

James Jessiek, Levering, Mich.: "I've found that 'great stuff' foam in a can, which is normally used for insulating nooks and crannies, also works great as a substitute for auto body filler. It's quick, easy to use, and you can cut trim down as needed."

Lynette Croteau, Winchester, N.H.: "I use large dryer hose clamps as ring compressors for large pistons. It's a quick, simple solution to a job that's often time-consuming and frustrating."

Al Schollenberger, Egg Harbor, N.J.: "When replacing bearings in equipment, I place the new bearing in the freezer for 2 hrs. before installing. It usually drops right in without forcing it."

Wilson Rickenbaker, Lexington, S.C.: "I use a disposable cut-to-fit furnace filter between the radiator and grille to keep the radiator on my old Ford tractor from clogging up when mowing. To clean the filter in the field, I just beat it against one of the rear tires."

Kastar Battery Carrier: The Kastar B600 heavy duty battery carrier has a sure-grip



handle with non-slip rubber grip pads that grab the sides of the battery. Lets you carry the battery at your side, away from your clothes. Holds batteries up to 7 1/2 in. wide. Sells for \$14.83 on amazon.com, and is sold at Sears and other tool outlets.

Dean Helms, New Port Richey, Fla.: "I didn't want to carry my electric-powered, 120 psi air compressor and air tank around by hand all the time - the compressor and tank together weigh at least 65 lbs. So I mounted the compressor on a 2-wheeled lawn seeder. It bolts onto a 1/2-in. thick plywood board that clamps onto the lawn seeder's bucket. Works



great for airing up tires in my yard or even out in the field. And it puts my lawn seeder on active duty."

Eppco Nitrile Gloves: Eppco's Black Gold Nitrile Mechanic's gloves for mechanics are

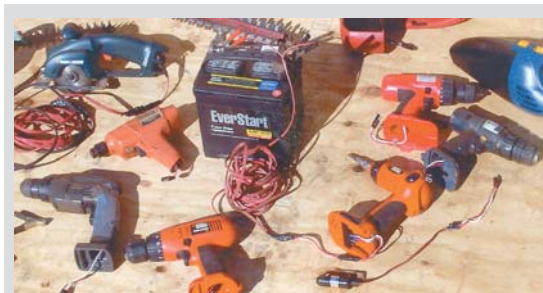


more resistant to chemicals than latex gloves but provide the same "skin-on-bolt" feel. They let you start screws and bolts and pick up small parts as if your hands were bare. The gloves are also puncture resistant.

Available in 3 sizes, they sell for \$14.99 per box of 100. Available at Sears, JC Whitney, and at Eppco.net.

Ted Slaght, Putney, Vt.: "My Ford 2N tractor doesn't have good brakes. The seals leak all the time, allowing hydraulic and differential fluid to leak onto the brake shoes, especially when working on side hills. And once the shoes get wet they don't work at all. It's quite a job to change the seals, and eventually I'll have the same problem all over again.

"To solve the problem, I cut a slot in the backing plate under the axle shaft and welded a metal trough on the inside part of the plate to catch any fluid that leaks down. Now any fluid that comes out runs into the trough and outside the backing plate, instead of running onto the brake shoes.



Glenn Fisher uses one battery to run all these drills with quick-detachable 2-wire trailer light connectors.

Putting Old Cordless Drills To Work

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga., had a lot of old cordless shop tools with worn out batteries, and it wasn't worth the cost to buy new replacement batteries. But he came up with a low-cost way to keep using the tools.

"It lets me hook up the drills to any 12-volt battery," says Fisher.

He removed the battery from each drill and soldered a pair of wires to the battery terminals inside the drill. Then he attached a 2-wire trailer light connector to the pair of wires. He attached the other side of the connector to about 10 ft. of low voltage wire, and a pair of alligator clips that connect to a battery.

"The trailer light connector makes it easy to change tools," says Fisher. "The connector I used is made by Hopkins (Basic no. 47965) and available at Tractor Supply Co. for about \$3.

"It's a really handy setup. I keep an old 12-volt car battery on the workbench in my

shop and use it to power several different drills. I have a different-size bit in each drill or a screwdriver bit.

