

**Venna Trepasso, Sebastopol, Miss.:** "A steering knuckle broke on a 1962 Massey Ferguson diesel tractor and the repair shop wanted about \$500 to replace it. Instead, I welded a plate under the knuckle to stop it from popping out. The fix has worked for 2 years with no problem."

**Samuel Alexander, Millington, Tenn.:** "I have found that adding 1/2 teaspoon of Epsom Salts to an old battery gives it up to a year more of life."



**Maurice Mccutchan, Aledo, Ill.:** "When taking an old machine apart, if there are rusted bolts with slot heads, I weld a heavy washer into the slot on the bolt, using my mig welder. The combination of heat on the bolt, and the heavy washer that I can easily grip with my vise grips, lets me remove the bolts with ease. The same washer can be used 5 or 6 times."

**Karl Spees, MD, Port Angeles, Wash.:** "Aerosol spray paint cans which have paint left inside but won't spray anymore are a common problem. Here's what to do:

"Place the canister in a freezer until it is very cold. Double-bag the cold paint canister in a clear plastic bag. Move to an area where spilled paint won't damage anything. Place a pointed-punch between the rim and can top. Close both plastic bag openings around the pointed-punch shaft. Gently poke a hole in the can top. At this point, the paint propellant left in the can will boil, changing from a liquid to a gas, potentially making a mess inside the bags. Once the propellant is exhausted, enlarge the hole and punch a second hole on the opposite side. Pour the paint into a pan for application with a brush. It won't be a perfect job but in the right situation, you might just have enough paint to finish a job without buying another can."

**Lynden Jenkins, Freedom, Wyo.:** "If there is a way to increase horsepower of engines when I overhaul them, I always increase it. There is nothing that will replace horsepower."

**Richard Weetman, Stewart Valley, Sask.:** "To keep nozzles on aerosol spray cans open for future use, I wipe paint off the nozzle after each use and put a smear of grease on it. It keeps the nozzle ready to go for up to a year. I've used this method for some 30 years on cans that I use to mark hogs a day ahead of loading."

**Dennis Strable, Eagle, Mich.:** "I was in the shop late one evening and turned on the acetylene. Gas promptly spewed out at me from a crack in the hose next to the head where the hose flexes. The rest of the hose



was in good condition. A little investigation showed that the hose outer diameter fit nicely inside of a 1/2-in. copper tube and that the copper tube fit nicely into my PEX crimp tool. I cut off the original brass crimp on the cracked hose, cut away 6 in. back to fresh hose, slid on the piece of 1/2-in. copper pipe, and crimped it. I liked the fix so much I did the same thing on the oxygen hose, too. Should be good for many years and saved the cost of a new hose."

**Philip Cook, Athens, Wis.:** "A recent issue had a suggestion from a reader to freeze wet paint brushes between uses rather than cleaning them. That's probably okay with oil base paint but I wouldn't recommend freezing a brush when using water base paint. Freezing will likely destroy the integrity of the paint. A better approach is to wrap the bristles or roller with a dampened paper towel and wrap it in plastic. Make sure it's airtight."

**Dick Steckler (dicksteckler@aol.com):** "An owner of a 2011 Case-IH Farmall D40 recently reported that plastic fenders on the tractor had cracked. He replaced one and the other was starting to crack. I've found that you can usually prevent a crack like that from worsening by drilling or cutting a small round hole at the point of the crack. This reduces stress at that point and usually stops the crack



Piezo-electric ignitor is wired to spark plug on bracket that attaches to torch cart handle. "To light my cutting torch, I just hold it up to the spark plug and press the button," says Beardslee.

## Another Nifty Torch "Striker"

"I agree with John Stuber in the last issue of FARM SHOW that torch strikers are a pain in the neck. They don't work very well as they get older and I have reduced grip strength in my hands due to my age," says Ray Beardslee, La Mesa, Calif., who came up with his own push-button "striker".

"I went to my scrap pile and found an old barbecue grill with a piezo-electric ignitor that still worked fine. I also found an old spark plug.

"I built a bracket to hold the two items

on the handle of my torch cart. The ignitor is wired to the plug so all I have to do is push the button and hold my torch by the spark plug. No batteries or electric source needed!

"If you try this idea, just make sure the ignitor and plug are both grounded on the bracket or else you will be the one getting sparked."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ray Beardslee, 7885 El. Paso St., La Mesa, Calif. 91942.

# 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. You can also text to: 952 465-5019.

Mark Newhall, Editor

from going further."

**Richard Mast, Sugar Grove, Va.:** "In your book, Great Shop Ideas - Volume III, a reader says he uses used motor oil in his chainsaw as bar oil. Engine oil and chain oil are very different oils. Using engine oil on a chainsaw bar will ruin the bar. I know because I tried the same thing with new engine oil. Chain oil has a sticky additive which keeps oil from slinging off the end of the bar. With motor oil, you will not have enough lubrication so it will not cut as well and the bar will wear down."

**D.Pribil, Windsor Mill, Md.:** "I store 50 and 100-ft. long extension cords inside 5-gal. plastic buckets. I cut a 2-in. dia. hole near the top to run the plug-in end of the cord through, tying a knot in the cord to hold it in place. The rest of the cord just gets coiled up inside. A very convenient and handy way to store cords."

**Ed Metcalf, Lakeview, Ark.:** "A neighbor of mine was having trouble disassembling the

have a bike shop mount, you can use 2 ropes to suspend it from the ceiling. Use a taut-line knot so you can easily adjust the ropes for elevation. This allows you to spin the pedals and wheels while adjusting the brakes, chain, and so on."

**Abe Snake, Peebles, Ohio:** "If you are the owner of an AMC or Chrysler-produced vehicle equipped with a 4.0L fuel-injected 6-cyl. engine that hasn't already had coolant leak into the crankcase, don't be smug. There is ample evidence in the salvage yards that this problem is very prevalent and likely to occur at some point.

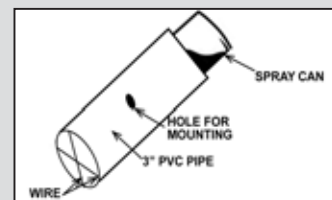
"If damage has not yet occurred, there is a prudent and reasonably-priced way to possibly avoid the problem. Just add a can of K-Seal coolant additive to your vehicle's cooling system now. For \$20 you can avoid a \$2,500 to \$4,000 repair. That's cheap insurance.

"If you already have coolant in your oil, but no structural damage, put a quart of motor flush in your oil and run up to normal temperature, and then drain and replace oil, then put K-Seal in coolant and run at normal temps for 20 to 30 min. Look for white bubbles or streaks on the dipstick. If you see some, add another can of K-Seal before giving up. If you don't see any, you might be okay. Congrats!"



driveline on a log splitter. I advised him to try KROIL penetrant oil and it worked great. KROIL is great stuff. You can order direct from KANO Labs (www.kanolabs.com; ph 615 833-4101).

**Ryan Van Der Bill, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.:** "When you need to work on a bike and don't



**Carlton Dubberly, Waycross, Ga.:** "I came up with a neat way to store aerosol spray cans and other small containers on the wall of my shop. Just cut a 3-in. dia. pvc pipe to about 4 in. long. Drill a 3/4-in. dia. hole about halfway along the length of the pipe so you can screw the pipe to the wall. At one end of the pipe, run wire from one side to the other to make a barrier that will keep cans from sliding out. Attach to the wall at about a 30-degree angle and put in a can."