

Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa: "There are a million uses for duct but here's a use I came



up with a roll of tape I carry on my tractor. I ran a bunch of tape from a set of hoses to a hook on the back of my tractor. This tie-up kept the hoses from rubbing on the 3-pt. quick hitch."



Bob Sampson, Petersburg, Ill.: There are a lot of old furnace circulation fans around. Bob found a way to use one as a cooling fan in his shop. The problem was getting it placed just right. Sampson solved the problem by mounting one on a 2-wheeled stand fitted with an adjustable third leg that lets him

wheel the fan around the shop and aim it wherever he needs it. "The high-capacity fan really keeps the shop cool on hot days," says Sampson.

Dan Pierce, St. Clair, Mo.: "In the last issue of FARM SHOW, a fellow reported that his 2000 Deere Gator was leaking gas into the oil. I thought an experience I had with an Allis Chalmers 720 tractor might help. It was leaking gas into the crankcase. We tried everything to solve the problem but it turned out to be a leak in the fuel pump. The pump mounts at the top of the engine. It only leaks when the engine is not running. It turned out to be the diaphragm leaking. Once I fixed that, the problem was solved."

Greg Hemming, Esterhazy, Sask.: "I've had trouble with water getting into gas or diesel fuel tanks on tractors with a small vent hole in the fuel cap. When it rains or there's a lot of moisture in the air, I have a problem if the tractor's outside. I solved the problem



with a straight-sided liter-sized plastic pop bottle. I cut off the bottom 5 in., then made a couple V-shaped notches along the edge to vent it. Since I came up with the idea, I haven't had any more problems with water."

Leon Leinbach, New Tripoli, Penn.: "We made a modification to our Deere 6650 forage harvester. These machines do not blow haylage very well because of the long

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

spout and insufficient airflow from the blower. We simply added a small squirrel cage fan under the spout about halfway back and run it at about 1,900 rpm's. It can now blow haylage to the back of the wagon. The fan is powered by two DC 24-volt electric motors, each with one horsepower. We added two 24-volt alternators, one to the engine and one to the chopper drive. The fan starts when the cutterhead is engaged. Total cost was about \$1,750. Hydraulic power may have worked as well but this machine does not have auxiliary hydraulics."



my work bench. By laying a piece of plywood on top of the sawhorse, I can also use it as a table. The sawhorse slides back and forth on a pair of 2 1/4-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. pipes that serve as rollers."

Jimmy Yokum, Petersburg, W. Va.: "I use Aldor replacement spark plugs in any tractor that has spark plug fouling problems and low compression (A.L. Doering Spark Plug Corp., 120 Marine St., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735 ph 800 886-7074; Website: www.aldorsparkplug.com). These spark plugs are engineered specifically for engines that require a more efficient spark. They're equipped with a Thermo reactor head that produces extra thrust ignition to provide faster starting, increased power, increased fuel economy, and reduced emissions. The thermo-reactor head produces a hotter spark when the engine is cool so these spark plugs will even burn in oil. As soon as the engine reaches operating temperature, the spark goes back to its normal heat range so that it doesn't damage the engine."

Dean Veitch, Prince George, B.C.: "A few years ago I bought a used 1979 Deere 2130 tractor equipped with hydraulic front wheel assist (Deere offered hydraulic front wheel assist tractors only for a few years before switching to a mechanical drive system). The hydraulic assist models worked off a complicated system of valves, controlled by a module powered by the tractor's two 6-volt batteries.

"After a couple years the front wheel assist quit working, and at the same time I also had trouble starting the tractor in cold weather. I had replaced the batteries with ones I bought at a Caterpillar dealer. He told me the problem was probably due to a faulty module,

"Tractor Doctor" Makes House Calls

For nearly five years, Bob Baker has operated an unusual tractor and machinery repair business from his home near Clay, New York. He bills himself as "The Tractor Doctor," and like a country doctor of old, he makes house calls. Nearly all his work is done at the customer's location, whether it be a shop, garage or driveway.

Baker specializes in Belarus tractors, having worked at a Belarus dealership for about 25 years.

"I've worked as a mechanic since 1976 and grew up helping my father do machinery maintenance and repair work on our farm," he says. "I've been to Russia for service training on Belarus. But I also work on Zetors and I have a lot of experience with most of the U.S.-made tractors, too."

Baker prefers working on tractors from the pre-electronic era, but will take on just about any job.

"Once in a while a customer wants me to do the work in my own shop," he says. "But most of the time, I can make the necessary repairs at the farm for less than if they had to truck the tractor to a repair shop."

He notes that many customers don't have inside storage for their tractors, forcing him to work outdoors in winter. "I carry a 50,000 btu kerosene heater with me if I need to warm up parts or fluids," he says.

Customers pay an hourly rate from the time he leaves home until the time he returns. "My hourly rate is lower than that charged by most repair shops," he says. "And since they don't have to pay for trucking, they usually come out ahead."

Some of his customers work right



Baker carries his tools to the job in his work van.

alongside him and that usually saves them some money, too. "They can also watch to make sure I'm doing the work like they want it done. And it gives me a chance to visit with them about the machine, what went wrong and what they might have done to prevent it," he says. "Some just come out to talk while I'm working, but most realize they're paying for all the time I'm there, so unless they're helping out, they don't take up too much of my time just talking."

He runs a few newspaper ads to promote his business, but much of his new business comes from satisfied customers telling their friends and neighbors.

Baker himself puts in eight to ten hours most days and says there's seldom been a day when wasn't busy since he left his job with the dealership.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bob Baker, 8694 Burnett Road, Clay, N.Y. 13041 (ph/fax 315 699-2459).



Olaf Nieslony, Barrhead, Alberta: Here's a handy way to hang hoses, electric cords, and ropes. Just take an ordinary wire hanger. Flatten the wires together, leaving the hook



in place. Twist the wires on either side and then bend each side into a "V". The coil of hose hangs over the the two "V"s and you use the hook to hang it up. What's nice about this simple idea is that it wraps around the hose on both sides, keeping it from unraveling.

Neil Everts, New London, Wis.: "To conserve space in my small shop, I came up with a sawhorse that slides off from under