

## Reader Shares His Shop Ideas

"I built a handy device to organize tools above my welding table," says Hastings, Minn., farmer Robert Bauer. "I put a barn door hinge on one end of a 30-in. piece of 2 by 4 and screwed the other part of the hinge to the wall. The 2 by 4 has a power strip on it along with hooks to hold all of my grinders. I frequently use several grinders when I'm building something, so this way, they're all hanging right in front of me and plugged in. I put a bungee cord on both sides so the hanger can swing both ways, and I can adjust it anywhere I want."



Shop lift made from an old forklift with a lift capacity of around 2,000 lbs.

Bauer has an upper level in his shop that he uses for storage and says, "I can't always carry heavy items up 12 steps, so I built an elevator out of the 3-stage lifting mechanism

from the front of an old Hyster forklift. I rescued the old rig when it was heading for the junkyard. I removed the hydraulic lift mechanism and made brackets for the back so I could weld it to a 16-in. steel post embedded in my shop floor. I use an electric motor to run the hydraulic pump and control it with a handheld switch." Bauer shortened the forks to 20-in long and welded the vertical back portions to the outside of the lift arms. The 24-in. deep by 48-in. wide lift platform is made of plate steel. The lift capacity is probably 2,000 lbs. or more, and it's rock solid, without any sway or movement, Bauer says.



Shop dolly made from the seat and gearcase of a Farmall F20.

For projects where he needs to sit down, Bauer made a sturdy wheeled dolly. "I've probably got the only shop dolly in the country made from the seat and part of the gearcase from a Farmall F-20," Bauer says. "The tractor was wrecked and not worth repairing, so I cut away the gearcase and seat, then made an angle iron frame with mounting points for the casters."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Bauer, 10162 160th St. E., Hastings, Minn. 55033.

## Deep Sockets Extract Damaged Nuts, Bolts

For rusted, rounded or seized bolts and nuts, Gear Wrench offers their 10-piece 1/2-in. drive Bolt Biter extraction deep sockets.

Nuts and worn bolts can make it almost impossible to fit a wrench or socket tight enough to withstand hand or impact torque energy. Using a soft-faced hammer, Bolt Biter sockets can be tapped into position over any amount of rust and corrosion for secure holding power. Their tapered flute design bites into the flat side of a nut or bolt to easily seat on rusted fasteners.

Acme's sockets are built from chrome molybdenum alloy steel for extra strength and durability and feature a bi-directional flower-shaped design that can be used to loosen or tighten damaged fasteners. A black oxide finish helps them resist corrosion. Sockets fit both SAE and metric nuts.

The square drive comes with a hex base in case the targeted bolts can't be accessed with an impact. A wrench or pliers fit the exterior



Using a soft-faced hammer, Bolt Biter sockets can be tapped into position over any amount of rust and corrosion for secure holding power.

of the sockets if needed.

Bolt Biter deep sockets in a 10-piece case sell for \$149.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acme Tools, 1603 12th Avenue N., Grand Forks, N.D. 58203 (ph 877-345-2263; support@acmetools.com; www.acmetools.com).

## Parts Wash Tub Made From Old Sink

Lori Lynn Parkin and her husband put a lot of time into refurbishing Farmall tractors, removing rusted and paint-scarred parts that require solvents for cleaning. For years they used a small tank for soaking parts, but Lori Lynn found an old commercial-quality stainless washing sink on Facebook Market Place that she says works a whole lot better. She says the stainless tub is ideal because it's nearly 4 ft. wide, 2 ft. across, and about 18 in. deep. Solvents they use to clean parts don't affect the tub surfaces, and it's easy to clean.

They built a sturdy base about 2 ft. tall, so the sink sits high enough off the floor to drain solvents into 5-gal. pails for straining and reuse. They also made a large metal grate to cover the bottom of the sink so parts as large as tractor wheel weights can be completely



Stainless steel sink on a metal stand used to clean rusty tractor parts.

immersed in solvent to remove rust and old paint.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Parkin Farms, Tremont, Ill.

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## 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, Managing Editor



Stephen Zonies, Waitsfield, Vt.: "What do you do when your old plow truck's ignition fails during a Nor' Easter blizzard? I wired it to a pair of standard on-off light switches. Worked great."



"Later, when one of the coil springs broke and I knew I wouldn't be able to fix it for weeks, a precision cut log worked as a temporary 'spring'. It sure made for a stiff ride, but at least the pickup wasn't tilting over to the side."

S. Brooke Adams, Sullivan, N.H.: "I created a tool to install a vent elbow into a snowplow hydraulic pump unit. The location is tight, and I needed a straight-on tool that would accept a 6-in. extension. I cut the head off an open-end 7/8-in. wrench. Then I notched a 14 mm socket to accept the wrench head. I welded the two together and I had a great tool that has been used more than 100 times since I'm a snowplow tech. You could easily make different sizes if needed."



Michael Frisk, Marysville, Wash.: "I came up with a couple of easy ways to make a solid base for a grinder or other shop tool using a 5-gal. bucket or small oil drum. First, I screw a round piece of plywood to the bottom of the post and then fill the bucket with gravel before putting the lid back on. It's easy to roll around the shop when needed."

"Here's an easy way to organize your scrap metal for projects. Use a couple of pieces of welded hog fencing, standing parallel and held in place with clamps or plumber's tape."

Bradford Blodgett, Scotland, Conn.: "When putting a washer and nut on a bolt pointing downward, it's hard to keep the washer on the bolt while trying to put the nut on. I solved the problem by putting an inexpensive magnet (you can get two for 99 cents at Harbor Freight) on top of the bolt. This magnetizes the area, holding the washer up so I can easily put the bolt on."



Wayne Beggs, Lincolnton, Ga.: "Hooks on cargo straps would not stay in place on my truck and trailer even when I laid something heavy over it. So, I made up wire stays out of coat hangers to hold them in place. Works great."