

**Dee Gano, Tatlayoko Lake, British Columbia:** "A lot of people might not know that many mines have lots of discarded steel core rubber conveyor belting that you can pick up for a song. This belting is tough and can be used for all kinds of things – such as walkways through muddy areas, or to make a non-slip surface in your shop or on the floor of a barn. Just contact your nearest mining operation and check it out."

**Darnell Carrer, Roxboro, N.C.:** "When changing oil I used to find that many vehicles still retained as much as 9 oz. of old oil in the pan. I used a suction gun from NAPA auto parts (\$9) with a curved section of copper tubing inserted into the plastic suction hose to draw out what remains."

**Everett C. Cronkite, Easton, Maine:** "To make it easier to work on garden tractors, I simply attached an 880-lb. electric cable winch to the ceiling of my shop. Makes it easy to raise the front end of the tractor so I can sit on a stool instead of laying down when working on them."

**Vernon Schoen, Oak Ridge, Mo.:** "I use automatic transmission oil in my air tools and to rub on my shovels, rakes and other garden tools. Works great because it has rust prevention additives in it. Keeps them looking shiny and new."

**Stephen Kwiatkowski, Grand Rapids, Mich.:** "I make cheap penetrating oil using equal parts of fuel oil and transmission fluid. If I have a larger rusted area on a piece of equipment, I soak a rag in the penetrating oil and lay it over the area for a couple days. Oil will soak into the entire area so you can work on it."

"To remove a rusted bolt that won't budge, just drill 2 or 3 small holes into the rusted nut and usually it will break loose."

"I mounted a bench vise on a piece of 2-in. square metal tubing to use as a portable vise in the receiver hitch on my trucks."

**Jerry D. Allen, Perry, Iowa:** "Two years ago the clutch on my IH 1066 tractor got stuck so I took a can of WD 40 spray and cut the small red spray tube in half. I put a long small plastic hose between the two halves of the tube so I could reach up all around the clutch. Once I soaked the clutch we started the tractor and it broke loose. Working good so far."

**Dave Edens, Babcock, Wis.:** "For retracting the brake cylinder on disc brakes, I use a cheap steering wheel puller. I leave the old brake pad in place and use an impact wrench to turn the bolt. Very handy."

**Tim Piper, Macomb, Ill.:** "After a gasket and flange on my older pickup's exhaust system rusted out, the noise was very loud and exhaust spewed out from the hole. I cut the ends off 2 aluminum beverage cans, sliced them down the middle, and formed them by hand around the flange. They're held in place by clamps."

"After buying 21 assorted hammers at an auction, I needed a place to store them. I used a hole saw to cut a series of holes in a 1 by 4 and mounted the board along shelves in my shed. Looks nice and works great."



**Noel Hicks, Scottville, Ill.:** Noel put an old grindstone back to work by mounting it on a wood frame and attaching a sprocket to one end of the center shaft. An old lawn mower transmission, powered by an electric motor, chain-drives the sprocket.



**Gene Boehler, Farmersville, Ill.:** Gene got tired of the way the small caster wheels on his conventional swivel chair were forever stopped by small items on his shop floor. So he came up with the idea of fitting the chair with large wheels off an old hospital gurney. The big wheels roll right over all kinds of obstacles on the floor.

**Duane Reibson, Forksville, Penn.:** "I had trouble with an old Meyers snowplow freezing up because of moisture in the hydraulic oil. After several mechanics told me 'don't do it', I put anti-freeze in the hydraulic oil. I tried 30 cc's at first but that wasn't enough so I put 60 cc's in and that took care of the problem. The plow's been working great for 3 years."

