

Glenn Allen, Mr. Vernon, Ohio: "I had a Versatile 555 tractor that needed to have the transmission rebuilt. The dealer said I'd have to take it out through the cab. That looked too hard so I dug a hole in the yard and dropped it out the bottom. After it was rebuilt, I had it back on and bolted in place in under one hour."

"I have a Deere 4475 skid steer loader that was built by New Holland. The seat belt switch went bad. Deere wanted \$240 for a replacement. We went on the internet and found one ready to plug in place for \$39.95 plus shipping."

"I have an engine lift that needed a new lift cylinder. I put an air-operated cylinder on it and now I can be where the action is instead of pumping a manual lift jack. Gives me a lot more versatility."

Paul Kleinschmidt, Merrill, Wis.: "When I need to do body repairs during cold temperatures, I use a halogen trouble light to cure the body work and paint. Works great."

Norm Pierce, Poplar Grove, Ill.: "I mounted a plasma cutter on the wall of my shop and equipped it with a 25-ft. cord that's long enough to reach my welding and repair area. Saves workbench space."

Wilfred Dittmer, Quincy, Ill.: "I made a new feederhouse floor pan out of stainless steel for my 1460 Axial Flow combine. It always stays polished, won't rust, and material flow is more even. It took a little time to make but was well worth the effort. It'll never wear out again. Definitely a good idea."

David Haertling, Altenburg, Mo.: "The main drive on our 6-row corn head failed. I bought a set of Sear's 'ratchet wrenches' that swivel so I was able to get at the problem to fix it without taking the whole machine apart."

Tom Williams, Maryland, N.Y.: "When the chain on our barn cleaner wore down to the point where it changed pitch enough to cause problems, I welded a 3/16-in. wide steel band on the rim on both sides of the teeth. Holds the chain in place and gave me a couple more years use from the old chain."

Gordon Fuller, Barriere, B.C.: "To work

on vehicles around the yard, I use an old tow truck sling hanging from my front-end loader.



I don't need anyone to help and the vehicle only needs to have a couple good wheels. Works very well."

Fred Carnahan, Snowflake, Ariz.: Fred uses an old speedometer cable to clean out clogged tubing with bends in it. Works like a plumbing snake but is much smaller so it can be used for a number of jobs where a snake wouldn't fit.

Brian Roth, BD Engine Brake Inc., P.O. Box 231, Sumas, Wash. 98295; ph 800 887-5030; www.dieselperformance.com: "On Ford 6.0-liter and 7.3-liter Power Stroke engines, crankcase oil vapor that passes through the crankcase vent can contaminate the intake system. Oil vapor residue reduces turbocharger and intercooler efficiency and also



deteriorates the silicone boots – causing them to balloon and blow off. Our Crank Case Vent Filter Kit prevents the problem, collecting oil vapor in a 1-qt. container with a drain petcock. The kit installs in just two hours and includes all hardware and clamps."

Larry Schoborg, Union, Iowa: Larry found a simple way to make 55-gal. drums more usable around the shop. He cuts hand holds under the top rim on both sides and then smooths out the metal so it's easy on

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



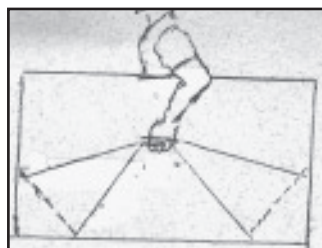
the hands. It also makes it easier to lift with a front-end loader when hauling heavier loads. He says they make great trash bins or parts bins.

Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: "An easy way to take slack out of a steel cable is to make



an arch out of wood or metal and insert a J-bolt through the top of the arch with a wing nut on it. Just position the arch on the cable, insert the bolt, and pull the cable up as far as needed into the arch.

"To carry plywood, sheet rock, doors, and other large panels, I make a loop of rope and wrap it around the two lower corners and grab



it in the middle.

"Another idea I had that works is that I put a front-end loader on my 12 hp Cub Cadet tractor. I was surprised at its lifting power

After breaking the stock 3/4-in. front axle, I cambered the wheels out about 35 percent. I just cut the spindles and then filled and welded them so that the front wheels now angle out about 30 to 35 degrees. I didn't know if it would work but I haven't had any breaks since then. It's kind of like the old narrow front ends on tractors that were cambered out. Looks kind of strange but really works."

Dave McVeda, 34 Manchester Lane, Great Falls, Montana 59404 ph 406 453-5080; dmcveda@mt.net: "I've been a mechanic for more than 35 years and have worked on motorcycles, snowmobiles, Honda cars and all forms of farm equipment, primarily in the area of air conditioning service and repair, including over-the-road trucks. I've recently started a website that deals with air conditioning diagnosis and repair.

"It's an informational site where you can ask questions or leave comments and sign up for our newsletter. I plan to post videos that will cover simple diagnosis and repair procedures that relate primarily to air conditioning on trucks and tractors, but will also include procedures that can be used in other areas as well. The web address is www.799COOL.com."



Howron Industries, P.O. Box 171, Aubrey, Texas 76227 (ph 877 300-0171 or 940 300-0171; howron@metalbendingtool.com; www.metalbendingtool.com): This company has been selling the Mighty Mite Bender for years. Now they've added a ring to the bender, allowing the operator to make duplicate bends, more accurately and quickly by clamping a stop on the degree ring. The basic Mighty Mite bender comes with three pins, one square stop block, one round sleeve, and an instructional DVD.

It can bend round or square solid rod, flat bar stock, sq. or round tubing, and angle iron.

"Smart" Dipstick Monitors Oil On-The-Go

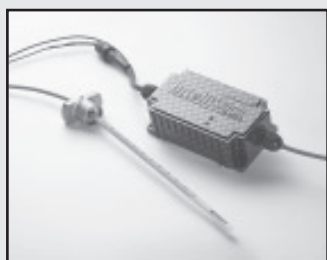
Replace your dipstick with IntelliStick, and keep a constant check on oil quality and condition.

IntelliStick detects intrusions of water, coolant or fuel, warns if oil is low, and if viscosity is too high. It tracks additive depletion and helps the customer decide when to change oil and/or filters.

The technology behind the smart dipstick was developed for the U.S. military. The company has modified it for civilian vehicles and is working on non-oil liquid sensing. Information gathered is displayed on smartphones, PDAs, laptop computer screens, or other devices using wireless (Bluetooth) technology. Starting this fall, IntelliStick will be available with an in-dash gauge. However, Rhonda Williams, IntelliStick, Inc., says customers aren't waiting for the gauge.

"People who understand the importance of quality oil and its contribution to engine longevity see the value of IntelliStick," she says. "It pays for itself quickly with truckers, who pay hundreds of dollars per oil change, just by eliminating a couple of oil changes a year."

Williams points out that driving conditions, engines and drivers are all different. Each factor affects how long oil will remain effective. Simply changing oil at regular intervals may waste money if the change isn't needed or if the oil deteriorates faster than expected and damages the engine. Using IntelliStick, you can also easily compare different brands



IntelliStick tells you when to change the oil and filter:

of oil and filters.

"We have folks who swore by expensive synthetic oil brands," says Williams. "Using IntelliStick, they found out they were actually worse off with it than if they used off-the-shelf brands for the conditions they were driving in."

IntelliStick can be ordered directly from the company or from the company's growing line of distributors and dealers. It's not cheap at a list price of \$499. But Williams says the street price depends on the number ordered and retailer pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, IntelliStick, Inc., 4340 Von Karman Ave., Suite 200, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660 (ph toll free 888 812-5988; fax 949 812-5910; www.intellistick.com).