

Charles Myers, Zanesville, Ohio: "My son Terry had to get a big sprocket off a Harvestore silo unloader that was more than 40 years old. There was no way to get above it with a pry bar so he drilled two 3/8-in. holes in the hub and a few times a day he squirted Conklin Rust Bomb penetrating oil into those two holes. After 10 days, he was able to remove the sprocket."



William Melcher, Bowdoin, Maine: "Rainwater runs down into the exhaust manifold through the stack on my old Farmall Super C. I solved the problem by simply putting an empty dog food can over the top of it when we park it. The can pops off when the engine starts. Simple and effective."

James Joslin, Jasper, Ark.: "I use old plastic garden hose reels to hold heavy-duty extension cords. Makes them much easier to handle."

Chuck Regg, Flagstaff, Ariz.: "I avoid buying expensive hydraulic oil for my Bobcat when changing upper filters by pouring the oil into clean plastic buckets before removing filters, and then replacing the same fluid after."

Al Cole, Porterfield, Wis.: "I made a counterweight to mount on the back of my tractor by filling a plastic barrel with concrete and equipping it with brackets to fit to the 3-pt. hitch."

Benjamin Baughman, Ashfork, Ariz.: "I use bicycle wheels to make carousels to hang parts. For example, I have one that holds battery cables and others that hold tools and horse tack. Just mount

them horizontally on a spindle and they spin easily."

Rick W. Christensen, Cokedale, Colo.: "Do the wood beds on your trailers split and warp? Just brush on 2 or 3 coats of used motor oil with a 6-in. brush or roller. It'll soak in and preserve the wood."



David Owings, Eldora, Iowa: "I paint my log chain hooks with fluorescent marking paint to make them more visible in dim light or tall grass. Most people have had the experience of a chain falling off the platform of a tractor and having to look for it. This makes it a lot easier to find."

Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: "It isn't often that I doubt something I read in FARM SHOW but that was the case with an article in an older issue about removing rust with water (Vol. 33, No. 4). It said to place a rusted part in water, then take it out after a few days and rinse the rust away."

"I had an old barn door carrier that had laid in the dirt for at least 20 years. It was rusted tighter than a good weld. I dropped it into a bucket of water for a few days and then checked it. To my amazement, the track wheels moved freely and everything that had been rusted shut was free. The rust just rinsed away."

Roual Boyd, Fairbanks, Alaska: "I read an idea in FARM SHOW about using tire stems as vents on new-fangled gas cans without vents. Great idea! So I installed them in several of my 'worthless' new gas cans. Unfortunately, after about 6 months the rubber stems rotted off. To solve the problem, I switched to metal stems and was back in business."



Photo at left shows a large Nerf football in a 5-in. dia. exhaust. Footballs can be cut in half, making them easier to compress to fit inside the exhaust pipe.

Nerf Football Used To Plug Exhaust Stack

"A simple Nerf foam football works great to keep debris out of the exhaust stack on tractors and other self-propelled machines while transporting them. It also keeps turbochargers from turning and burning up bearings," says Gary Nix, Mountain View, Wyo.

He uses a knife to cut a football in half and then squeezes it down into the exhaust pipe.

"As an excavating contractor, I'm often hauling machines such as scrapers, excavators and loaders down the road on lowboy trailers, going from job to job," says Nix.

"We have about 40 different machines to haul around, and many are turbocharged. We have to plug the exhaust on each machine in order to keep the wind from rotating the turbocharger. The machine's engine isn't running and it isn't pumping any oil so if

we didn't plug the exhaust, the turbocharger bearings could burn up.

"It works slick. Once I start the engine to drive the machine off the trailer, the football pops out and I put it in a sack and store it in the truck for the next time."

Nix says the same idea can be used with machines that aren't turbocharged, to keep rain and debris out. "Nerf footballs come in two different sizes and of course they're tapered, so you can adapt them to just about any size of exhaust," he says. "For exhausts larger than 5 in. in dia. you may need a Nerf basketball to plug the hole."

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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

Arthur Selent, Hixon, British Columbia: "You can recycle old barbed wire by using it as a replacement for rebar when pouring concrete for medium-duty jobs. You can use a lot of it and it's easy to bend into curves and shapes around obstacles without the use of bending equipment. I hacksaw the wire into 2-ft. sections to make it easy to use."

Bayard E. Young, Elkwood, Va.: "I would like to share my experience with other readers that own an 8N Ford tractor with a 6-volt system. I recently installed electronic ignition that eliminates the points and condenser. It's now a much better-running tractor. I got the kit from John Brillman at The Brillman Company (www.brillman.com; ph 540 477-4112). He will provide all the advice you need to install."

Whip Lashley, Shreveport, La.: "Here's a tip to make vice grips easier to use. Replace the adjusting screw with an eye bolt. Makes it a lot easier to turn for adjusting and you can put a rope or tool through the eye to pull, if necessary. It's also easier to tell at a glance if the bolt backs off during use. Much easier on the fingers and lets you hang the tool on a hook when done."



"Here's an idea I use to shorten a chain or take the slack out of a chain when pulling. Just attach two clevis grab hooks together. Hook one of the grab hooks to the chain and pull up whatever amount of chain is extra to the other grab hook. Often very handy."



Wayne Tjeerdma, Slectro Co., Avon, S. Dak. (www.slectro.com; ph 605 286-3221): "The Handle Clamp (\$37.50) bolts to any flat surface and is designed to hold tools such as

a broom, shovel, grease gun, rake, ax, etc.

"To use the Handle Clamp you pull back to open the jaw, then place the tool inside the jaw and release the handle. Torsion springs hold it closed. To adjust the size of the jaw opening you loosen a wing nut located on the handle, then move a slide stop up or down and retighten the wing nut."

"Jaw pressure varies from 53 to 88 lbs. depending on the size of the tool being held. The more you open the slide stop, the higher the pressure. At a 3/4 in. setting, the jaw pressure is 88 lbs.; at a 2 1/4-in. setting it's only 53 lbs. It's built rugged and holds the tool securely wherever you need it. A lot of people use it to carry brooms in the back of livestock trailers. It also works great to carry shovels and grease guns. The jaw can be adjusted to hold objects anywhere from 3/4 to 2 1/4 in. in diameter, which is wide enough for a grease gun."



Richard Sands, McConnelsville, Ohio: "I got tired of aerosol paint cans, WD-40, and other cans rolling around on my shop floor, work bench, drill press, etc. So I found an old plastic Coke bottle carrier and mounted it on one side of my roll-away toolbox. Now I can keep up to 24 cans at a time right at my fingertips. It really helps keep my shop free of clutter."

John Kennedy, Seligman, Ariz.: "I bought an old Ford pickup equipped with a 360 cu. in. engine that wouldn't turn over. The hood was off so the engine had been