

of the bucket. It's not necessary to have the pipe run across the full length of the blade. Once in place, the blade cannot dig into the ground yet will clear all the snow. The idea also works great for handling grain piled on the ground. Keeps the bucket out of the dirt and grain will slide up over the pipe and into the bucket."

Rick Mabeus, Winfield, Iowa: "I was tired of always having funnels burp oil back at me instead of flowing right down so I came up with this idea for a 'burpless fun-



nel'. It works by simply allowing air to escape while you are pouring oil into the funnel, instead of getting the normal belch when air has to fight its way up through a funnel filled with oil. I simply ran a small piece of rubber tubing down along the side of the funnel. I made the tubing about the same length as the funnel and taped it to the side of it. Use the smallest diameter tubing you can find so you can still slip the funnel into the fill opening.

"I'm hoping to put a funnel like this on the market but you can make the modification to any existing funnel with a little tubing and tape."

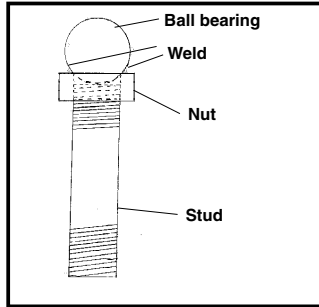
Louis Vaessen, Sublette, Ill.: "The final drives on each wheel of my Versatile 150 tractor would work the bolts out of the case, and break off the end of the floating axle. I fixed the problem by drilling the threads out of the case and putting in grade 8 bolts. Then I double-nutted them."

Dave Linstad, Porterfield, Wis.: "I've found that I can reduce damage to electric fences from deer running into them at night by fitting a 1-ft. length of spring off an overhead garage door opener on each end of the wire. Lets the wire give and then spring back."

Garth Luchterhand, Loyal, Wis.: "I've found that clear plastic cooking oil bottles make good containers for nails, screws, bolts, etc. They're tough and you can see what's in them.

"My electric start snowblower has a rubber push button switch that gets stiff and won't work when cold. I solved the problem by softening it up with an electric hair dryer."

Galen Vestal, Montesano, Wash.: "I was a heavy equipment mechanic for years and made this stud installer tool when I was working on the Alaska pipeline a few years ago. A lot of equipment there had planetary gears in the drive wheels. My stud installer lets me use an impact wrench to quickly set the stud. The stud won't loosen when the installer nut is spun off. You simply weld an old discarded ball bearing into the nut, welding all the way around on one side of



the stud (the studs are fine on one side and rough on the other side). Then screw the stud into the nut until it seats itself against the center of the bearing. The job ordinarily takes a long time to do by hand, but using an impact wrench saves a lot of time. When you reverse the nut it won't suck the stud up out - it brings the nut off the end of the stud without bringing the stud up. With the ball bearing in the nut, the only surface area it's touching is right on the end. I used this idea when I had a lot of broken 9/16-in. bolts on my front-end loader. I had to remove all of them and put in new ones. The only alternative is to screw on a double nut so tight that it could jimmy the threads or draw the stud back out and lose the torque value."

Howard L. Hutton, Norton, Texas: "One fairly tough repair I made was replacing the rear engine main seal and clutch in a 1980 Deere 4840 tractor. I first made a stand to support the engine portion of the tractor, mounting large bearings for wheels on a frame made with 1 1/4-in. threaded rod that makes it easy to raise or lower the engine half of the tractor. We installed three hydraulic jacks under the back half of the tractor and then securely blocked the rear wheels in the front and back and on both sides so they could not move in any direction. Then we rolled the front half of the tractor forward about 3 ft. and did the work. We then pushed the two halves back together. We only had to push the front half to the side about 1/2 in. to get a perfect fit. We then put the bolts back in place with no other adjustment. Works fine and we saved a lot of money."

David W. Hunt, Abernathy, Texas: "I use sections of road grader blade to rebuild the points on my subsoiler. I hard surface the sections of blade before installing them on my ripper. These points last as long or longer than store-bought. What's more I can usually get the sections of grader blade free from our local highway maintenance garage."

Jeff Vackiner, Cody, Neb.: "A neighbor gave me a tool many years ago that pushes the bottom back through ear tags on calves, thus saving the ear tag and button for reuse. It worked so well, I simplified the design and now manufacture the tool. After being taken out, buttons are washed and disinfected before being used again. They will last many years and you can tell at a glance when they should be replaced. My 'detagging' pliers sells for \$15 plus \$3 S&H, and should last a lifetime. Contact me at HC 77, Box 10, Cody, Neb. 69211 (ph 800 636-7446 or 402 823-4048).

R. George, Gowrie, Iowa: "I've found that one of the most useful things you can do is keep all pictures and literature on your equipment on file somewhere close-by at hand to keep parts numbers, sizes, and other important information at your fingertips. It makes repairs much easier. I also keep information on repairs and add-ons with each file."

Rolling Platform Makes It Easy To Service Big Equipment

"Our new portable platform makes it easy and safe to work on big machinery," says Rodney Koser, Elbow Lake, Minn.

The 4-wheeled unit consists of a steel platform that rides up or down on a 9-ft. high steel mast, a manual winch that's used to raise or lower the platform, and a 2-part folding ladder that stores on the platform. You fold the ladder down, then crank up the platform and set brakes on the back tires and climb up the ladder onto the platform. The unit rides on a pair of 18-in. tires in back and small caster wheels in front.

"It's a lot safer than trying to make a platform out of barrels and planks or using a front-end loader," says Koser. "You can use it to work on combine engines, big 4-WD tractors, etc. - anything where you need to get up high off the ground. It's small enough that you can also use it inside shop buildings. The platform automatically locks onto latches spaced 1 ft. apart on the mast. It has a removable tongue that pins onto the frame just behind the caster wheels so you can tow it like a trailer behind a pickup, with the



caster wheels off the ground.

"It's not designed to move people up or down. If you want to adjust the platform height you have to climb down off the platform and operate the winch, then climb back on."

Sells for \$1,195.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Koser's Inc., Elbow Lake, Minn. 56531 (ph 612 677-2497).

Handy "Multi-Use" Shop Tool

You can do a lot of different jobs with this handy new shop tool that comes in three separate pieces that snap together for storage and carrying.

The "Wrench-All" consists of a socket wrench equipped with a ball peen hammerhead. By holding the wrench in one hand and the nail puller bar in the other hand, you can use it as a screwdriver, allen wrench, or lug wrench. A socket carrying attachment snaps onto the nail puller bar, which is attached to the wrench by fitting the nail puller's cap over the ball peen hammerhead on the wrench.

Two models are available - a 10-in. model accepting 3/8-in. drive sockets that sells for \$32 and a 12-in. model accepting 1/2-in. sockets that sells for \$36. Socket attachments are not included.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Birkworks, Inc., 919 Frank S.E., Huron, S. Dak. 57350 (ph 605 353-1657).



William E. Craycraft, Bloomingdale, Ind.: He rigged up a simple oiler for the chain at the top of his grain bin auger. "During the fall harvest season, I am usually in the combine so I'm not back at the bin to keep an eye on things. The result was that often the chain on the unloading auger did not get oiled enough by the help unloading trucks. So I came up with this way to make it easy to oil the chain from the ground. I used a chain lube spray can,

an old grease gun holding clamp, two small bolts, a short bar to act as a lever on the spray nozzle, a long nylon cord, and a small spring to support the weight of the cord. It was a simple matter of mounting the can in a position where the spray would hit the chain and running the cord down to the ground. Now just a short pull on the cord from the ground oils the chain. We don't have to climb up on the bin and wear and tear are kept to a minimum."