

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



To make shop or garage dust cleanup easier, attach a dustpan to the end of a shop vac pipe with a hose clamp. When you scoop up a pile of sweepings, the vac will suck them away.



**David Simpler, Elkton, Md.:** "I like using thin rubber gloves to work on my tractors. They are thin enough that it's almost as good as your bare hands. Hands get sweaty making it tough to take off the gloves so I put baby powder in them. Solves the problem."



**Terry Jantzen, DVM, Las Vegas, New Mexico:** "I was reading the last issue of FARM SHOW and saw the photo of modified vice grips that are used to hook up a pto. I thought readers might be interested in a modification I made to all my different types of vice grips to prevent hand pinching. I just attached a piece of old welding rod to the release lever so it's much easier to trigger."



**David Simpler, Elkton, Md.:** "I have found many handy uses for inexpensive Harbor Freight magnets. For example, when working on equipment, they keep your tools and parts from falling off, never to be found again."

**Robert Scharlau, Arcadia, Wis.:** "Zero-turn mowers can be dangerous to drive, especially if going downhill. They turn

by slowing or stopping one drive wheel, so the machine tends to slide. The issue is not enough weight on the drive wheels.

"So, I first added ballast to the tires, which added 65 lbs. Next, I added springs to help float the deck, taking weight off the 6 deck wheels when you turn. I also added 35 lbs. of iron behind the left drive wheel to help make left turns.

"The most complicated change I made was making an oscillating front axle by cutting the existing front axle off the mainframe and then adding a swivel (shaft and pipe) so the front caster wheels both touch the ground all the time. This allows the drive wheels to both have equal traction on uneven surfaces.

"Now the mower is safer when operating downhill and turning around trees and other obstacles. My advice, if you have a hilly yard, is to only buy a zero-turn with an oscillating front axle and a spring system to help float the deck. You can always add ballast to the wheels if needed."

**Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill.:** "Drive wheels on self-propelled push mowers are expensive. And once the tread wears smooth, they just won't drive the mower, especially in damp grass. Instead of buying new wheels, I take a handful of hex head metal screws and drive them into the tread surface about an inch apart all around the circumference of the tires, on both sides of each wheel. It restores traction, and the wheels will last forever this way."



**Denny Clobes, Newburgh, Ind.:** "Cleaning under the deck on my Deere X734 mower - and taking off the blades to sharpen them - is easy since I put a metal beam across the supports on my hydraulic auto lifter and set up a chain hoist to lift the front of the tractor. If you don't have an auto lifter (tell your wife you need one), any overhead support capable of supporting at least 500 lbs. will do. An X734, for example, weighs 1,100 lbs."



**John Rochester, Deerfield Beach, Fla.:** "Tired of stubbing your toe on bench legs and other obstacles in your shop? I eliminated the problem using pieces of pipe insulation and zip ties."



Flame coating can be used on many surfaces and doesn't require primers or preparation other than an abrasive. Coatings are VOC free and come in 17 different colors.

## Portable System Powder Coats Metal With Flame

With a Flame Coating System (FCS) from IBIX, you can powder coat equipment anywhere. All the portable system needs is air pressure and propane. It lays down a flexible coat of polymer that is resistant to chemicals, salt, chipping and cracking. If a problem does occur, it can be easily repaired.

"A standard powder coating is 3 to 5 mm. thick," says Robert Langhans, IBIX Surface Technologies. "Our thermo coating goes on at 10 to 20 mm. Because it is thicker, if an edge or corner gets chipped or dinged, we heat that area, and the material melts together. It is self-healing."

Langhans notes that the FCS is a perfect match to the company's portable micro-abrasion systems. Clean surfaces with one, and powder coat them with the other.

The ability of the material to flex has made it popular with people repurposing shipping containers. "The thick coat provides an absolute vapor barrier; think no pinholes," says Langhans. "We have customers coating the insides of 20 and 40-ft. containers and using them as water tanks. They can move them and drop them, and the coating won't fail."

Recommended organic polymer coatings are VOC-free and available in 17 colors. Applications can be made in confined areas

with no concern for additional ventilation or oxygen feeds.

Coated surfaces are UV stable and acid and alkaline resistant. They are also NSF61 drinking water approved.

Langhans notes that the flame coating system is ideal for use with farm equipment and facilities. Simply clean the surface with abrasive and spray on the polymer. No other preparation or primers are needed, even on steel. He has even done feed troughs in Iowa.

"Another benefit of flame coating is you can use it on many different surfaces, like aluminum, concrete and even insulating foam," says Lanhans. "We do a lot of flooring and containment tanks."

IBIX offers three sizes of flame coating systems, from the Centurion Backpack to the Maximus for large-scale projects up to 1,200 sq/ft. per hour. The major difference is hopper size. Multiple spray guns are also available, two for general surfaces and one specifically for concrete.

Prices start at \$8,000 for the Centurion and range up to \$20,000 for the Maximus.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, IBIX North America, 2075 Lake Ave. SE, Largo, Fla. 33771 (ph 727-322-4611; sales@ibixusa.com; www.ibixusa.com).

## Boom Takes The Kinks Out Of Welding Cables

A new welding boom from Iron Bull keeps welding cables off the floor. The 9-ft. long boom is mounted to a post made from schedule 40 steel pipe that is secured to the floor on a rotating base. Controls on the wire feed mounted at the end of the boom are always in reach, even when the boom is raised to its full 7-ft. height.

"We built the first ones for our shop, and they have really helped out our business making loader hoppers and tractor canopies," says Emanuel King, Iron Bull (Vol. 41, No. 1). "The boom keeps welding cables and gas lines from kinking and swings 180 degrees when mounted against a wall or 360 degrees when mounted in a central area."

A bracket on the post holds a gas cylinder that rotates with the boom. A wire spool holder near the end of the boom holds a supply of wire. A hose or cable saddle attached to the boom provides a handy place for welding guns and torches not in use.

King says the company ran an ad this past summer to test market interest. The response was encouraging, he adds. Plans are to build some to sell this winter as demand for the company's loader hoppers is usually lighter than.

The Iron Bull welding booms were designed for Miller welders and wire feeds.



New welding boom keeps cables and gas lines from kinking and offers storage for wire and torches.

King notes that the carriers for the power source and the wire feeds can be easily customized for other brands and sizes. Contact the company for pricing.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Iron Bull, 6064 N 350 E., Marshall, Ind. 47859 (ph 765-597-2480; ibgroup350@gmail.com).