

**Delbert Hayes, Norwalk, Iowa:** "After reading about it in FARM SHOW, I've been using a mixture of 50/50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone to free up rusted parts. It's the best penetrating fluid ever."

**Jeff Heiser, Vesper, Wis.:** "I had to install hard plastic seals on the 3-pt. arms of a Deere 2030 tractor at the lower end of the transmission case. The seals were hard to handle so I put some oil in a small soup can and carefully heated the can with a propane torch to bring the oil to a boil. Then I dipped each plastic ring in the can with a pair of needle nose pliers and swished them around for a minute or two. At that point the seal would become pliable enough to insert into the transmission housing casting. I would pinch to make a half moon shape and insert quickly, then reform into a circle shape and insert the pin."



**Ken Skow, Lewiston, Mich.:** "Finding good used rims for older tractors can be quite a challenge. When I needed a set for the front of my little Allis tractor I couldn't see paying \$70 or more for new ones. I found some 15-in. aluminum Ford 'donut' spare tire rims that have the same bolt pattern as the steel tractor rims. The ribbed tires from the old rims would have fit these rims but I left the auto tires in place. Nice thing about these rims is that they won't rust out and they're very cheap."

**Ben Morgan, Teeswater, Ont.:** "I've found that if I spray Tremclad or Rustoleum paint on the inside of my loader bucket it'll prevent snow from sticking. Snow slides out like the bucket is lined with plastic."



**Dave VanNorman, 209 Jacobs Rd., Wind Ridge, Penn. 15380 (ph 724 428-3401; maryanddavid209@windstream.net):** "I machine adaptors from 6061 aluminum to adapt 3/4 and 1-in. return lines from post pounders to the tractor (returns such as fill plug openings). Post pounders return a lot of fluid each time the pounder is activated. Foreign tractor sizes are usually metric and some domestic brands also have metric threads. I can make almost any size

adapter if I have the size and thread size. Prices vary but are around \$40 plus postage."

**Chuck Norman, Pine River, Minn.:** "When installing a starter on a tractor, I needed a special wrench. Rather than try to buy one, I used an acetylene torch to bend a 9/16 box end wrench to fit the situation. Worked great."

**L. Don Shumaker, Richfield, Ohio:** "One of the most useful tools in my shop is a wire wheel buffer I made from a 1/2 hp electric motor and a 6-in. dia. wire wheel. I use it to buff rust off metal parts, and for other cleanup jobs."

**Robert Thompson, Tonasket, Wash.:** "The fuel sender unit in the tank of my skid steer loader went bad. There were too many large, stiff hydraulic hoses above the tank to allow removal of the unit. So I just keep a 30-in. length of 1/4-in. copper tubing beside the seat and use it as a dipstick to check fuel level."

**Joseph Dickey, Evansville, Minn.:** "I save time when changing chisel points by first tack welding the head of each bolt to the front of each chisel point. That way, when I put the impact wrench on the nut behind the shank, the bolt won't spin on the opposite side."

**Michael Smith, Elkton, Md.:** "Before you decide a 2-cycle engine you're attempting to get started needs a new carburetor, put Sea Foam in the tank and spray some into the air intake. Then try to start. If it starts, spray more Sea Foam into the air intake until the motor almost stalls out. Sea Foam also works wonders on 4-cycle engines."

"I work on heavy equipment and frequently you are in a situation where an impact air wrench isn't an option so you must use a wrench. If the nut is dead tight, fit the best wrench you can on the nut, tension it a bit, and then tap the wrench with a hammer. I've been surprised how often this works."



**Vernon Goodwin, Lincoln, Neb.:** "Here's a modification I make to all my vice grips pliers to make them easier to unlock. I weld a short piece of metal rod to the locking lever so it extends out the end. Even if you have gloves on, you can easily unlock them."

**LeRoy Ellis, Reliance, S. Dak.:** "I had a problem with twine wrapping around the rotor on our bale processor. I first tried using a hot iron to cut through the twine to get it off. But that won't work on bales wrapped with sisal twine."

"So what I did was to take a motor and rotary blade off a meat slicer. I bolted 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



to handle. The rotor slices quickly through both plastic and sisal twine. I just have to keep a sharpener handy because occasionally the blade hits metal. Saves lots of time and aggravation."

