



Kevin Wideman, Russellville, Mo.: "I don't have a shop, so I built this outdoor workbench. I use my loader tractor's forks to move the bench around. The photo shows how I can use the bench to haul my generator out to a field to work on equipment. The bench is fitted with a pair of electrical outlets to operate shop tools, as well as a bolt-on vise. The frame is off an old broken bench that I bought cheap at an auction."



Lee Vangsness, Decorah, Iowa: "I had an auger that got stuck while it was full of corn. To solve the problem, I welded a pto shaft to an adapter that I attached to a rear wheel on my tractor. I jacked the tractor wheel up off the ground, then shifted the transmission into reverse gear to engage the pto shaft, which I had connected to the auger."

Justin Kelzer, Randall, Minn.: "After I bought a used Morgan vise, I made a swivel base for it that bolts onto my work bench. The swivel base allows me to rotate the vise up to 180 degrees in any direction, but most of the time I just position the vise perpendicular to the work bench. When I'm done using the vise I rotate it 90 degrees so it's out of the way."

"The vise came with three mounting holes at the bottom. I cut a round base plate from 5/8-in. thick steel, and a triangular swivel plate from 7/8-in. thick steel. I drilled



four holes in the base plate - three near the plate edges and one in the center that serves as a pivot. I cut the heads off three 3/4-in. bolts, inserted them in the outside holes, and welded them in from the top side of the base plate. Then I drilled 4 holes in the swivel plate and tapped left and right holes for 5/8-in. bolts. The back hole has a bolt welded in from the bottom to hold the vise down to the swivel plate.

"I also welded a 1-in. bolt from the top side into the center of the pivot plate. The 1-in. bolt has just a washer and lock nut on it, which allows the swivel plate to rotate on the base plate. The 5/8 and 3/4-in. bolts have washers, lock washers, and nuts."

"I use a pair of 3/8-in. horizontal slide rods with nuts welded onto both ends to tighten the vise down. The entire setup looks slick and works great."

Eugene Pontius, Wheat Ridge, Colo.: "I put pancake syrup on clean battery posts. It prevents corrosion buildup."

Ted Lacy, Worley, Idaho: "The best \$16 I ever spent was for 2 extra transmitters for the Liftmaster opener on the big roll-up door on my shop. I put one on my utility tractor and the other one in my pickup. Sure beats getting on and off the tractor to open and close the door."

Kathy Wilcox, Warren, Penn.: "One of the leading causes of house fires is lint in dryers. You should clean out the lint after every use. One of the best ways I've found to get all of the lint out is to use a wet finger. Really works well."

Gregory Herling, Roseau, Minn.: "When changing oil, I like to add an ounce of clean oil once most of the old oil has drained out. It helps to get all the old oil out. I often use a different weight oil than will be going into the engine."

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

Ray Haselby, Marshfield, Wis.: "The

Accu-Mix container to mix oil and gas for 2-cycle engines makes it easy to measure ratios in one container. You can mix a little or a lot. The caps have gaskets so they don't leak even when puffed up in sunlight."



Gerald Ripps, San Antonio, Texas: "I've had trouble with Curt wire harness connectors. I had loss of continuity on 2 different 6-way sockets. Internally, the wire end screw connector disconnects from the plug end. I wasted a lot of time checking for power, thinking that a wire was not making good connection. Irritating."



Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: "I had a hitch that was slightly loose in the receiver tube, as they usually are. Besides the annoying rattle, the utility trailer swayed slightly but continuously. I sorted through my scrap metal until I found just the right thickness to take up the clearance. I cut and bent it to fit, with a small flange on top that keeps it from going in too far when installing. The pin goes through a hole in it to hold it in place. No more sway or rattle."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.: "I bought some heavy-duty reusable zip ties from Menards. I use them to connect box-end wrenches together. Keeps them all together. To use one of the wrenches, just push the button and release the zip tie."

"I bought a small 900-watt 2-cycle \$99 generator with one outlet from Harbor Freight. It's handy to carry around to run a battery charger, small air compressor, and lights when out in the field. I used to keep it in the back of my truck but it's hard to start in cold weather. I tried carrying it in the cab but the gas smell was hard to take. I finally hit on the idea of putting it in a small Rubbermaid container with a lid. Problem solved."

Mike Bell, Colstrip, Mont.: "I got a kick out of the report in your last issue from a reader who almost injured himself melting wax onto a stuck bolt. I wanted to point out that the best way to take advantage of the fact that wax will penetrate microscopic openings when parts are heated, is to use a torch to heat the nut or bolt to just beyond what you're willing to touch, then press a small birthday candle against it, melting a small amount of wax into the threads. Come back 20 min. later and try to loosen the part. If it doesn't come loose, heat it again and hit it with a spritz of PB Blaster or WD40 and try loosening again before the part cools. This will usually work. I've also used this idea to loosen rust and corrosion between wheels and hubs."

Drill Chuck Makes Great File Handle

If you've got an old drill no longer in use, the chuck can be used to make a solid handle for a file, suggests Edward Fett, Lennox, S. Dak.

He removes the chuck and spur gear from old electric drills, then inserts the file tang into the chuck and uses a chuck key to tighten all 3 holes so the chucks are tightened evenly.

"I've used this idea for years with no problems. The chuck provides a bigger handle to hold onto and, if tightened properly, it won't come off," says Fett. "It's important to tighten all 3 holes in the chuck to get the tang tightened as evenly as possible, and check for tightness periodically."

He says one time he tried welding a short pipe onto the tang, but it didn't work out. "Files are made from very hard steel, and the heat from the welder caused the tang to break off."

He likes using chucks from electric drills. "Most electric drills come with either a 3/8 or 1/4-in. chuck. I prefer the 3/8-in. chuck because it's built larger and therefore can be moved farther up on the tang. The chucks on cordless drills are designed to be hand tightened, and therefore you can't get them as tight as you can with a chuck key."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edward



File tang inserted into old drill chuck provides a bigger handle to hold onto. Photo shows 3/8 and 1/4-in. chucks.

Fett, 46656 275th St., Lennox, S. Dak. 57039 (ph 605 647-2399; loisfett44@gmail.com).