"If I want I can also use the cigarette lighter socket in my car as a power source, but all the tools work much better on the 12-volt car battery because it has more power.

"A big advantage is that without batteries, all the tools are very lightweight and easy to handle. They also have much more power and are easier to maneuver in tight situations. It doesn't seem to matter if the drill's original voltage was 6, 8, 12, or 18 volts.

"If I want I can even use the 12-volt batteries in my tractors and off-road vehicles to operate these tools in the field. When I do that I hook together two 10-ft. wires in the field to provide a little more work room."

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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

"Instead of installing brake shoes with factory linings, I chisel off the brake lining and use Liquid Nail to glue a 2-in. wide length of fabric belt (off a saw rig) onto the shoe. After the glue sets I drill holes through the back side of the shoe and through the belt. Then I use small brass bolts to make sure the belt stays on the shoe.

"It really works well. When I tap my foot lightly on the brake, I can't believe how fast the tractor will stop."

Ken Lebold, Earlton, Ontario (ph 705 563-2958 or 2277): "I operate a farm equipment repair shop, and recently heard that one of my customers used a shop vac to clean out sludge that had accumulated in the 25-gal. fuel tank on his Deere 2350 50 hp tractor. He emptied the tank out as much as possible by running the engine and then shovered the vac's suction hose inside the tank filler hole. Then he rinsed out the tank with fuel to remove any remaining sludge and sucked it up.

"He knew there was a problem because dirt was accumulating in the tractor's fuel filters and sediment bowls. He said it was a lot easier than removing the tank from the machine. In some cases, you may have to put another smaller hose on the end of the vac cleaner hose so it'll fit into the filler hole. Be careful not to damage the tank's sending unit, which is a float and rod that tells you how much fuel is in the tank. And of course avoid any flames or sparks."

Eugene P. Prunty, Andover, S. Dak.: "I change light bulbs without having to climb a ladder by using an old telescoping window washer. I screw a metal can onto the end of the washer's handle, then use electrical tape to attach two foam drinking cups inside the can. The cups grip the bulb. I use two cups just for reinforcement. The window washer is about 6 ft. long so I can reach up about 12 ft. Works great both in my house and barn."

Jeremy Row, Shickley, Neb., FFA vice president: "We turned an old weight machine into a handy portable table to hold a chop saw.

"The weight machine already had a wheel on front that retracted up out of the way when not in use so the machine wouldn't roll around. It works great for a table because we can move it whenever we want, or keep it stationary.

"To make the table we cut the machine's



four uprights down to a height of 29 in., then made a square frame out of angle iron, welded it to the bottom of the uprights, and bolted a section of 1/2-in. plywood on top. The problem we ran into was getting the wheel to retract without contacting the table top. We solved the problem by spinning the wheel 180 degrees and cutting 30 in. off the handle."

Ray Bittmann, Anoka, Minn.: "Many shop vacs have big 3-in. dia. hoses, which makes it hard to get into tight spaces, like under a car seat. My solution is to take a long funnel - the kind used to drain transmission oil - and attach it to the end of the hose. The funnel tube friction fits into the end of the hose. Works great."

Jerry Hawkinson, Gettysburg, S. Dak.: "The air conditioner on my Deere 7600 tractor wouldn't keep the cab cool. I discovered the air conditioner has two circulating fans located under the seat. One of the fan motors didn't work at all, and the other one was weak. My Deere dealer replaced both motors, which solved the problem."

Dave McAdoo, Alvarado, Texas: "Maybe I'm a slow learner, but it was late in life before I learned the significant cost advantage of buying WD-40 by the gallon. But you need an effective way to dispense it.

"I tried using spray bottles and pump oil cans, but they always seemed to deliver too much product. I was about to switch back to spray cans when I discovered that the bottles they use for liquid Grecian Formula squirt a nice, thin stream right where you want it. It works so well that you might want to spend \$14 for a bottle even if you don't use the contents. It also works well for the 50/50 ATF and acetone do-it-yourself penetrating oil that I read about in FARM SHOW (Vol. 34, No. 3)."