

Joe Macha, Plainview, Texas: "Coulter and gauge wheel bearings will run much longer if you 'grease' them once in a while with heavy gear oil. The oil keeps the seals wet and lubricated, preventing wear from dirt or rust if equipment sits for extended periods in the weather. It's good for all exposed bearings."

Mark Conyers, Weatherford, Texas: "When needing to turn over an engine by hand, such as when adjusting valves or similar maintenance, many times there are obstacles in the way that prevent a straight ratchet handle from having room to swing. I got around this by cutting the ratchet head off a wrench and welding it to the end of a piece of pipe bent into a 'J' shape. I welded the handle to the other end. Now I can usually clear obstacles – frame, pulleys, accessories, etc. – and get a full stroke while turning an engine over. You can make it to whatever length you're comfortable with."

James Tittle, Pembine, Wis.: "The batteries in my Milwaukee 12-volt electric drill wore out in about a year. Replacements



are \$40 or so. To get by until I could get a new one, I disassembled the battery pack, soldered an electric cord to the contacts and clipped it to a 12-volt battery. What I like about this idea is that you don't modify the drill so when I get a new battery, I can just set this modified one aside until I need it again."

James Weaver, Shippensburg, Penn.: Weaver operates Weaver Compact Tractor parts as well as a compact tractor salvage yard (ph 866 950-1050 or 717 477-9332). "We specialize in parts for Deere and Ford New Holland compact tractors and have more than 150 tractors dismantled for parts. We also have one of the largest selections of new aftermarket parts available anywhere. We make many parts that are no longer available or that are simply priced too high from the manufacturer."

Small Filter Protects Radiators

It's a no-brainer to install a \$35 to \$40 part that can save thousands of dollars replacing a radiator. Tom Gano calls his coolant filter "the best radiator insurance you can buy".

He and his father, Lloyd, invented and patented the filter about 20 years ago to deal with a problem Gano had.

"I had a 1966 Mustang and went through three radiators. The alloy that block is cast out of scales bad and plugs tubes in the radiator," he explains. "We wanted to get rid of the scale and rust before it got to the radiator."

The result is a filter with a shallow cone that captures debris. To install, cut 1 1/2 in. off the upper radiator hose and hose clamp the Gano Coolant Filter in place.

"Most of my business is from Mustang owners," Gano says. "I've sold over 100,000 to them alone."

Customers also include owners of classic cars as far back as Model A's and T's to modern racecars and Rolls Royce and Jaguar models.

The filter comes in three models (2 1/4 to 3-in. long) that typically last the life of the car. The clear model is made of a high-temperature polymer material that makes it easy to see when debris has collected. To clean, unscrew the clamps, remove the filter, flush it with a water hose and shake out the debris. Radiator shop mechanics also use the



"We recently introduced new front grilles for Deere 755, 855 and 955 tractors (\$350). We also have a steering arm to fit the left front steering arm on 4-WD model Deere 750's (\$249). Another new product is pto gears to fit Ford 1310, 1510, and 1710 tractors."

Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill.: "I once damaged a trailer tongue jack when I forgot to crank it up and hit the pavement on a sloped driveway. I had to cut 3 in. off the end of the jack because it was bent out-of-round. Soon after, I discovered that this scrap piece of tubing fit perfectly over the grease caps on trailer hubs. Now, whenever I replace or reinstall a grease cap, I place this piece of tubing over it and drive the cap on by rapping on this 'tool'. Saves denting and battering the caps."

"One of the best tools I ever bought for my shop was an electronic labelmaker that I can use to label cans and storage bins with nails or bolts in them. I also label wrench sockets with their size so I can identify them more easily and put my name and phone number on most of my tools so that if I forget any of them at my customers' homes, they can contact me. Probably the handiest use of all is using it to keep track of vehicle maintenance. I put a label on the radiator bulkhead telling what date or mileage I installed new brakes, ties, air filters, and such. And I put what size wrench is needed for the oil plug and how many quarts and what viscosity of oil the vehicle uses. Finally, I use it to put a label inside my windshield to record when the next oil change is needed."

