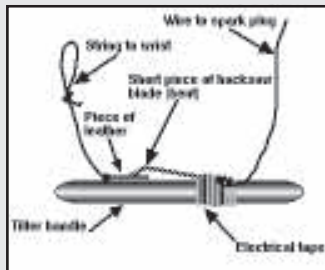


**John H. Bayes, Labelle, Fla.:** "Here's how we start a 1940 Buick with a weak battery in the middle of a New England winter: 1. Jack up the left rear wheel and block the chassis so it won't fall. 2. Pump the gas pedal a couple times. 3. Pull out the throttle a small amount. 4. Put the tranny in 3<sup>rd</sup> gear. 5. Turn the key to the 'on' position. 6. Get out of the vehicle and proceed to turn the wheel in a counter clockwise direction. This will turn the engine over and get it started. A little dangerous but it has worked for us several times."

**Paul G. Dudley, Troy, Mo.:** A reader in a recent issue said his Troy-Bilt pony garden tiller keeps getting away from him. I have a solution for a 'kill switch' that will stop the



motor in case you lose control. Here's how to make one:

"Take an old piece of hacksaw blade about 2 in. long. Cut a piece of electrical wire long enough to go from the spark plug over to handle of tiller. Bare both ends of wire. Wrap one end around top of spark plug. Put spark plug wire back onto spark plug. Wrap other end around piece of hacksaw blade. Wrap handle with electrical tape about 1 in. wide and then tape the end of the hacksaw blade with wire on it to the taped handle so it's insulated from the handle. Leave the other end of the blade laying against the bare metal of handle and bend the end of the blade slightly so it makes good contact. Attach a string to a small piece of leather. Put the leather between the blade and the bare metal of the handle. Tie the other end of the string to your wrist or belt. When the leather is pulled from under the bare end of the hacksaw blade, it will short out the spark plug, killing the motor."

**Haskell Rogers, Millerton, Okla.:** "Here's a simple way to make an elastic re-



tainer for long plastic nozzles on aerosol cans. You can buy small retainer rings that do the same thing, but they cost \$1 apiece.

"I just use two thin rubber bands. Loop the end of one of the rubber bands around the nozzle, and then loop the other end around the end of the second rubber band. Then slip the second rubber band around around the spray can."

**Brian Seckman, Weston, W. Va.:** "I needed a vented door for a closet where I keep my hot water tank. To save money, I used an ordinary heat register vent and cut a hole the same size as the vent in the door. It worked perfectly and even passed a home inspection. Saved the cost of a special door."

**William Townsen, Camden, Tenn.:** "I use an electric hoist to raise riding mowers so I can take off the blades to sharpen them or change belts, etc. A simple idea that saves a lot of hassle."

**Richard Heimberger, Lucas, Ohio:** "I have an old drill press equipped with a table that can be adjusted up or down. The only

way to move the unit was by hand, which was difficult to do because the table is heavy and the vise that's attached to it is even heavier. To make it easier to raise and lower I adapted an old lever-type jack. I made a metal sleeve to go around the post that's loose enough to slide and then attached the jack to it. Now I can just jack the table to whatever height I want, yet the table is still free to swing in any desired location because it rides loose on top of the sleeve."



**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 email us at: editor@farmshow.com.*

Mark Newhall, Editor

**Ovalton Rutledge, Crystal Springs, Miss.:** "We built a steel plate for our forklift that serves as an adjustable work table. We use it to carry parts that have to be cleaned and elevate it to a comfortable working height. There's a rack on back to stack things against. The forklift tines fit into tapered sleeves, which allows the front edge of the table to lay flat on the ground."

**Huskygrip Corp., 1820 Production Drive, St. Charles, Ill. ph 877 250-3060; www.huskygrip.com:** This company sells a



new chain saw sharpener equipped with a soft grip that conforms to your hand. It gives you more control for concentrating the force of each file stroke. Comes with replaceable Vallorbe Swiss files. Sells for \$12.95 plus S&H.

**Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.:** "I bought a four-post car hoist and erected it outdoors. To do the lifting it uses link speed chains that are exposed to the weather. To lubricate the chains, I mix 80 weight gear oil with an equal amount of gas and apply the mixture with a paint brush. The gas soon evaporates, but the oil remains for several years.

"Caution: don't use this idea inside a building, because even the best ventilation might not be enough to keep you alive."

**Gordon Fuller, Barriere, B.C.:** "I built a metal brake that's shown here putting a 90



degree bend in a 1/4-in. thick, 1 1/2-in. wide strap of steel. For the brake's push bar, I used the 1 by 6-in. cutting edge off a Caterpillar

blade, with a 1 1/2-in. angle iron held on with plates and bolts. It pushes into two angle irons that are welded onto the bottom beam to form a 'V'. The springs from a pickup hood are used to pull and hold it open. I've used this brake to bend 1/4-in. thick, 8-in. wide steel with no problems. It works great."

**R. R. Holden, Farwell, Mich.:** "When using a drill, I slip different sizes of rubber hose over the drill bits to act as a depth gauge."

**Al Stober, Leominster, Mass.:** "I use a 'catch cloth' underneath equipment being repaired to capture dropped parts. A bed sheet works nice. It'll collect small pieces and prevent them from bouncing or rolling away."

**Frank Brinker, Johnstown, Ohio:** "I store my chains in 5-gal. buckets. Dropping the chains into the buckets and hanging the hooks on the outside edge of the bucket makes the chains easy to retrieve. I also spray paint both ends of each chain the same color so I can easily identify any particular chain at a quick glance. An occasional spray of WD-40 oil down in the bucket helps keep the chains from rusting."

**Tom Christensen, Blackfoot, Idaho:** "Let's say I have a flat tire but am fairly close to a tire shop. Instead of changing the tire I use an air hose that's long enough to reach between the flat tire and the vehicle's spare tire, or any of the vehicle's other tires. The hose has an air chuck on both ends, so I can take some air out of a full tire and use it to pump up the flat tire. In serious cases, I've taken about 10 lbs. of air out of all three other tires so I could inflate the flat tire enough to drive a long ways. I bought a section of hose with threads on each end, and then installed the chuck at each end."

**Branson Enterprises, Machesney Park, Ill. ph 815 633-4262; askbranson@aol.com; www.bransonenterprises.com:** This company offers magneto and carburetor sales and service. They have most types of carburetors or magnetos in stock, plus parts. Their website provides detailed photos and descriptions with part and model numbers, applications, cross-referencing and more. The website is updated daily. All new and used parts are warranted for 90 days; rebuilt units are warranted for two years.

## Sawed-Off Vac Blasts Trash

A few minutes with a bandsaw can turn any old upright vacuum cleaner into a trash blaster, says James McGowan.

"I was sweeping out the barn, and there's always lots of stuff the broom just doesn't get," he says. "I thought that if I had a blower, I could really clean up."

McGowan had an old upright vacuum with a worn out sweeper head. He figured the vacuum blower motor might do the trick. All he had to do was get rid of the parts he didn't need.

A quick cut with a band saw and he had the handle tip with its switch and the original long electric cord. A little more work and he had the head taken apart and had freed up the blower motor that was already attached to the pipe that formed the upright handle. Another quick cut with the bandsaw, and about a 12-in. section of pipe remained in place at the end of the blower.

"I screwed the switch section to the motor for a handle, reconnected the wires and fired it up," explains McGowan. "It's handy for cleaning out the shop or blowing leaves away from the door of the garage or the side of the barn. It works great anyplace I can reach from an electric outlet."



**James McGowan turned an old upright vacuum cleaner into a trash blaster. "It works great anyplace I can reach from an electric outlet," he says.**

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