Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

a different Amsoil spin-on filter to the tune of \$250 per truck and tractor.

"I realize this is an unusual situation because I'm still using my older trucks and tractors. The reason they've lasted so long is because of Amsoil, so I guess it was a mixed blessing. I have many stories about how Amsoil products have saved me, but this filter situation is unfortunate."

Cal Lemke, Beatty, Ore.: "I like to keep my shop neat (unlike my office desk). I store most of my tools and small parts in cabinets. To locate items quickly, I alphabetized the cabinets and made an Excel spreadsheet on my computer, which is sorted by cabinet and tells where each item is stored. Then I made up a 3-ring binder with clear vinyl inserts to hold the pages with the lists. When I need to update the list, I just print out new pages. Helps keep everything straight."

Carolyn Lemke: "If you have a can of spray paint that's plugged up, a little shot of carburetor cleaner on the valve will open it right up, and you can keep painting."



Jeff Binion, Newnan, Ga.: "Here's an improvement I made to an RV I recently purchased. It didn't come with a battery shutoff. So, I placed another battery box next to the existing one on the tongue and routed a new cable from the battery's negative terminal to the shutoff. The original ground cable connects to the other side of the cutoff switch. The switch is protected from the weather, and it makes it easy to prevent battery discharge."



John Rochester, Charlotte, N.C.: "Here's a good way to sand small pieces. Tape a piece of sandpaper to a chunk of 2 by 4 and put it in a vise. It lets you hold the part that needs sanding without also having to hold the sandpaper.

"I have found that with a little hard rubbing, Clorox Wipes will remove permanent marker ink – unless the surface is very porous."

Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.:
"I keep my chainsaw chain-sharpening files in an ammo box painted yellow so it's always easy to spot. The two file holders have pieces of colored tape on the handles that match the brand of saw each goes with. When I buy new files, I insert them into a piece of vinyl tubing to protect them."



Emmett Machande, Sabula, Iowa: "I needed to change out the clutch on my 1969 Ford 5000. I was unable to find any stands to split it because it doesn't have frame rails where you can mount regular stands. So, I had a neighbor lad weld together two pieces of 1/2 by 6-in. flat steel plates attached at a 90° angle. I then got a pair of trailer



jacks that were each rated at 1,500 lbs. and mounted on caster wheels so the split tractor could be rolled apart and back together again. I drilled bolt holes in the steel plates to match the castings on the front engine. If needed later for another tractor, new holes could be drilled."



Ken Skow, Lewiston, Mich.: "Here's a handy way I've found to make sanding easier. I glue sandpaper to paint sticks, round dowels, or other shaped wood (as needed to fit whatever you're sanding) using contact cement or aerosol upholstery adhesive. Sometimes I'll put two different kinds of grit on the same stick. Belt sander belts work great. This idea works great for lathe work, too."

Dan Janke, Westfield, Wis.: "You should never use motor oil in place of bar chain oil in a chainsaw. Bar chain oil has an additive that makes it tacky, so it sticks to the chain. You can tell the difference if you run the saw chain while holding it over a board or piece of paper. If you see an oil spot, it's not bar staying on the chain."

Bob Reimann, Olivet, S.D.: "The upper radiator tank on my 7700 Deere combine leaked. It's quite a job to remove the radiator, so I tried a can of old-school stop

leak that I've used for years to no avail. Then I tried K-Seal stop leak, and in a couple of hours, the leak stopped. It's an excellent product, and the price is reasonable. You



can get it at most big box stores or order on

Multi-Height Shop Chair

After initially designing chairs for artists, the Japanese company Plateau Chair developed the PRO-Motion model, ideal for working on jobs at different levels in a farm shop or mechanic business.

"What makes it unique is its adjustment to lift to whatever position fits your needs," says Tony Vandenworm, VP of marketing and sales for distributor M-Cross Marketing Corporation. "Just pick up the front of the seat, pull it towards you, and place it at the right height. It locks in place automatically."

There are six levels to accommodate working at different heights while seated on the vinyl-covered foam seat. The casters roll easily on all hard surfaces, and the durable steel frame is powder-coated.

The PRO-Motion chair comes in black and silver and sells for \$248.

Plateau also makes a line of seat-height adjustable foldable chairs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tony Vandenworm, 386 Beech Ave., Suite B7,



Shop chairs on rollers adjust to work height.

Torrance, Calif. 90501 (ph 310-787-7837; info@plateauchairs.com; www.plateauchairs.com)

Modified Floor Sweeper Reduces Dust

Herb Wright of Melfort, Sask., got a helpful idea from his neighbor for modifying his floor sweeper to reduce the amount of dust it kicked up. Wright drilled a hole in the top of the sweeper and added a cordless vacuum to it. Now the vacuum takes care of most of the dust while sweeping the shop. This was an inexpensive modification because the vacuum was free since the power head was broken.

Contact FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Wright, Box 903, Melfort, Sask., Canada S0E 1A0.

Wright added a cordless vacuum to an old floor sweeper to control dust while sweeping.





GrilleAdz® custom and pre-made designs are available for pickups and semi-trucks.

Custom Bug Screens For Trucks

When Jesse and Taylor Buxton purchased a bug screen business 7 years ago, they spent 4 years improving the quality of their product. After experimenting with different mesh materials, Jesse developed a patent-pending process of screen printing on mesh that holds up for 3 to 5 years of over-the-road semi-truck driving and even longer for vans and pickups.

"Our most popular design is the Old Glory flag," Buxton says of the GrilleAdz® he creates out of PVC-coated polyester mesh. Other U.S. and Canadian flags are also popular, as well as a POW-MIA flag and other options. The pickup versions sell for \$99, including shipping.

Semi-truck bug screens range from \$99 to \$124, depending on the model. Buxton sews on a border vinyl trim to add the type

of attachment needed to secure it to different truck models. He uses several templates to accommodate pickup and semi styles.

The bug screens can go through a car wash as long as it's not an acid wash. Or they can be cleaned with a pressure washer or garden hose or taken off to shake out.

The Buxtons also do custom designs and work with customers to include a business logo or whatever they want for \$299. Through their business, Outlaw Trucking Supply, they also sell blackout window covers, winter fronts, and other accessories.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Outlaw Trucking Supply, 960 Schoolview Dr., Marshfield, Mo. 65706 (ph 888-910-1110; info@outlawtruckingsupply.com; www.outlawtruckingsupply.com).