"I like the Fram oil filters that have black non-slip grip material on them but they cost considerably more than plain filters. I get the same advantage by using a small piece of self-adhesive non-slip material like is used



Filter comes with a shallow cone that captures debris before it can reach radiator.

clear filter as a diagnostic tool, because it allows them to see when the thermostat opens and watch for microbubbles that indicate a blown gasket.

Mustang and hotrod owners prefer the aluminum filter because they can polish it up like chrome. Classic car owners like brass. Both metal models can be concealed in the hose to maintain the vehicle's original appearance.

Gano also offers a heater core filter for \$18. All filters are made in a barn-turned-machine shop in Carmel Valley, Calif.

Gano has more than 150 distributors and is open to adding more - especially in Canada.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gano Filter Co., P.O. Box 1502, Carmel Valley, Calif. 93924 (ph 831 659-1961).

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

on step treads. I stick a small piece of this onto the filter and then I can grip it easily to unscrew it."

Larry Hilliard, Sandy, Ore.: "In wet or snowy conditions, my 2000 Chrysler Grand Voyager mini van has a tendency to throw off the serpentine belt that drives the alternator and power steering pump. According to my service manager, all Chrysler-made minivans tend to have this problem. There should've been a recall. Chrysler knows about the problem and told me not to drive it in wet conditions. I live in western Oregon so that's not possible. I discovered that Gates rubber and belt company has a fix. It's called the Gates Anti Slip Serpentine Belt Kit. I picked up mine at a local NAPA parts store. It completely eliminated the problem."

Shane Myrick, Pleasanton, Kan.: "I use an old refrigerator to store all my welding rods. But instead of using a light bulb to

"When I bought a new welding machine for my truck I thought the channel iron frame the welder was mounted on was too weak, so I used 4-in. dia. aluminum boxing to build another frame around the original one. I bolted the boxing to existing holes in the channel iron frame and built sides up around it. The frame also holds a torch and protects the welder from dents. There's a hook on top so I can pick the welder up and put it on another truck."

Al McRoberts, 1218 S. 11 1/2 Road, Harrietta, Mich. 49638 (ph 231 389-0231): "I make new wheel rims for antique motorcycles that ride on clincher tires. Clincher tires were state of the art from 1904 until the mid 1930's and had beads made from cord instead of wire, which allowed them to stretch so you could fit them tight on the rim. I make 7 different sizes of rims. In recent years antique motorcycles have become popular, and ones in good condition sell for up to a half million dollars."

"I take blank wheel rims that I have specially made at a metal spinning shop and use punch presses to dimple the rims and punch spoke holes. As far as I know, I'm the only one in the U.S. that does this particular kind of work. The wheel rims I make range from 20 to 24 in. dia. Prices range from \$145 to \$230 per rim."

Harold Gallaher, Farmington, Mo.: "I bought a new 8-in. tubeless wheelbarrow tire at Walmart. Unfortunately, it had been



keep the refrigerator dry, as most people do, I use an old piano dryer. It's designed to keep moisture out of a piano so it stays in tune. It operates off a 110-volt outlet and consists of an adjustable-length aluminum rod with a heat element inside it.

"The nice thing about the piano dryer is that its heater element won't burn out like a light bulb will. I've used this same piano dryer in my refrigerator for 20 years. I've got a big investment in welding rods, but I don't have to worry they'll ever go bad due to moisture. I also use the refrigerator to keep sandpaper, and occasionally a big bag of peanuts in the shell."



squeezed flat during shipping. Both beads were touching and wouldn't spread apart to make contact with the sides of the wheel rims. So I filled 4 or 5 balloons about half full of air and then placed them inside the tire to hold the beads apart. It provided me with a temporary way to hold the tire out against the wheel rims until I could fill it with air."