

Where To Buy Small Parts

After our story in the last issue on West Coast Inventor Supply, a company that specializes in miniature parts for inventors and engineers (ph 949 858-7251), we heard from Bob Stevens at Small Parts Inc., a company based in Miami Lakes, Florida, that has specialized in the tiniest of parts for 35 years.

Bob sent us a catalog detailing the thousands of miniature items the company handles. Everything from square tubing that's as small as 3/32-in. sq. to tiny bar stock, rods, and tubes. Also, every type of wire, screws, joints, sprockets, gear boxes, couplers, and tools that you could think of. Virtually anything you would find in a hardware store machine shop supply catalog, you can find in the catalog from Small Parts Inc., only in miniature. Even if you don't need what they have to offer, the catalog is fascinating reading.

For a free catalog, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Small Parts, Inc., Box 4650 Miami Lakes, Fla. 33014 (ph 800 220-4242; Website: www.smallparts.com).

"Hack Into Your Car Or Truck"

Tired of taking your car or truck into the dealer every time that glowing "check engine" light comes on?

One solution is to buy a diagnostic code reader that can "read" the codes out of your vehicle's on-board computer. But if you've got a computer - and you like fooling around with it - you can hack into your car's electronics yourself with no special equipment.

There are a variety of programs on the internet for Windows computers. Prices range from a couple hundred dollars and up.

Here are some places to look:

- B&B Electronics Manufacturing Company at <http://www.autotap.com>. The company offers AutoTap scan tool programs for all domestic-built vehicles. The company also hosts <http://obdii.com/codes.html>, a website that lists the nearly 600 Diagnostic Trouble Codes (DTCs) for all engine diagnostic readers.

- Software For Cars at <http://www.softwareforcars.com> has a location in the San Diego, California area and one in Nanoose Bay, British Columbia. In addition to diagnostic software, you can search company owner and master mechanic Henry



The world's smallest robot was built at Scandia National Laboratories using a number of parts supplied by Small Parts Inc. The plan is to fit the robots with temperature sensors, radios, microphones, and other devices for gathering information in the event of chemical spills.

Richter's website for assistance and E-mail him with specific questions. In the U.S., that address is: Software for Cars, Box 711450, Santee, Calif. 92072. In Canada, Software For Cars, 2770 Shooting Star Place, Nanoose Bay, B.C. V9P 9E4. Or send E-mail to info@SayHenry.com.

- Rinda Technologies Inc. at www.rinda.com offers Diacom diagnostic software for GM cars and light trucks, and manufactures diagnostic equipment for the automotive and marine industries. The company has more than a decade of experience in the design and production of hand-held testers, computer software and electronic equipment. To see what types of products and services they offer, visit their website or write to them at Rinda Technologies, Inc., 4563 N. Elston Ave., Chicago Ill. 60630.

- Freescan is a program for some older European and GM cars. It won't work with 1996 or newer vehicles, but it does work with some models of Camaro and Corvette from the late 1980's and early 1990's. Look at the website to see the exact cars it works with at http://www.andywhittaker.com/ecu/obdii_software.htm.

"Conditioner" Boosts Battery Life

No matter how long a lead-acid battery has been in or out of service, this new battery conditioner can extend its life, says IES, Innovative Energy Systems.

As batteries charge and recharge, sulfur begins to harden and crystallize on the surface of the lead plates, creating a permanent insulative barrier. As this barrier becomes thicker, the battery's ability to accept a charge or deliver energy is greatly decreased.

The "DeSulfator" simply connects to the battery and prevents sulfur buildup by continually sending electronic pulses through the plates.

Once installed, batteries remain charged and the process of sulfation can even be reversed on older batteries.

A unit for batteries that are used regularly sells for \$109 plus S&H. A unit for high-capacity batteries sells for \$159 plus S&H.



"DeSulfator" prevents sulfur buildup on lead plates by continually sending electronic pulses through the battery.

A solar-powered unit sells for \$295 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, IES, Innovative Energy Systems, Box 70060, Baltimore, Md. 21237 (ph 410 686-3120; fax 410 686-4271; Website: www.desulfator.com).



Inventor-manufacturer Glen Morgan with his 1995 Dodge Dakota pickup, which is fitted with the Rust BustR system.

Simple Idea Puts An End To Rust

Rust forms because iron atoms give off electrons. This process allows it to combine with hydrogen and oxygen to form new compounds, one of which is iron oxide, better known as rust. If you can somehow replace the missing electrons in the iron atoms before oxidation begins, rust doesn't happen.

That's what Glen Morgan's new Rust BustR system does. It's based on a method which has been used for years by the U.S. Navy to keep ships from rusting. While Morgan didn't invent the idea, he did come up with a simple-to-use version by packaging a zinc-containing metal alloy with a magnet embedded in it. When attached to the surface of a metallic object with an adhesive that conducts electricity, it protects the iron by giving off electrons that would normally have been taken away from the iron. In other words, when you attach Morgan's device to your car, truck, tractor, tillage tool, etc., it corrodes away while whatever it's mounted on stays intact.

It's easy to install Morgan's Rust BustR. It's a simple box that you just stick on the



Rust BustR box consists of a zinc-containing metal alloy with a magnet embedded in it.

vehicle or implement in a place where it's not in the way. Under the hood or inside a wheel well works fine.

Rust BustR sells for about \$50 plus \$10 for shipping anywhere in the U.S. and Canada.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rust BustR Rust Inhibiting System, GEMCO Enterprises, LLC, Box 1254, Shawnee, Okla. 74802 (ph 405 273-2232; fax 208 978-5105; Website: www.rustbustr.com).

Greasable Cultivator Bushings

While Michael Mortell was replacing the bolts that hold the shanks on his IH 4600 field cultivator recently, he figured he could eliminate that chore in the future if he could just figure out a way to lubricate the bushings.

"Most field cultivators don't even have sleeves in those bushings where the shanks pivot. They run dry and get filled with dirt that wears down the bolts," he says.

His first thought was to just drill through the top of the bushing, thread the hole and screw in a grease zerk. But they're made of hardened steel. "I went through some expensive titanium drill bits before I realized I wasn't going to be able to do that," he admits.

Undaunted, he figured there had to be a way to open the bushing up to accept grease. "I knew I could cut through them with my chop saw, so I used it to cut a slit the width of the blade into the bushing. I cut just deep enough to see sparks flying inside the bushing," he says.

Then he made a grease zerk of his own

design from a short length of 7/16-in. steel rod drilled down the center with a 3/32-in. bit. He tapered the opening of this hole by drilling it out with a slightly larger bit.

He centered the drilled-out rod over the slot cut in the bushing and welded it in place with a wire welder. At the same time, he welded the rest of the slit shut.

Once the shank was mounted back in place, he greased the bushing using a needle point on his grease gun.

Since he already had the shanks off the cultivator, he figures making all 47 of the bushings greasable took only another four or five hours of time. "The cost was minimal," he adds. "Now my field cultivator doesn't squeak when I use it. If the manufacturer made the shanks greasable, it really wouldn't cost that much more, and it would eliminate a lot of the wear and tear on the equipment."

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