

David Koepping, West Linn, Ore.: "Repairing a broken roller chain on my Case 1845 skidsteer was frustrating. I had trouble pulling the chain ends together and attaching the master link, all while working solo with oily and frozen fingers in a cramped space. Then I had an idea. I got a medium-sized plastic zip tie from my shop and slipped it over both chain ends. Then I cinched the zip tie up, pulling the ends together so I could easily attach the master link. It was a satisfying end to a frustrating day."

Steve Carey, Boulder, Mont.: "One of my best money-saving ideas was switching to synthetic oil in pickups and going three times the recommended oil change intervals. The savings really add up."

"A good time-saving idea is mounting an air hose near the shop doors. Makes filling up tractor and truck tires easier. Don't have to mess with tangled-up hoses outside."

Richard Townsen, Camden, Tenn.: "I have problems removing the rechargeable batteries from power drills. It's hard for me to push in the clips on both sides of the battery. I solved the problem by breaking out the clips on both sides and using duct tape to hold the batteries in place. Works just fine."



Kim Rudin, Owego, N.Y.: "I recently converted a used toilet into what I call a Redneck Shop Stool. The toilet mounts on a wood platform that rolls around on wheels



off an old shopping cart, making the unit easy to move around. I use the tank to store cleaning supplies and stash rubber gloves

and other supplies under the seat. The seat is about 30 in. high, so it's the perfect height for my workbench. I can rest my feet on the platform, and the tank serves as a backrest for moments of relaxation."

Robert Dagen, Conneaut Lake, Penn.: "The vents on some of the newer gas cans are



located inside the nozzles. So, if you remove the nozzle to pour a full stream you have no vent.

"I decided to come up with my own air vent. I drill a hole on top of the can and install an ordinary tire air valve in it, using a 2-ft. piece of wire to pull the valve up through the hole."

Art Spearman, Independence, La.: "The inside clip that holds the pto lever in place on my 1961 Deere 1010 tractor came off. Rather than go through the trouble of breaking the tractor in half to replace the clip, I simply bolted a 3/4-in. thick by 5-in. long piece of flat bar across the pto shaft handle in order to hold it in place. I used a magnet to reclip."

Kevin Holland, Sandy, Vt.: "Here's an idea I use whenever I want to work on the hydraulic pump on my 1939 Ford 9N tractor, or change out the pto shaft. I park the tractor on a slight hump in my yard so that its front end faces downhill at an angle. That way very little hydraulic fluid will run out at the back of the tractor."

Lonnie Rixen, Sabula, Iowa: "The shifting cables on Deere combines and choppers can become gummy, making them hard to shift. To solve the problem, I remove the cable and put an electric drill on the end to turn the center wire as I oil it. I turn the cable in the same direction as it was coiled in order to keep from damaging it."

Hemmings Motor News, (www.hemmings.com): The popular auto magazine recently published a story about an old-time product designed to extend battery life. VX-6 was sold in a yellow and black box, often with a photo of NASCAR legend Lee Petty saying, "I'd rather race without tires than without VX-6 in my battery."

VX-6 is actually cadmium that's supposed to prevent or halt the buildup of sulfation. The

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

idea was to insert small doses into each cell of a new battery.

Original VX-6 boxes and their contents have become collectable items, with an asking price of \$5 to \$20. They're especially popular with lifelong NASCAR fans. However, the product hasn't disappeared with time. Today, it's marketed under the brand name Charge-It Concentrated Battery Additive. It's sold in 2-oz. (\$4.99) and 32-oz. bottles (\$21.95) on www.amazon.com.

Stephan Rodamaker, Janesville, Iowa: "I own Deere 2505 and 2210 tractors. By cutting an access hole in the floor and cowl I can lubricate the U-joints and yoke. Otherwise, it's a costly expense."

Mike Marshall, Orchard Park, N.Y.: "I work for a local milk processing plant and recently made this portable removable vise for our service truck. Works great for road calls."

"The vise bolts onto a square steel plate that bolts onto a vertical length of 2-in. sq. tubing. A round tow hook off a Volvo semi truck is



tractor wheel to line up the stud bolts with the holes in the dual. Then I slip the dual onto the stud bolts and install the other bolts. The final step is to remove the stud bolts."

Greg Perry, Casper, Wyo.: "We have a service truck to fix equipment in the field. The truck has a hose reel that pulls out and hooks up to the oil pan to suck out used oil which eliminates a drain pan and all that mess."

Wesley Walker, Cooper, Texas: "I had a problem with the gearshift lever on my IH 86 Series tractor. The lever is made out of common bar stock and it wears around the vertical transmission shaft, which makes shifting gears difficult. To solve the problem, I cut the shaft hole in line with the bar and then welded a 3/8-in. nut on 1 side of the cut and a 7/16-in. nut on the other side. Then I put in a 3/8-in. bolt, dropped it over the shaft, and tightened the bolt. No more slack in the gearshift lever."



Curtis Footh, Stanley, N. Dak.: "I built this portable service rack for my shop out of an old front end alignment rack that I bought at an auction for \$150. I use it with tall jackstands and a high-lift hydraulic jack to change the oil and to do repair work on cars and pickups. The rack rides on a pair

He Put An Oil Leak To Good Use

Hank Psolka of Dallas, Penn., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of how he put an oil leak on his tractor to good use.

"The diverter valve on my International 3414 tractor leaked from day one," says Psolka. "Oil would slowly drip onto the coveralls on my left leg, which drove me crazy. The problem persisted no matter how many times I changed the O-rings."

"Rather than fix the leak I decided to get creative. I got a Penzoil oil bottle and cut it out so it would fit in back and underneath the valve body. Now when the valve drips the oil bottle catches the oil and it flows to the bottle's spout. I screwed in a 1/4-in. insert coupled to a length of Tygon tubing. The oil flows through the tubing to the tractor's lower frame where it's used to constantly lubricate some big bushings."

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A plastic oil bottle catches oil from a leaking diverter valve, which is then used to lubricate lower bushings.



welded to the bottom of the tubing and pins onto the pickup's receiver hitch. Whenever we need to use the vise on a job, we just bolt it onto the plate and go. The only limitation is that with the vise mounted we can't open the tailgate. However, it takes less than 5 min. to remove the 3 bolts from the plate."

Harold Fratzke, Cottonwood, Minn.: "Putting on dual wheels doesn't have to be a difficult job. All I do is jack up the tractor. I made 2 stud bolts that screw into the casting. I roll the dual up to the casting and turn the