

Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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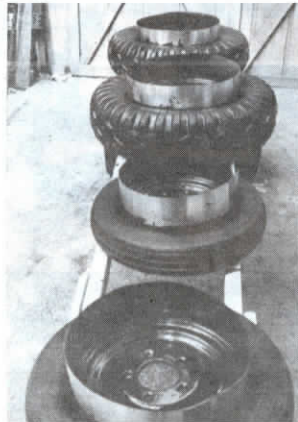


Tom Belton, Indianola, Ill.: Tom says one of the handiest ideas in his farm shop is this A-frame tool caddy, which was built for him by a friend. Built on casters, the tool caddy can be wheeled up to any job in the shop or outside on the concrete pad. It holds tools on both sides and has storage at center. "It's a great step saver. Speeds up shop jobs," notes Belton. (C.F. Marley)

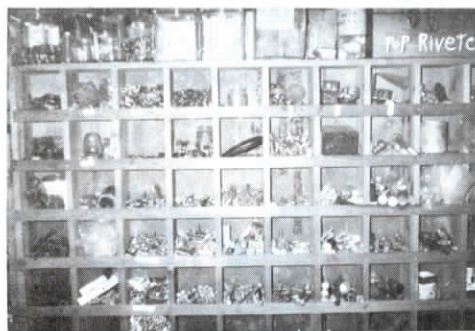
John Giesbrecht, Saskatoon, Sask.: "To remove an old oil seal quickly from a recessed location, like on a power steering unit, drill two small holes on opposite sides of the seal. Take two metal screws and screw them into the holes so the threads grip well. Use 2 vise grips or wrecking bars, depending on space, and remove the seal."



Calvin Nordberg, South Haven, Minn.: "I made this heavy-duty jack stand to support trucks and other equipment that are being serviced. It's built sturdy and is safe to use. I used 1 1/2-in. dia. steel pipe to make four legs and welded a 5/8-in. thick circular steel plate on top of them. A 1/4-in. square steel plate is welded to the legs as a brace below the circular plate. The lower part of the legs is braced by 7/16-in. dia. steel rod. The center pipe is made from 2 1/2-in. dia., schedule 80 steel tubing and has a series of holes in it. A pin made from 3/4-in. dia. cold roll steel is used to set the jack stand at different heights. I welded a 5-in. long, 3-in. wide, 3/4-in. thick steel plate onto the top of the tubing and welded a 2-in. sq., 1/2-in. thick steel plate onto each end of the plate to form 'side ears'."



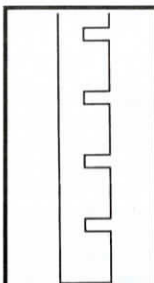
Carl Park, Hobart, Ind.: "The neatest way to paint wheel rims or to paint tires black is to wrap aluminum flashing around the rim. You can hold it in place with duct tape."



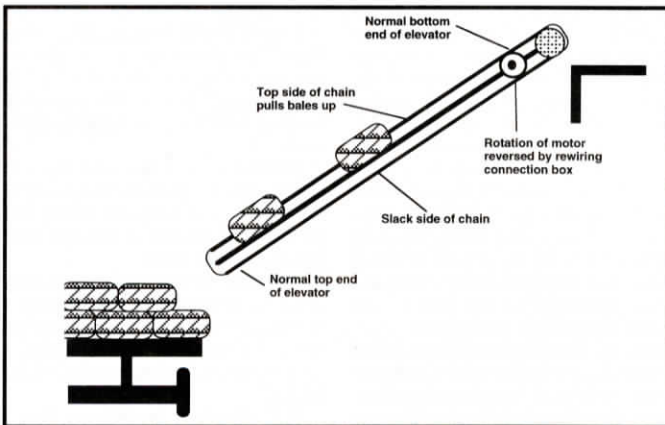
Eric Wagner, Calmar, Iowa: "I use 1 by 6-in. boards with notches cut out of them to make handy wood parts bins that mount on my shop wall. Each bin is about 5 ft. high and 6 ft. wide and has 100 5-in. sq. cubby holes. I use 1-in. wide wood strips to make a 'lip' that goes in front of each cubby hole. The back of each bin is enclosed by wood panels. The bins are fastened to the wall with screws. They're not cheap because lumber is high-priced, but I really like them because I can design them to fit my shop. Also, I make the cubby holes big enough so that I can get my hand in

the hole and still have room to grasp something. Also, I can see what's in the hole from a distance.

"Notches are cut into each board as shown in the drawing. I clamp 10 boards together at a time when making the slots to save time. I use a radial arm saw to cut across the boards and then knock the chips out with a hammer. I then fit the boards together, nail the back panel on, and attach the wooden strips on front. It's important to use good lumber so the slots don't chip off."



Notches are cut out of 2 by 6's as shown in drawing



W.G. Mott, Salmon Arm, British Columbia: "Bale elevators in the far-off frontiers of Canada are invariably supplied with the motor at the low end. This results in the chain slack being on top of the elevator which causes it to wrap on the driving sprocket, causing chain stretch. This causes chain jump on the top sprocket during the process of loading and unloading. You can eliminate all this hassle by reversing the

motor electrically and also reversing the chain to put the easy-off chain spikes in the correct position. The elevator is completely turned around with the motor at the high end. Once converted, the chain pulls bales directly up the elevator and it never jumps off the top sprocket. Instructions for reversal of the electric motor is generally found on the plate on the motor that covers the connection box."

Safety Chains For Tire Inflation

When Cletus Clement and son Craig change truck tires, they tie chains around the tires and rims to hold them in place in case the rim should explode off the wheel.

"Big truck tires have split wheel rims that are held together by a steel ring that fits into a groove. If the ring isn't seated correctly when you inflate the tire, part of the rim can blow up into the air," says Cletus. "At 90 lbs. of air pressure the rim really flies off fast, and people have been hurt as they stand over the tire putting in air."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cletus Clement, 6536 S. Rt. 1, St. Anne, Ill. 60964 (ph 815 427-6602).



Quonset-Style Shop Built From Old Grain Bin

When a windstorm damaged a 24-ft. dia. grain bin on a neighbor's farm, Jim Gall, Union, Iowa, got the idea of using the panels to make a quonset-style shop and garage. It measures 25 ft. wide and 26 ft., 10 in. long.

"It cost less than \$1,000 to build. Commercial buildings of comparable size sell for \$6,000 to \$7,000," says Gall about the 25 by 27-ft. building.

The windstorm took the bin's roof off and bent some of the top panels. Gall bought what was left from the neighbor's insurance company for \$100. He used an electric impact wrench to take the sections apart, then loaded them on a wagon and hauled them home.

To construct the building, he set creosote fence posts in the ground every 3 to 4 ft. along the sides and north end where he planned to erect the building. He nailed 2 by 6 boards to the top of the posts, then bolted some angle iron to the top of the boards to bolt the bin panels to. He used four panels to make each of the roof sections. He kept the frame of the 3 by 5-ft. ground-level bin door and covered it with clear hard plastic to make a skylight.



He framed in the north end of the building solid with 2 by 6's covered by sheet metal. He also covered the lower sidewalls with sheet metal. A 12-ft. high, 16-ft. wide overhead door was installed on the south end. The building's roofline didn't allow using a door higher than 10 ft. so he removed one section from the top of the door. He also installed a small walk-in door. The last step was to pour a cement floor.

"I use it to do general shop work and as a garage for my pickup and car," says Gall.

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