**Robert C. Uski, Irma, Wis.:** "For years as a mechanic I have used this simple, easy-to-make device to vacuum dust out of air

**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.

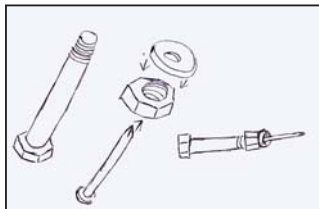
These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor



cleaner housings and many other jobs. It costs nothing and works great. All you need is an old flexible rubber garden hose from 1/2 to 1-in. dia., your shop long neck blower nozzle, a nylon tie, and a piece of wire. Cut a 1/4-in. slot in the hose 3 to 4 in. from the end of the hose. Stick end of nozzle into slot in hose and tie in place with a nylon tie. I keep several sizes and lengths of hose hanging by my compressor."

**Jim Cole, Ottawa, Kan.:** "After trying many kinds of tape and glue to repair tears and rips in tractor and mower seats, with none lasting more than a few weeks, I ordered a bottle of Liquid Stitch from J.C. Whitney (www.jcwhitney.com; ph 866 529-5530) and used it on 4 vehicle seats about 8 months ago. The repairs have held strong through very hot and cold weather."



**Samuel B. Frank, Jr., Camp Hill, Penn.:** "Here's a simple way to make a punch, ice pick or a handy self defense tool. Just tack weld a nut and washer together, stick a nail up through, and tighten the nail to the end of a bolt by screwing the nut into place."

**Gene Boehler, 27299 W. Frontage Rd., Farmersville, Ill. 62533 (ph 217 227-3220):** Gene has operated a welding shop for many years but he couldn't turn down the opportunity to take over a magneto repair service when a friend offered it to him. Once he took over, Gene found out the demand for rebuilt magnetos is strong. He gets calls

from all over the country for everything from old-time hit and miss engines to an inventor trying to make two engines out of a single VW engine (the man was building an ultra-light airplane and he had to stay under a certain weight).

Gene has a test bench for magnetos made from a hydrostatic drive from a lawn mower



with forward and reverse variable speed drive. The unit being tested connects to a board equipped with wire terminals. Sparks jump across the terminals when the magneto is being tested.

**Ken Voigt, Wausaw, Wis.:** "A reader in a recent issue wrote about the trouble he had with his Poulan chainsaw. I have a 20-in. Poulan Pro model and one thing I've found is that the spark is very weak. Some plugs will not work at all in it. The only plug I've found that works well is the Champion CJ-8. In fact, I use this plug in all my 2 and 4-cycle small engines. Another thing you should do on this chainsaw is to check the 4 bolts at the bottom that hold the cylinder/crankcase to the body of the saw. Mine fell off and wrecked the gear oiler. Plus, keep checking the muffler bolts for loosening because leaking hot exhaust can eat a hole right into the chain oil tank. If you do those things, it's a good saw."

**Titus J. Swartzentruber, Wellman, Iowa:** "Many newer gooseneck trailers have a battery-powered feature that triggers the brakes if the trailer ever comes unhooked. The battery on one of my trailers was always running low so I had to keep charging it. One day I realized I already had a 10-ga. wire running to the trailer plug on my pickup. Why not run another wire from the battery on my trailer to the trailer plug? I've had it wired that way for a couple years and haven't had to charge the battery since. You should protect it with a fuse or circuit breaker on both ends, however."

Open End Wrench Holder

After years of frustration with losing box end wrenches and other tools, Art Heitz, Jr., finally decided to do something about it. He made a spring-loaded wrench holder that he says works great.

"The problem with box end wrenches is that you put them loose into the toolbox and then you either can't find them later or it takes several minutes to find the one you want. Now all I have to do is grab the whole set. It also works for screwdrivers and other tools if they have a hole in one end," says Heitz.

The patent pending "Tool Keep" is available in 6 and 8-in. lengths that sell for \$8 and \$10 respectively. They're made out of high tensile stainless steel so they will not bend or rust.



Spring-loaded wrench holder keeps a whole set of box end wrenches together.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Art Heitz, Jr., Heitz Bale Handling Technologies LLC, P.O. Box 143, Nemo, S. Dak. 57759 (ph 605 578-7510 or 605 641-1293).