Alfred Wilson, Annville, Ky.: "I read a blurb in a recent issue about a guy who removed a broken stud by welding a nut to it. I had a similar experience that I solved a different way. My car had a broken hydraulic brake cylinder bleeder screw. It broke off level with the surface. That might have meant installing a new brake cylinder. The guy who was repairing it welded a flat washer of the right size to the broken off screw, then he welded a nut to the flat washer and turned it out with a wrench. After putting in a new screw, I was on my way."

Glen Gettemeyer, Saint Peters, Mo.: "I spray WD-40 on dirty grease fittings that are hard to work. Lots of times it helps. I often spray it on the night before and grease in the morning.

"One simple idea I use in my shop is keeping a 1-gal. can sitting on the workbench. I put screwdrivers in the can and hang pliers on the sides with one handle in and one out. Makes the tools easily visible and easy to grab. And you can take the whole can to wherever you're working."

Robert Dunton, Topeka, Ill.: Two large hinged doors separate the shop from the storage section of Robert's machine shed. He uses the large doors for storage, hanging ladders, brooms, and other items on hooks.

Lyle Bruns, Ly-Mar Mfg., Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 (ph 217 567-3675): Lyle came up with a method of cutting perfectly round holes in box steel or flat plate. He made an attachment for his cutting torch that has a pin under it to center in the proposed hole. Distance between the pin and the end of the torch is the radius of the hole.

The work table mounts on a old car wheel, fitted with a hub that attaches to a pedestal made from a pipe.

To cut a hole, he first drills a small hole in the center of the proposed hole into which he inserts the radius pin. He then simply rotates the wheel to cut out the circle.

Pete Peters, Osler, Sask.: "I made a ramp for servicing garden tractors out of 4 by 4 treated posts set into the ground. I fastened old rubber belting onto the ramps for better traction. This permanent installation makes it easy to make all kinds of routine repairs.

"Another idea I had was making a fence tool caddy out of old elevator leg buckets bolted together back to back. The buckets were bolted to each side of a piece of 3/8-in. plywood with a hole cut in the top for a carrying handle."

"Power Caulker" Runs Off Electric Drill

New Power Caulker adapts to virtually any electric drill, eliminating the need for an air compressor or bulky, heavy air lines.

The unit is made from heavy duty aluminum and steel. Power caulking saves time, reduces waste, and makes it easier to work in cold weather, says the company. Also, the ability to make a continuous bead improves the bead's appearance. According to the company, the unit can easily handle high viscosity materials.

Two models are available - one with a 10-11 oz. (1/10th-gal.) tube and the other with a 32 oz. (1 quart) tube. Both models weigh less than 3 lbs. and can be operated by either a handheld 3/8-in. cordless drill or a 110-volt corded electric drill. Both models come with a universal mounting bracket for the drill.

The 10-11 oz. model sells for $79.95 plus S&H. The 32-oz. model sells for $89.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Delta Industries, 9550 Gateway Drive, Reno, Nevada 89511 (ph 800 238-3333 or 775 853-5335; fax 775 853-3670; E-mail: sales@powercaulker.com; Website: www.powercaulker.com).

"Power caulker" works fast and eliminates the need for an air compressor.

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 e-mail us at: Editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

John Adams, Cross Plains, Tex.: "If you lose the grease retainer cap on the end of an axle, you can replace it with a beer can cut in half. Just shove it onto the end of the axle and it will stay on."

Stan McDonald, Foxboro, Ont.: "Like other FARM SHOW readers, I like to build the things I need. That often means cutting flat bars, channel iron, and so on. So I bought a powered bandsaw. The problem I ran into is that the blade on the small imported saw did not last long due to the lack of coolant. Also, the stand was flimsy. I guess you get what you pay for.

"So I built my own stand from square tubing which allows me to add coolant as I cut. The stand cost $125, not including the expense of a coolant pump. I figure the investment will pay for itself by extending the life of blades about 5 times. I've also noted that using bi-metal blades also increases blade life, when compared with dry cutting."

Don Lasee, Don's Welding & Repair, 2486 Hwy. 32, Krakow, Wis. 54137 ph 920 899-3690: "To remove an outer bearing race from a blind hole, simply weld a bead inside the race where the balls ride, wait 30 seconds, and it will come free.

"Several lengths of 3/8-in. rerod, driven into holes drilled in mortar joints in a block wall, make quick shelf supports. Drill under the web of the block above.

"I use a product called Sportsman Goop to repair the rubber steering wheel on an old tractor. After years of exposure to the sun, the rubber had dried out and cracked. Big pieces of rubber fell off, making the wheel hard to hold.

"I started with a piece of 1 1/2-in. dia. preformed radiator hose with a curve that matched the curvature of the steering wheel. I slit the hose in half and filled it with plaster of paris, then placed a piece of Saran Wrap around an undamaged portion of the wheel and taped the hose on tight around it. The shape of the rubber grips was molded into the plaster of paris. After the plaster of paris dried, I pulled the mold off, lined the plaster of paris with Saran Wrap, moved it to a bad spot on the wheel, and poured it full of goop. It takes a couple of days for the goop to dry when it's totally enclosed like this. Then I dropped the mold off, peeled off the Saran Wrap, and sanded and painted the goop black to match the rest of the wheel. I made the repair four years ago and it has held up great.

"Sportsman Goop is normally used for patching waders and boots, but we use it on all kinds of things. For example, I used it to fill a hole in a casting on a tractor to keep dirt and water out. A neighbor used the product to patch a hole in a tire on a garden tractor. Two years ago I stepped on a hot piece of iron in my welding shop and burned a hole through the sole of a new pair of shoes. I filled the hole with goop and it's still there. The product comes in a tube about the size of a toothpaste tube and sells for about $3. It's available at many hardware stores."

G.A. Henderson, Rt. 1, Box 264, Williamstown, W. Va. 26187 ph 304 464-4579; E-mail: gahenderson@aol.com): "I came up with a nifty tool-mounting system that makes it easy to move bench-mounted tools around the shop and also take them around the farm. This includes my drill press, chop saw, pipe vice, and regular shop vice. I bolt each tool to the top of a 1/4-in. thick metal plate and welded a short length of 1 1/2-in. dia. pipe to the bottom of the plate. I also drilled a series of holes into my steel work bench and welded 4-in. long, 2-in. dia. pipes into them, flush with the top of the