"Weight-Forward" Fiberglass Hammer

You wouldn't think some tools could ever be improved but there's always someone willing to try. The Weight Forward Hammer is a new version of one of man's oldest tools from a company that's been making hammers since 1923.

The new hammer is slightly curved to place more weight at the point of contact, capturing power that the company says is normally lost to vibration.

The hammer's fiberglass handle can withstand three times the pressure required by the American National Standards Institute.

The Weight Forward Hammer has a 21-oz. steel head. The face of the hammer can be smooth finished or milled and the handles come in lengths of 14 or 16 in. The head is inserted into the fiberglass handle and fastened at two points using a "Perma Fastening System."

The handle itself is covered in a shock resistant grip that has been field tested for over two years. This ergonomically correct handle promises to reduce vibrations up to 50 percent.

Hammer is slightly curved to place more weight at point of contact, capturing power normally lost to vibration.

The 14-in., smooth-faced hammer sells for $29.99, the 16-in., smooth-faced is $35.69 and the 16-in., milled-face hammer is $37.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Estwing Manufacturing Co., 2747 8th St., Rockford, Ill. 61109 (ph 800 397-9558; fax 815 397-8665; website: www.estwing.com).

Home Built Shop Elevator

Instead of climbing stairs to get up to the 8-ft. high upper deck in his shop, Harry Engeland bought and modified an "electric-powered" platform. The unit was originally designed to lift a project up 3 ft. so it would be more accessible to work on.

Its electric motor drives a gearbox that winds a cable which raises or lowers the workbench.

"On back of it, there are rollers that run in a track and I just extended the track and put a new cable on. I also installed switches to start the lifting and lowering," Engeland says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harry Engeland, R.R. 4, Stratford, Ontario, Canada N5A 6S5 (ph 519 273-1983; fax 519 271-1826).

Harry Engeland modified an "electric-powered" platform that was originally designed to lift a project up 3 ft. so it would be more accessible to work on.

"Repair Trailer" Works Better Than A Truck

Lloyd Meffert, Hettick, Ill., does repair work for area farmers. When he heads out on a call, he always takes his home-built, 2-wheeled "repair trailer".

He built the trailer out of an old camping trailer, angling down the frame in front so the trailer would pull level.

"I had been hauling all my repair equipment on a truck. A trailer is easier to use and also saves money on insurance and licenses," says Meffert, noting that he saves at least $500 per year with a trailer compared to a truck. When the trailer is hooked up to his tow vehicle, the vehicle insurance carries over to the trailer.

Another advantage of the trailer is that he has access to his tools and equipment from all four sides, without having to climb over things or move stuff around.

The equipment that he hauls on the trailer includes four tanks containing oxygen, acetylene, carbon dioxide, and argon, as well as an 8,000-watt welding generator. An aluminum box in front of the trailer contains helmets, safety equipment, aprons, a sawzall, halogen lights, and a spool gun of aluminum wire.

On back there's a 250-amp wire welder, an air compressor, a handyman jack, a set of mechanic's tools, different kinds of welding rods, chains, binders, come-alongs and a sledge hammer.

Lloyd Meffert built this 2-wheeled "repair trailer" out of an old camping trailer.

"I use a dually 4-WD pickup to tow the trailer, so I've been able to get back into fields that were pretty muddy," says Meffert. "However, if I get into really bad field conditions I have the farmer put a tow ball on his tractor and then pull the trailer back where the work is."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lloyd Meffert, RR 2, Box 73, Hettick, Ill. 62649 (ph 618 778-5519).

Drum Fix For Cyclo Planters

Crop Consultant Brian Freed says the most common complaint he's heard over the years from his clients who use Case IH Cyclo Early Riser drum planters was that seed spacing in the row was uneven.

"When it comes to emergence, most feel it was better than other makes of planters, but they didn't like the poor seed spacing," Freed says.

Convinced that this was also costing his clients yield, Freed began looking for the reason for uneven seed drop that led to poor plant spacing.

"As I listened to the planter running, I noticed a continuous knocking or bumping sound. The source of this turned out to be the rubber wheels that shut off the vacuum and let the seeds drop down the seed tubes to the planting units. The wheels were bouncing into the dimples in the seed drum as they rolled," he says.

