

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



equate traveling hoist that when building a new shop, he first built the hoist and then the building around it. The hoist measures 16 ft. high up to the rail. The rail itself is an 18-in. I-beam, and it also has 18-in. I-beam uprights. The chain hoist carrier spans 22 ft.

Trolleys at either end of the cross track each mount on four caster wheels, running inside a channel formed by angle iron sides. He says the chain hoist can lift up to 4,000 lbs.

Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa: "A cluster of plastic containers, bolted to the frame of our Deere 4640 tractor, provides handy storage for our fire extinguisher, as well as



other and penetrating oil. The containers originally were filled with anti-freeze, motor oil or penetrating oil. After removing the labels I drilled a hole in each container, then bolted the containers all together into a cluster. Then I bolted the cluster onto the tractor, using an existing hole in the frame. It's important to put washers on the inside to keep the containers from splitting. There is a toolbox on the other side of the tractor, but I wanted to keep these items separate for quicker access.

"A used tractor headlight bolted onto the steps on the other side of the tractor makes it easier to see and adds safety. The light is



wired to the tractor's lighting system and automatically comes on whenever the tractor's lights are turned on. My son made a bracket for the headlight and bolted it onto the steps. It comes in handy at night whether the tractor is indoors or outdoors, because any time it's dark it's good to have extra light around the steps. For example, standing corn stalks in a field can be easy to trip over but with the light I can see them right away."



Charles Klein, Columbia, Ill.: He built a table specifically for painting tractor parts. He came up with the idea of using expanded metal because it allows the surplus paint spray to flow on through without puddling up.

Steve Roffey, Verner, Ontario: "I have a money-saving tip for anyone who owns a fuel-injected vehicle. Many people complain about the expense of having to replace their fuel pump after only 60,000 to 80,000 miles. But you can avoid the problem just by changing the fuel filter once a year. I have two Chevrolet Blazers with more than 180,000 miles, and I've never changed a pump on them, or on any other car I've owned. A dirty \$10 filter can easily ruin a \$1,000 pump."

Weldon Thomasson, Fredericksburg, Va.: "Here's a trick I learned from my co-workers. If a bolt breaks off in any part, use a dremel tool equipped with a thin cut-off blade to cut a slot in the broken bolt. Then use a screwdriver to unscrew the bolt."

Jeff Kumpf, Hopedale, Ill.: "It's always easier to work on trailer lights when they're energized. So I made a wiring harness that can be operated by a standard 12-volt battery charger. The green and yellow leads are



attached to a double-spaced flasher, and the brown lead goes straight to power. When a trailer is hooked up to the battery charger, the tail lights come on, and the brake lights flash as if the hazards were energized. This makes them much easier to repair, and I don't have to work out in the cold while making winter repairs."

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "I feed shelled corn to wildlife. Adding a handle to the lower side of a 2-gal. plastic bucket makes it easier to scoop the corn out of bulk containers. I use 1/2-in. electrical conduit, flattened at both ends, to make the handle and drill two small bolt holes to bolt it on.



"I narrowed up this shovel to make it easier to dig. At 78 years old and living with arthritis, the smaller sized shovel allows me to work in greater comfort. I also welded a full width 1/8-in. thick steel plate onto the back side for my foot to push on.

"After emptying out 1-quart oil bottles, I shove their necks into a 1-gal. jug to catch

Don Fleming uses a numbered filing system in his garage. Cardboard boxes on shelf are all numbered in Roman numerals.



Don Fleming, Zearing, Iowa: "I built this numbered filing system in my garage for stuff ranging from small tools to light bulbs. The plywood shelf is about 20 ft. long and 20 in. deep and is supported by a series of metal brackets. I keep cardboard boxes on the shelf, all numbered in Roman numerals. A file sheet, mounted on the garage wall at one end

of the shelf, tells me what's in each box so I know where to look for a particular item. It sure beats having to thrash through all those boxes to find what I want. I painted both the boxes and the shelf white to match the color of my garage walls. I keep lawn mower parts in one box, rags in another box, etc."



whatever oil is left in the bottles. I use the collected oil in squirt oil cans.



"A V-belt formed into a loop, and with a washer slipped over it, works great for lifting and moving small logs.

"A great amount of our food is sold in plastic, cardboard, and metal packages. These packages can be recycled into useful items that make our lives easier and also reduce the waste going into landfills. Many of the containers that our eggs and meat come in

can be used to store small items. For example, egg cartons with their tops removed and plastic meat trays can be stored in a wood or cardboard box with dividers to fit.



"I made this heavy duty 20-in. long machete from an old cross-cut saw blade. The aluminum handle is attached with three heavy rivets. I've used this big knife to cut up to 3-in. dia. tree limbs and also bushes. I keep it on my tractor."

Brad A. Hurst, Sr., Cresco, Iowa: "I always have problems taking tires off wheel rims. I find that when I spray the edge of the tire with WD-40 the tire will come right off later. It also makes the tire easier to mount because it's softer and more flexible.

"The rear wheels on my old Allis Chalmers B-10 tractor are mounted with bolts instead of studs and it was always difficult to line them up. To solve the problem I put a small punch in one hole as I slide the wheel on. The punch helps hold the wheel up, and also makes it easier to line up the holes with the bolts."



Boyd Butler, Blackwell, Okla.: "While restoring a 1939 John Deere B tractor I repowered it with the engine from a Deere 212 riding mower. I removed the tractor's pistons, rods and block, then made a plate and put it on the crankcase so it holds oil. I plugged the holes in the crankshaft with JB Weld to provide oil pressure to the main bearings.

"Then I removed the flywheel and cut a 5/8-in. wide V-belt groove in it. I used a centrifugal clutch like you'd use on a go-cart.

Then I installed a jackshaft between the engine and the Deere flywheel in order to get the proper gear ratio. It lets the tractor's clutch and transmission work without any changes.

"This tractor has no trouble pulling a trailer load of children in parades or taking them on hay rides. I drive it to our local coffee shop on nice days just for the fun of driving it.

"I'd be happy to talk about the conversion. Readers can call me at 580 363-4189 or 956 233-4695."