

**Sandy Jackson, Etowah, Tenn.:** “The shift fork on my Deutz 6807 broke. The dealer wanted \$600 to order one out of Germany. I made a jig for it. Welded it up and machined it back to size with a mill and surface grinder. Has worked fine for 5 or 6 years and I got to keep my \$600.”

**Lee Roy Pipkin, Gilroy, Calif.:** “I clean grease and dirt from my hands with Goop grease remover that you can buy at Walmart or Amazon. I used to clean tools separately but now I combine the two, cleaning both my tools and hands at the same time. I also use Goop to pre-treat my grease-stained clothes before laundering. Wow! My wife was sure impressed. Now we pre-treat the kids’ clothes with Goop, too.”

**Elwin Gingerich, Kalona, Iowa:** “If you have a housing that needs a seal but the seal fits loosely because the housing is worn, get a 12-volt battery and a set of jumper cables. Attach the negative cable to the housing and the positive to a hacksaw blade. Strike the saw teeth across the worn housing and it will melt bits of saw teeth to the housing for a tight fit. I learned this trick from a Deere shop mechanic.”

**Garland Rainey, Winchester, Ky.:** “Hairspray on battery terminals can keep them from corroding and draining the battery. If you have a battery that’s already corroded, Coke can be used to get it clean.”



**Larry Wood, Waldo, Ohio:** “Tired of your trailer making noise when you travel down the road? I have a Ford F-350 with a 2 1/2-in. receiver hitch so I use a sleeve adaptor so our 2-in. ball hitch will work properly. But each time I pulled the 2-in. hitch out to change the ball size, the sleeve would move and pinhole would be misaligned.

“In order to solve both the noise problem

and the alignment problem, I drilled and tapped a 1/2-in. hole in the bottom of the receiver and through the sleeve adaptor. Then I installed a short 1/2-in. bolt in the new hole. When the bolt is screwed in a short way, it holds the sleeve in place and when you screw it all the way in, it stops the rattle.”



**Fondy Auto Electric, Fond du Lac, Wis. (ph 800 236-2701; www.fondyautoelectric.com):** Fondy offers a large inventory of new and remanufactured starters, generators and alternators to fit any vehicle, including cars and light and heavy-duty trucks as well as motorcycles, ATV’s, and snowmobiles. They say that if they don’t have the exact product you need, they can rebuild the part you already have.

Fondy also carries Astro Lite batteries, which are manufactured in the U.S. by East Penn Mfg. in Berks County, Penn. The company has been manufacturing batteries since 1946 and says they operate the largest single-site lead acid battery manufacturing facility in the world. The Astro Lite line includes absorbed glass mat technology, silver alloy, high performance, and import exact-fit batteries.



**SpynTec Industries, North Lima, Ohio (ph 888 290-2953; www.spyntec.com):** This company is the leader in fixed spindle hub conversions and recently released a new line of fixed spindle conversion kits for 2000-2015 Dodge 3500 dual rear wheel pickups. They also offer hub conversions

**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

for 1994-2010 Dodge, 1999-2010 Ford, and Jeep Tj, YJ, XJ and JK Wrangler vehicles. The company replaces weak factory bearings and disconnect hubs for less drag and better fuel economy.



**James Minix, Morrison, Tenn.:** “I was having trouble keeping plastic electric fence insulators from breaking prematurely on chain link fence due to sunlight causing them to get brittle and weak. So I got the idea to protect them by coating the end of the connector that attaches to the fence with Plasti Dip that people normally use to coat handles on shop tools. It seems to work well, extending the life of the insulators by protecting the plastic from the sun.”



**Doug Johnson, Aberdeen, Wash.:** “When pouring bar oil into the small opening on my chainsaw from the gallon jug it comes in, trying to ‘hit the hole’ often results in spilled oil all over me and the saw. I found that pint-sized Coffee Mate creamer bottles have a good lip for easier pouring, and they’re fairly sturdy plastic bottles. The attached lid snaps in place pretty securely, which is handy when you throw the saw, gas can, and oil into the back of a Gator or pickup. It makes it much

easier to keep your saw clean.”

**Ready Davis, Bigfoot Equipment & Repair, Willow Creek, Calif.:** “As a small town Husqvarna dealer, I like to check your Best & Worst Buys to see how my brand is doing. I recently saw reports by a couple readers who I might be able to help.

“Paul Peyton, who said he used to be a Husqvarna dealer in Louisiana, is disappointed with his 525L after years of using his original series 322L. I can understand because the 322L was a great machine. However, I have sold hundreds of 525L trimmers with very little negative feedback. The problem might be that the 525 has a 2-stage air filter, with the inner lining being felt. Although it stops more fines, it also traps more oil as the 2-stroke engine ‘spits back’ during use. That oil tends to clog the filter, degrading power. I find that by replacing the air filter and cracking the ‘H’ screw open about 1/8 of a turn after the engine breaks in, my clients get a lot more power. Feel free to ship me your engine for an at-cost rebuild if you think it needs it, one dealer to another.

“Another reader, Larry Johnson in Ontario, N.Y., is unhappy with his Husqvarna T3354D tractor’s deck mounting. He said he was having issues with the rear bar once the front was disconnected and didn’t like taking the belt off or putting it on. Honestly, I’ve never tried dismantling the front first so I tried it your way. Man, that’s hard. I highly recommend you drop the rear pins, and then the front. It takes all of 2 min. to pull the deck that way, without strain. I also usually pull the belt tension idler against the spring pressure with my right hand and then use my left hand to slide the belt off the drive pulley. These decks are heavy so I drop them onto furniture dollies to move them around.

“Thanks to Mr. Peyton and Mr. Johnson for sharing their comments. It helps me do a better job taking care of my customers.”

**Lee Vangness, Decorah, Iowa:** “I mounted an 8-ft. swinging arm on my shop wall to hold my wire welder spool. Works great, saves time.”

**Chuck Hollar, Boone, N.C.:** “I added hydraulic quick-connects to operate four 20-ton hydraulic jacks on 50-ft. hoses. I use them to pick up houses and other big stuff. Amazing what we can do with those.”

## \$1.50 Tractor Headlight Repair

“The rear headlight on my Dresser dozer didn’t work because of a bad wiring connection at the exterior screw on the housing. Because of corrosion, the screw head stripped when I tried to remove it. But instead of buying a new housing and bulb for about \$70, I was able to repair the headlight for just \$1.50. All I bought was a brass screw and 2 brass nuts,” says Lawrence Goodman, Ionia, Mich.

He removed the bulb and cut off the wire connectors both inside and outside the housing. Then he removed a clip that holds a plastic piece inside the housing.

“I ground off the screw head from the interior side of the plastic piece to a brass insert that goes through the piece,” says Goodman. “I used a 5/32-in. drill bit to drill straight through the housing and 2 screws, leaving a threaded brass insert in place inside the plastic piece.”

He put together the brass screw, lock washer, and brass nuts, installed new wire connectors, and reinstalled the light.

“Now the light works like a million bucks,” says Goodman.



Lawrence Goodman repaired the rear headlight on his Dresser dozer with just a brass screw and 2 brass nuts.

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