Deciding that this bumping on the drum could cause the seed to drop unevenly, Freed had a local fabrication shop make a set of bands from flat aluminum stock that he could put over the drum in the path traveled by the cut-off wheels. Holes through the bands line up with the dimples in the seed drum, so the cut-off wheels still work properly. But since the dimples are gone from the wheel's path, there's no longer any bumping.

"Our experience is that this corrects the spacing problem and makes all those old Cyclo planters out there into the superior machines they were intended to be," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Freed, Ag Focus, Inc., 25033 N 2225 E Rd., Lexington, Ill. 61753 (ph 309 365-2771; fax 309 365-2781; email: info@agfocus.com).

Kit Solves Gearbox Problems

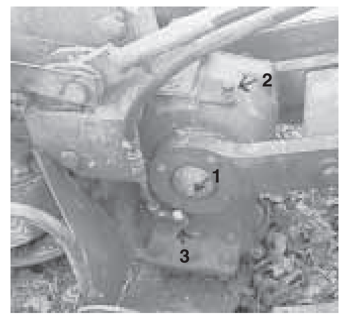
Lyndal Hatton, DeBerry, Texas, came up with an inexpensive solution to a problem he had with his New Holland 616 mower.

"The mower is equipped with a big belt-driven gearbox that's connected to a smaller gearbox underneath it, which powers a shaft that drives the sickle. One time all the oil drained out of the smaller gearbox which caused it to burn up. A new replacement gearbox cost me several hundred dollars."

According to Hatton, the big upper gearbox is equipped with a vent that often gets covered with dirt, which can get under the vent's relief valve and cause it to stick in the open position. "Whenever you tilt the front part of the mower downward to adjust the cutting height, over time all the oil can drain out of the vent and ruin the gearbox. It's hard to spot because the vent gets covered with dirt and leaves."

To solve the problem, Hatton removed the vent and relocated it on top of the gearbox where it's up higher and also out of the way of dirt and leaves. He installed a plug where the vent had been.

The small gearbox holds only 10 ounces of oil and tended to get hot. To add capacity, and to make sure he always knows there's oil in the gearbox, he removed the fill plug from the gearbox and installed a manifold in its place. Then he connected a length of curved stainless steel tubing to the manifold. A hose runs from the tubing up to a section of 1 1/2-in. dia. clear plastic tubing that's clamped onto the mower frame. The tubing serves as an oil reservoir. As oil inside the gearbox gets hot it expands up into the clear plastic tubing where it cools down.



Hatton plugged side vent hole (1) and put vent on top (2). Pipe now feeds oil to gearbox (3).

"As long as I can see oil in the plastic tubing I know the gearbox has enough oil in it," says Hatton. "I made this modification three years ago and haven't had any problems with it since then," he says.

He's now selling a $50 kit that includes the oil reservoir, vent fill replacement plug, hoses and tubing, and instructions. "This kit can be used on all newer New Holland mowers including the 515, 616, and 717 models," he notes.

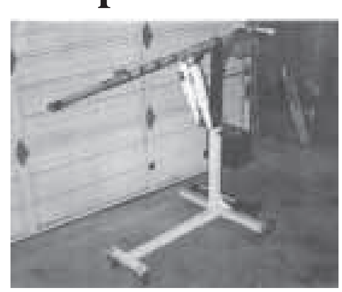
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyndal Hatton, 389 CR 3311, DeBerry, Texas 75639 (ph 903 766-2320; email: tsargehatton @hotmail.com).

Air-Powered Shop Hoist

"It's lightweight and much easier to use than hydraulic lifts and can be built a lot cheaper," says Bruce Graham, Tyler, Texas, about his air-powered shop hoist.

A pair of air shocks are used to move the lift arm up and down. Air pressure is supplied by an on-board air compressor equipped with an electrical solenoid valve. The compressor motor runs off a battery that mounts on the frame. A non-powered hydraulic cylinder is used to lock the load into any position. A battery gauge and air pressure gauge mount just above the motor.

"I've used this unit in my shop for more than eight years and really like it," says Graham. "I got the idea after the engine in my friend's 4-WD pickup developed a valve train problem and we had to remove the cylinder heads. We put it together for that job and found it was a lot easier to use than a conventional hoist."



"It's a lot easier to use than a conventional hoist," says Bruce Graham about his air-powered shop hoist.

The hoist can lift up to 150 lbs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bruce Graham, 13801 Eastside Road, Tyler, Texas 75707 (ph 903 566-1248; email: mechtechtyler@yahoo.com).