

**John Countryman, Yelm, Wash.:** "I wanted to drive several grounding rods into the ground. But instead of using a sledge hammer, I cut the bit end off one of the chisels I use on my air chisel and welded a socket onto it. Now I can just fire up my air compressor and let the air chisel drive the rods into the ground. Using an air chisel works great as long as there aren't a lot of rocks in the soil."



**Milan Hochstetler, Cumberland, Va.:** "I made my own paint can shaker by using the electric motor off an old ice cream freezer. I removed the paddle that stirred the ice cream and used JB Weld to attach a wood block to the motor drive. I use a velcro strap to hold the can in place. It turns slowly around in a circle. The instructions on the paint can say to shake the can for 2 min., but I usually allow at least 5 min."



"I used 2-in. boards to build several boxes that serve as portable workbenches. Handhold slots cut into the tops of the boxes make them easy to move around. When I'm working on a bigger project, I might use 3 or 4 boxes at the same time to hold material in place."



"The rope that opens my overhead garage door was small and hard to grip, so to improve the grip I attached golf balls to the rope at 1-ft. intervals. I drilled a hole

through each ball, then ran the rope through the hole and tied a knot above and below the ball to keep it in place."



"My pickup has manual crank windows, and when I'm behind the steering wheel I can't reach all the way over to open the passenger window. I attached a short piece of pvc pipe over the handle, so I can insert a broom handle inside the pipe that lets me crank the window up or down. I use my left hand to hold the broomstick handle steady and my right hand to rotate the handle. Works great."



**Claude Hieneman, Raceland, Ky.:** "After selling my Deere dealership I built a garage and continue to work on small engines and chainsaws. But at 83 years old I have trouble yanking the pull cord fast enough to start chainsaws."

"To solve the problem, I made a wooden pump handle-type handle that pulls the rope. The saw's pull cord handle slips through a length of cable attached to the end of the lever. I just push down on the handle to start the saw. I can crank with one hand and work the throttle and choke with the other. It provides the extra leverage I need and works great. I C-clamp the saw to my workbench."

**Ready Davis, McKinleyville, Calif.:** "I run a repair shop and one idea that has really helped me a lot in recent years is using my pneumatic hammer on frozen bearings and rusted shafts. Helps get jobs done faster."

"One of the best things I've done this year is spending more time with customers, teaching them how to sharpen chainsaw chains. Having a sharp chain really reduces

## Handy Walk-Behind Shop Lift

"I use my home-built walk-behind lift in my shop to raise anything that's too heavy to lift, and at my age that includes a lot of different things," says 89-year-old Milan Hochstetler, Cumberland, Va.

The 6-ft. high forklift is made from angle iron and rides on 4 small caster wheels. The forks are raised and lowered by using a cordless drill to operate a winch mounted on back of the unit. A pair of welded-on handles are used to steer.

"The forks can be raised up to 4 1/2 ft. high. I can use them by themselves to do the lifting, or place a plywood platform on top of them," says Hochstetler. "Works great to lift big gas cans up to the hood on my tractor so I can fill it with fuel."

"I made the winch out of a short length of pipe, which I fastened to the shaft of an old garden tiller gearbox that slows the winch



**Shop lift's forks are raised and lowered by using a cordless drill to operate a winch on back of unit. "Works great to lift big gas cans up to the hood on my tractor," says Hochstetler.**

down. A cable fastened to the pipe goes up and over a pulley to raise or lower the forks."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Milan Hochstetler, 174 Vogel Rd., Cumberland, Va. 23040 (ph 804 492-4295).

# 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**

fatigue and cost, and increases performance. People appreciate it."



**Trevor Firth, New South Wales, New Brunswick, Canada:** "My wife couldn't start our self-propelled, 21-in. self-propelled mower using the pull cord, so I came up with a way to use a cordless drill to do the job. The pull cord assembly acts on a disc that's held in place by a 21mm hex nut on top of the engine. I removed the plastic cover to expose the nut and put a socket on it. Then I installed a 3/8-in. square drive shaft on an old cordless drill. To start the mower my wife just runs the drill at low speed."



**Duane Kuesel, Elmwood, Wis.:** "I prolong the life of the hydraulic lines on my front-end loader by slipping steel electrical conduit over them. It saves the rubber from being peeled off when pushing brush and tree branches. Plastic conduit could also be used."

**Greg Balzer, Magnolia, Ill.:** "I launder the felt chainsaw air filters on my Stihl saw by blowing them out, treating them with Shout stain remover, and putting them inside a sock before they go into the washing machine."

**Marvin Boike, Maynard, Minn.:** "My Cub Cadet lawn mower kept breaking the mower deck belt. The belts were expensive at over \$70 each. I solved the problem by putting a lighter spring on the belt tensioner and the belts stopped breaking."



**The Eastwood Company (www.eastwood.com; ph 800 343-9353):** Eastwood says its gas tank sealer kit is an inexpensive way to easily repair worn gas tanks. It keeps rust out of your vehicle's fuel system and seals minor leaks. Works in tanks containing gasoline, gasohol, or diesel.

The kit includes 2 pints of gas tank sealer, a bottle of Fast Etch rust remover, and Metal Wash to remove any fuel varnish in the tank. A 4-piece kit sells for \$41.97 plus S&H.

**Eliot Evans, Eliot, Inc., Joice, Iowa (www.eliotinc.com; ph 641 588-3546):** He sells a **Make Sense Tap Adapter** that's designed to perform tapping jobs faster in hard-to-reach, tight spaces where standard wrenches don't fit taps, or where a socket extension is too short or too long to fit. You just slide the adapter onto the tap so you can use a standard wrench to turn the tap. Allows easy access to an engine block, for example. Tap Adapters come in 11 different sizes, which you can keep organized in an included aluminum stand.

**Gary Lee Meeks, Augusta County, Va.:** "I got a nail hole in one of my rubber garden hoses so it was shooting out a small stream of water. To plug it, I cut a 1-in. long piece of the sticky rope that you use to plug holes in tires. It was a little tedious to just push one thickness into the hole but it stopped the leak and I didn't have to get a new hose."

**Ted Lacy, Worley, Idaho:** "The best I've ever spent was buying two transmitters for the Liftmaster door opener on my shop's big roll-up door. I put one transmitter on my utility tractor and the other one in my pickup. Sure beats getting on and off the tractor to open and close the big door."