

slams. I'm sure it also causes premature wear in the gearbox. I'm told this is a common problem on Deere Gators.

"To solve the problem, Barry made a brake that stops the gearbox belt from turning while shifting gears. The brake consists of a metal bracket with a brake lever on it. The lever bolts on under the Gator's front seat and is connected to a cable that goes back to a brake pedal off a bike. Pulling on the lever causes the brake pedal to push up against the belt drive and stop it as I shift into gear.

"When I'm done shifting gears I let up on the lever and away I go. Very simple."

**Pete Captein, Ontario, Ore.:** "I was never able to justify the cost of a big shop press so I built my own. It's about 14 ft. high, 10 ft. wide and is made from 10-in. H-beams.



It sets on a 6-ft. wide base. The 8-in. dia. cylinder is off an old Michigan payloader and is made so I can roll back and forth on the table, anywhere I want. It can handle very big jobs.

"The payloader's other cylinder is mounted off to the side where I use it to pull things apart. It hangs from a steel beam near the shop's ceiling. I've used it to pull a pto apart, to straighten out a silage truck's door, and to straighten a bent T-ring on snap-on dual wheels.

"Both cylinders are powered by a 10 hp electric hydraulic power unit with two control valves, one for the main pressing cylinder and one for the pulling cylinder.

"A commercial shop press of comparable capacity sells for \$20,000 or more. I spent less than \$1,000."



**Mike Marshall, Orchard Park, N.Y.:** "I injured my shoulder while lifting a full-size battery overhead to install in a Thermo King reefer unit on a semi trailer. I made up this lift jack using piping and an old car bumper jack. It works well and is easy on my shoulder. I put it on wheels so I can roll it under a Thermo King Super II reefer unit."

**Derrick Caisse, Chaplin, Conn.:** "I coat plow blades and discs with non-stick cooking spray for winter storage. It costs less than grease and is far less messy.

"I always seem to have problems with bent watering wands. I've found that by fitting a piece of 1/2-in. I.D. pvc pipe over the aluminum shaft the wand will no longer bend."

**Myron Finch, 315 S. High St., Baxter, Iowa 50028:** "My 3-wheeled bicycle had been outside for too long, which caused the bike's chrome wheel rims and fenders to become rusty. Steel wool worked to clean the rust but it was a slow process.



"To speed things up, I cut the point and head off a 3 1/2-in. deck screw and placed it into a 3/8-in. electric drill. Then I wound up some steel wool around the screw. Using the drill to clean the rust off this way works great, especially around the wheel spokes. When I got done I waxed the chrome with chrome sealer that I bought at a hardware store."

**CrystaLenz, P.O. Box 159, Clarksburg, Tenn. 38324 (ph 731 431-5278; www.crystalenz.com):** The headlight cleaning kit produced by CrystaLenz is designed to restore faded, yellowed headlights. It doesn't use power tools, therefore eliminating the risk of burning and scratching the headlights.

Application is a 3-step process that removes deep-set dirt and grime, and polishes away scratches. Sells for \$29.95 plus \$5 S&H.

**Ken Hall, Purdy, Mo.:** "The hand crank to raise and lower the head on my milling machine was difficult to move and to reach,



so I replaced it with a garage door opener which I bought at a surplus store for \$10. I welded a 1-in., no. 40 chain sprocket to the opener and a 4-in. sprocket to the mill. The opener is reversible and is operated by a 2-way switch. Now the head moves easily both up and down."

**C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.:** "Recently we had to dig a trench and install a new hydrant in our yard. We were concerned that freezing and thawing could lift the hydrant, causing the plastic pipe that connects to the base of the hydrant to break.

So instead of connecting plastic pipe to the hydrant, we substituted a 3-ft. length of galvanized pipe, and then connected the plastic pipe to that. The galvanized pipe serves as an anchor to prevent the hydrant from lifting."



## Air Filter "Blaster" Pays For Itself

This new air filter cleaner uses a blast of air to instantly clean dirty canister-type filters.

"The Air Filter Blaster is designed to clean dirt from any canister-type air filter," says Dennis Grieve, Salmon River Innovations, Salmon, Idaho. "It lets you use your air compressor to blow dust out of the filter. It's not intended to permanently replace the purchase of new air filters. It'll just make them last as much as 20 times longer."

The unit comes with a cone-shaped, centrifugal force air induction chamber that pressurizes the filter from the inside out. To clean a filter, you hook up a compressor to a fitting on the induction chamber. The pressurized air creates a vortex that causes a poly shaft with slots in it to rotate. As the shaft rotates inside the filter element, the pressurized air coming out of the slots dislodges dirt and dust from the filter.

"It has just one moving part and should last a lifetime," says Grieve. "The cone on top of the unit fits filters of various sizes and seals tight onto all of them. The air filter can be cleaned several times without applying more than 40 psi to the filter element. It works a lot better than damaging the filter by banging it on the ground, or holding an air nozzle 1/4 in. away from the filter, which can tear the filter element."

The Air Filter Blaster comes with a duffel bag to store the unit, as well as a 3-lb. portable air tank and additional attachments. It sells for \$249 plus S&H. The company also sells a shop model for \$499 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Salmon River Innovations, LLC, Industrial Park - Airport Plaza no. 2, Salmon, Idaho 83467 (ph 208 756-8085; dgblasterman@gmail.com; www.airfilterblaster.com).



Air filter cleaner lets you use an air compressor to blow dust out of any canister-type filter.



Unit comes with a cone-shaped, centrifugal force air induction chamber that pressurizes filter from the inside out.



Need a decal for your tractor? The Decal Store has more than 10,000 authentic decals in stock.

## Where To Buy Authentic Tractor Decals

If you're looking for a decal for a gearshift on an old "H" or the logo for a Rumely steam engine, check out the Decal Store. You can order on the internet or call the store and talk to the owner, Karen Kackmeister, who says there are more than 10,000 decals in stock.

"We carry individual decals and sets," says Kackmeister. "You can order a set or just the one you need. If we don't have it in stock, our suppliers probably have it."

Pricing for decals varies by the set. Kackmeister says having the model number, as well as the make and year, makes it easier to locate a specific decal. However,

she is glad to help people find what they need, even if it means extra research.

In addition to the standard current and past tractor brands, Kackmeister also carries lawn and garden decal sets, including lesser-known brands like Shaw Du-All, Mustang and Speedex. She also carries decals for a range of gas engines and implements.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Decal Store, 121 East 2nd St., Ainsworth, Neb. 69210 (ph 402 382-3290; toll free 800 286-2171; jonsal@threeirverwb.net; www.tractordecal.com).