

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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special tool that's normally used for this kind of job. I came up with a quick fix by grinding down part of a 3/8-in. dia. bolt just below the head, leaving a square 'shoulder' that hooks onto the bearing. Then I screwed a nut and washer onto the other end of the bolt. By grabbing the nut and washer with a crowbar I was able to pull the bearing out."

**Jeff Schott, Omega Drives, 35 Trottier Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 3R3 (ph 204 453-2477):** "Our company supplies pto drivelines and right angle parallel



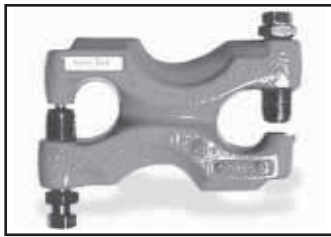
gearboxes to OEM manufacturers, and our diverse inventory also allows us to supply prototype and aftermarket products for the agricultural market. Because of our extensive inventory we're able to offer fast off-the-shelf service.

"Our employees are highly knowledgeable about specific products and will take the time to investigate what the customer's problem is and suggest different ways to solve it. We've helped farmers, custom fabricators, and original equipment manufacturers develop new solutions for existing products and also help them with new ideas still in the concept stage. We have a complete range of pto shafts and gearboxes, with ratios that range from 1:1 to 1 to 4.46 and horsepower ranges from 15 to 230 at 1,000 rpm's."

**Clifford Brandenberger, Beecher City, Ill.:** Clifford mounted a salvaged furnace fan on a homemade, 4-legged wooden stand. The stand rides on two wheels on back and has a handle on front, making it easy to move around. Clifford spends a lot of time in his shop, and keeping cool on hot days is important. The fan puts out a good blast of air.



**Smith Tool, 2505 S. Custer, Wichita, Kansas 67212 (ph 316 942-8632; fax 316 942-7738; Website: www.smithtoolinfo.com):** "Our new two-in-one Rivet Tool is designed to remove and replace both standard round-head and countersunk rivets. It allows you to replace sickle sections right on the machine. A two-way reversible anvil insert allows the tool to replace both types of rivets quickly and easily. The unit comes with a variety of parts including riveter screw, riveter sleeve, anvil, punch sleeve, and punch. "It's the ideal tool for anyone who has



several machines with varying sickle section fasteners. The narrow body design fits all sickles including new double tooth sections. The tool comes complete with all parts and instructions.

"Sells for \$69.42 plus S&H."

**Carl Marley, Nokomis, Ill.:** He converted his acetylene welder to a propane model by removing the original oxygen tank and replacing it with a 20-lb. barbecue grill-sized propane bottle that he already had.

He needed to raise the smaller bottle up in



order to keep the connecting hoses up at about the original length. To do this, he made a perch for the camper bottle out of a 2-ft. length of 10-in. dia. PVC pipe. The lightweight PVC pipe reduces the cart's total weight and makes it easier to handle.

A ring at the bottom of the propane bottle fits snugly into the top of the PVC pipe, and a chain across the front part of the bottle keeps it in place.

"It works good. Switching from acetylene to propane saves me a lot of money," says Marley. "I could have used a taller propane bottle but I already had the smaller tank so I didn't have to spend the money for a new one. When I made the switch I had to install a different cutting tip on the torch. It really cuts good. I recently used it to straighten out a bent harrow mounted on back of my field cultivator."



**Chad Burnett, Bruce's Welding, Girard, Ill. 62640 (ph 217 627-2241):** "We built a small 2-wheeled trailer that's equipped with a hand-operated, pivoting boom. It works great for a variety of reach-and-lift jobs. The boom mounts at the center of the trailer just ahead of the wheels and is equipped with a hand-cranked winch and cable. The boom can be rotated by removing a steel pin and grabbing a handle.

"We built it for a local hog confinement operator who uses it to pick up dead hogs and load them into a dumpster. The axle is rated to handle up to 3,500 lbs."

## "Gunk Remover" Gives New Life To Water Heaters

Sooner or later, all hot water heaters experience a buildup of mineral sediments in the bottom. The buildup of gunk acts as an insulator that makes the heater element work harder.

Brian Kumer oversees some 150 apartments in Peoria, Ill., and he got tired of constantly replacing water heaters. "Sometimes I had to buy half a dozen at a time," he says.

He decided to find a way to get the gunk out of older water heaters before they fail. His "gunk remover" shoots compressed air into the bottom of a water heater via a hose connected to the drain pipe. The compressed air dislodges the buildup of gunk in the bottom of the heater.

The next step is to get the gunk out. He hooks his air compressor up to a faucet and opens the hot water valve. He hooks a garden hose to the water heater drain. Then he shoots compressed air down the hot water pipe, blowing all the hot water and sediment out of the water heater, and into the garden hose which carries it away.

Surprisingly little air pressure is required - only about 10 lbs. Once they're cleaned out the water heaters work like new, notes Kumer.



"Gunk remover" shoots compressed air into bottom of water heater via a hose connected to drain pipe. Air compressor hooks up to faucet.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brian Kumer, 2215 W. Willow Knoll, Suite 102, Peoria, Ill. 61614 (ph 309 693-0617).

## New Paint Lets You "Chrome" Almost Anything

Just about any paintable surface - from fiberglass to steel to wood - can be "chromed" to a mirror-like surface with this new water-based paint called "Fantachrome".

The company says the three-layer paint produces a durable, long-wearing surface. As painting goes, it's an easy process, and cleanup is easier still, since all three layers are water-based.

To date, it's been used on everything from hitches, to bumpers to 20-ft. tall styrofoam stage props.

The first layer is a 2-component base coat that creates a smooth surface. It serves as a primer and reacts chemically with the second layer, which is applied in several steps.

The first step is the application of an activator, followed by a distilled water bath. The third step is the patented Fantachrome coat which is followed by a second distilled water wash, and a compressed air blow-off.

The third layer in the process is a protective two-component top coat. This automotive grade top coat can be put on clear or tinted to any color. Gloss can be varied from chrome-like high gloss to brushed metal matte.

The Fantachrome process costs approximately \$1.00 - \$5.00 per sq. foot for materials, depending on the surface being coated.

Alsa offers a complete kit that includes everything you need to get started, including all chemicals and a special machine to apply the "chrome" intermediate coat. Standard spray equipment is needed for the base coat and top coat. The entire process can take 48 hours or more, depending on drying time required at various temperatures.

Fantachrome is also available in gold, bronze or copper.



Water-based chrome paint can be used on just about any paintable surface, from fiberglass to steel to wood.



The three-layer paint process produces a durable, long-wearing surface, according to the company.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alsa Corporation, 2640 E. 37th St., Vernon, Calif. 90058 (ph 323 581-5200; fax 323 589-4400; E-mail: [alsa@earthlink.net](mailto:alsa@earthlink.net); Website: <http://www.alsacorp.com/fantachrome.html>).