floor off to one side.

"Altogether, I spent about $150 in parts, mostly from a scrapyard."

Curt N. Balmer, Newton, N.J.: "In regards to the owner of a 1998 GM pickup in your last issue who complained about not being able to turn off the auto-on headlights, here's how to do it. Just a light tap on the emergency brake will do it. The emergency brake has a turn-off lamp switch that will work with one click. Without applying the parking brake."

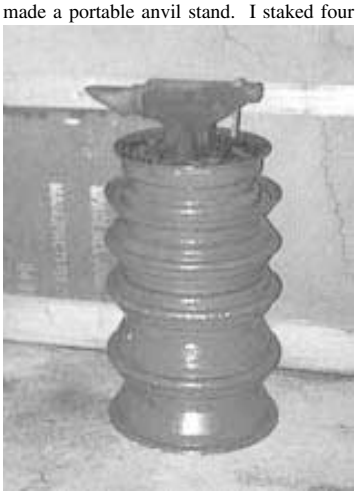
Roger Kuntz, K-Tech, Rt. 1, Box 69, Grainfield, Kan. 67737 (ph 785-673-4728): "I used to be service manager at a large farm tillage plant that made blade plows and I often found that the cause of customer complaints would be equipment not properly set up for field use. The key to setting up a blade plow is the turnbuckle. Many older machines are so worn the original turnbuckles cannot be adjusted enough. Also, original turnbuckles often have only 1-in. dia. threads.

"I decided to solve the problem with a heavy-duty turnbuckle that adjusts 50 percent further and has double the strength. It has a big 1 1/2-in. dia. adjustment screw with right and left threads. It's also fitted with grease

zerks to prevent seizing. One man can level a plow easily and quickly.

"Sells for $70 (including shipping), which is a lot less than the $100 charged by most manufacturers for replacement turnbuckles. A blade plow leveling guide is included."

Gary Staggs, Milan, Mo.: "Here's how I made a portable anvil stand. I staked four



16-in. dia. wheel rims on top of each other, with one 14-in. wheel on top. All are welded together. Then I bolted an anvil to the top. Makes a solid, heavy stand that will take all the pounding you can dish out yet you can also roll it around the shop, if necessary."

Barry Clohassey, Tignish, P.E.I.: "With good bench grinders selling for $75 to $150, I decided to build my own using a pair of 1/4 hp electric motors salvaged from old household appliances. I welded a 3 1/2-ft. length of 2-in. dia. steel pipe on top of a 15-in. dia. wheel rim, which serves as the base. A rectangular steel bracket was welded on top of the pipe and the motors were then fastened on top of it. Both motors are wired to a switch that mounts under the bracket. One motor drives a grinding wheel and the other motor drives a wire brush. I had an electrician reverse one of the motors so that both of them turn in the same direction. My total cost was only about $20.

"I also made my own chop saw by mounting a 14-in. dia. cutting wheel on the threaded end of a 1-in. dia. shaft which rides on two 1-in. pillow block bearings. The wheel is belt-driven by a 1 1/2 hp electric motor equipped

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 farm 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.

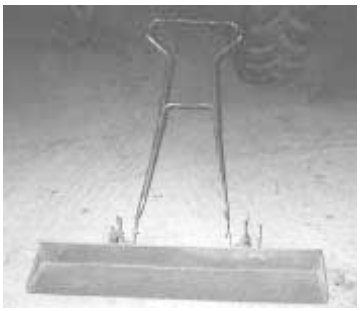
Mark Newhall, Editor

Cut-Off Saw

Grinder

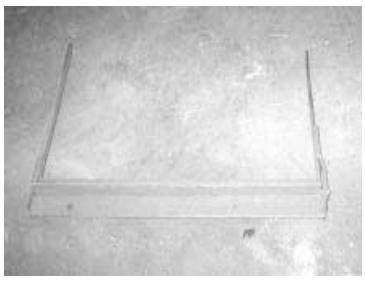
with a gear reduction pulley. The saw table is built out of sq. steel tubing and flat bar. The saw hinges on a length of sq. tubing that rides inside two short lengths of round pipe. The motor is mounted behind the saw and serves as a counter balance to keep the saw in the 'up' position until it's needed. A steel guard protects the operator. We use this saw a lot in our shop to cut anything from 3/4-in. sq. tubing up to heavy truck springs."

Dale Spoerl, Elizabeth, Ill.: "I made my own 4-ft. wide dust pan on wheels that works great for removing dried mud, metal shavings, etc., from my shop floor. The pan is made from sheet metal and is about 10 in. deep and 4 in. high at the back. The back side is connected to a the handle and rear wheels off an old lawn mower. To use the unit I just push it ahead of me as I walk. I welded the



brackets that formerly controlled the mower deck's height to the back of the dust pan, allowing me to adjust the angle of the pan.

"I used scrap steel to make a 36-in. wide



metal bender that lets me bend sheets of metal at a 90 degree angle. It's equipped with a hinged handle on each side. I place the bender in a vise with the handles straight up in the air. Then I slip the metal sheet in under a bar and use a pair of vise grips to keep the sheet in place. To make the bend I simply pull both handles back toward me. I copied it off a photo of a commercial unit. It makes a nice clean 90 bend."

Hard-To-Find Bolts, 1537 North Point, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901 (ph 888 236-9013; fax 9014): "Our company offers a low cost source of bolts, nuts, washers, screws, pins and other odd fasteners. It was created for one purpose - to provide fasteners to the customer in the exact quantities the customer requires, not in the full boxes that the regular fastener suppliers want to sell. If we don't

(Continued on next page)

Rolling Tool Cart Made From Bed Frame

"Anyone with a welder and an old bed frame can put together a low-cost rolling tool cart," says inventor Leonard Seltzer, Manhattan, Ill.

The cart rides on 4 caster wheels. Two of them are stationary and the other two swivel so the cart will easily steer around corners, etc. The angle iron frame supports two horizontal 1/8-in. thick Masonite shelves and a vertical 1/4-in. thick pegboard on back.

"It's nothing fancy but it does the job and cost very little to build," says Seltzer. "I hang wrenches and miscellaneous parts on the pegboard. I use the top shelf to store drill bits and the bottom shelf to store heavy tools. My shop is small so I had to make it compact. If my shop was bigger I would've made it 1 or 2 ft. wider so it could hold more."

Seltzer says bed frame iron is a great fabricating material. "It's thin but very strong and light, yet not so hard that you can't cut the iron with an electric band saw. I use a wire welder and 7014 welding rod, which worked well."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard W. Seltzer, 16040 W. Elwood Manhattan Rd., Manhattan, Ill. 60442 (ph 815 478-3578).