



Tarp keeps dust and dirt from collecting on Roger Gutschmidt's metal turning lathe.

Roll-Up Tarp Protects Metal Lathe

Roger Gutschmidt wanted to keep dust and dirt from collecting on his metal turning lathe, so he set up a roll-tarp to protect it when it's not in use.

Four pieces of 3/4-in. metal conduit, each bent to an L-shape, hold the tarp over the machine.

The two outside "support bows" are stationary while the two center supports are held in place by strong magnets on top that stick to metal plates attached to the wall. The bottom of each removable support has a large flat washer welded to it to act as a free standing "foot."

Gutschmidt had the tarp specially made to fit at a local shop, so that it just touches the floor when fully extended.

"The tarp has a long pocket at the top end with a 1-in. dia. pipe through it. That pipe is screwed to the wall," he explains. "In a pocket at the bottom of the tarp, there's a bigger 2-in. dia. pipe, which allows me to manually roll it up faster. The size and weight also makes it unroll quickly."

The roll-tarp dust cover measures about 4 ft. tall by 3 ft. deep by 11 ft. wide.

According to Gutschmidt, the custom-made tarp cost him \$160, the bow material was \$30, and with the rest of the supplies, the



Four pieces of 3/4-in. metal conduit, each bent to an L-shape, hold tarp over machine.



Gutschmidt had the tarp specially made to fit so that it just touches the floor when fully extended.

project came to around \$250.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gutschmidt Manufacturing LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).

Brake Rotor Makes Great Base For "Third Hand"

By Chuck Marley

With a little ingenuity and some scrap steel, Mike Erdelen of St. Charles, Mo., made a handy and inexpensive "third hand" work support for his auto repair shop. His idea can be adapted to practically any shop.

The unit consists of a larger pipe welded to a brake rotor that serves as a base and a smaller pipe that telescopes in and out and is welded to a U-shaped plate that supports the work. To hold the tool at the correct height, Erdelen welded a 3/8-in. hex nut over a 1/2-in. dia. hole drilled near the top of the base pipe. A 3/8 by 2-in. bolt threads into the nut to act as a set screw. To make the set screw easy to tighten by hand, he welded a short rod across the head of the bolt.

Depending on your needs, you could build a tall "third hand" like the one shown in the photo, or scale it down to hold work at any comfortable height. "I like this unit because it doesn't have a large tripod base like commercial units," says Erdelen. "It's a lot easier to work around this one."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Erdelen, Fred's Car Care, 1130 First Capitol Dr., St. Charles, Mo. 63301 (ph 636 946-1446).



"Third hand" consists of a larger pipe welded to a brake rotor base, and a smaller telescoping pipe welded to a U-shaped plate that supports the work.

Auto Light Helmet Helps Welders See

Kenneth Schwanz has a kit to brighten up a welder's day or night. His Auto-Light LED's follow a welder's line of sight, always keeping a light on the welder's work.

"My Auto-Light is mounted on my helmet and activates when the face shield drops and shuts off when the shield is lifted," he says. "It has a separate switch for use as either a spot or a floodlight. It can also be tilted up or down 120°."

Auto-darkening helmets are great when welding, but still leave welders too much in the dark before and after the weld. This is especially true if working in dark spaces or at night.

The Auto-Light floodlight produces a circle of light 10 to 12 in. in diameter. The spotlight sends a beam out from 10 to 30 ft.

"It will light up a room when totally dark," says Schwanz.

A retired electrical engineer, Schwanz got the idea from area welders who complained about poor visibility. Schwanz's son, a professional welder, used a prototype for three months in a production shop and gave it high marks.

"Other welders tape flashlights to their helmets or hold them in their mouths or have to ask a second person to hold a light," says Schwanz. "My son was doing welding for military, emergency service and fire engine production contracts. Welds had to be good, and the light really helped."

Schwanz estimates a kit including the spot/floodlight, rechargeable battery pack and plug inlet for recharging overnight would sell for no more than \$225. He has designed the light



Helmet-mounted Auto-Light activates when the face shield drops and shuts off when the shield is lifted.

system so it could easily be installed on most popular welding helmets.

The prototype uses four nickel metal hydride batteries and lasts for about 6 hours of steady use. It's equipped with a smart charger that automatically shuts off when fully charged.

He's currently looking for a manufacturer to take on the project. He hopes to license it in the near future.

"I think it would be useful on the farm as in the shop," says Schwanz. "It will help anywhere hands-free light is needed."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth H. Schwanz, 836 Ridgeview Ct., Portage, Wis. 53901 (ph 608 742-3161; kschwanz@verizon.net; www.kesslercorp.com).

New Tools Fit Reciprocating Saw

A reciprocating saw works great for cutting wood or metal, but by adding this new adapter you can also use the same saw for brushing, sanding and filing work.

Tools attach quickly to the Reciprotools adapter. Depending on the attachment, a reciprocating saw can be used as a blade sharpener, a hole enlarger, a wood shaper, a paint and rust remover, or a fast way to clean crud off your barbecue grill. And because the attachments are hex-shanked, you can rotate the attachment to make whatever job you're doing easier.

The adapter sells for \$18.49 plus S&H; the attachments sell for \$6.99 to \$8.99 plus S&H. Available attachments include steel and nylon brushes, cleaning pads, rasps, and a variety of files.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Reciprotools, L.L.C., P.O. Box 80145, Saukville, Wis. 53080 (ph 262 675-0807; www.reciprotools.com).

Reciprotools adapter lets you use a reciprocating saw for brushing, sanding and filing work.



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