**Gene Boehler, Boehler Welding & Repair, Farmersville, Ill.:** "The control valves on cutting torches wear smooth as they get older, which makes them slippery and



therefore harder to turn especially if you're wearing greasy gloves. To solve the problem I converted the round valve on my torch into a square one, simply by mounting a 2-in. sq., 3/8-in. thick brass plate over the valve.

"I drilled and tapped one edge of the plate so I could install a set screw and used a hole saw to make a hole in the middle of the plate big enough to fit over the valve. The set screw tightened the plate to the valve. The square valve is a lot easier to turn, even when I'm wearing greasy gloves. A steel or aluminum plate would also work."

"Here's something scary that happened in my shop. The abrasive wheel on my shop grinder exploded. Part of it veered off the tool's guard shield with such force that it stuck in my shop door. I still haven't found the rest of the wheel."

**Tom Wessman, Albert City, Iowa:** "If your combine bounces down the road after the tires get a flat spot from sitting overnight, leave the header down a little. It'll help

smooth out the ride.

"I had a hydraulic-operated hog trailer with a tire that ran crooked, and it would ruin the wheel bearing about every 3 months or so. I finally solved the problem by filling the bearing cap with 90-weight oil. Now whenever I fix bearings I always put oil in the caps."

**Tom Smith, Moodus, Conn.:** "When the gearbox stripped on my Kawasaki Mule utility vehicle, I bought new gears and a shim kit in order to repair it. However, none of the spacers in the kit was the right size. Some were too thin and some too thick."

"To solve the problem, I took a thick washer and super glued it to a metal plate in my lathe. I turned the washer down to the right thickness, and then used a propane torch to heat the washer and break the bond with the glue so I could remove the washer from the faceplate. After popping the washer off, it fit beautifully."

**Allen Namminga, Avon, S. Dak.:** "I keep several 55 and 30-gal. barrels in my shop where I can roll them anywhere and set them on end next to any repair project. The barrels hold tools and parts at a comfortable working height and within easy reach."

"One of the handiest features of my farm shop are the four tie-downs in the floor. Each tie-down consists of a 6-in. dia. well casing with a 1-in. dia. bar inside it that's embedded in the shop's concrete floor. We can straighten almost anything by tying it to the bar with a chain and then using a hydraulic floor jack. When not in use a simple cover keeps dirt out."

**Bruce G. Hartman, Dansville, N.Y.:** "I installed an I-beam in my barn above a drive-in bay and then mounted a chain hoist on the beam. I use the hoist to lift and hold ATV's, trailers, and other equipment when painting, repairing, or changing tires."

**Larry Floyd, Langley, Okla.:** "Inox injector lubricant, which I bought from a company in California, is a great lubricant for all kinds of cables. Unfortunately, I'm on my last bottle. I should have bought a whole case because now I can't find the product anywhere."

"I miss this product a lot. I have just about a teaspoon left and every time I go to use it I have to ask myself, 'is this cable really worth using up my last precious drops of

## He Used YouTube To Order A Part

Need a replacement part, but don't know the part number? Instead of getting on the phone and trying to describe the whatchamacallit, take a video, post it on YouTube, and send a link to the company. That's what Bill Kreitzer did when he needed a new valve for a faucet. Thanks to the company's lifetime warranty, he received a free part within a couple of weeks.

"They always say a picture is worth a thousand words. It was so easy to videotape the part. I used an iPhone that has an app that lets you choose where to send videos, including one to upload to YouTube," Kreitzer said.

He saved the video as a private upload on YouTube and emailed the website link to

the company's customer service. He didn't attach the video, he explained, because most businesses won't open email attachments because of potential viruses.

But they can safely open a YouTube site. Choosing the private option ensures his 14-second video won't be available to others who don't know the address.

People who don't have a smart phone can upload video from a camera to YouTube.

"If you don't know how, ask a grandkid," Kreitzer suggests.

Go to [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com) to see his video. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kreitzer Farms, P.O. Box 1, Elliott, Ill. 60933 (ph 217 781-4367; BillKreitzer@vermipod.com).