



The battery shop takes the old batteries in exchange, checks them out, recharges them, and sells them.

"I can get a heavy-duty, recharged battery for \$60, and it comes with a 90-day guarantee. I bought a set of batteries 4 years ago, and they're still working great."



**Tom Chaney, Chrisman, Ill.:** "When the wobble box pin yoke shattered on my old 990 IH haybine, I figured I was out of business. I couldn't justify a new machine and no parts were available for the 990."

"This spring the solution hit me. I took 2-in. wide, 1/4-in. flat iron and made 90-degree bends in several pieces and welded them together to make a sleeve to fit over the yoke. One bend went around the front of the yoke, while the other went over the back of it, to the rear of the pin. I welded a nut for filler to the strap that went around the shattered side of the yoke."

"I had to replace the yoke pin that floats in the sickle bar pulling it back and forth. The original was notched for the bolt that pulled the yoke sides together. The notch allowed the bolt to also secure the pin in place."

"I notched the replacement pin with a plasma cutter. Then I drilled a hole through the sleeve to match the hole in the remaining side of the yoke. I bolted it all together and went to the field."

"My first pin couldn't handle the stress, so I replaced it with a second one that was hardened steel. I put it back together and mowed four acres. It has worked since without a problem."



**Dan Erdman, Claresholm, Alta.:** "I mark extra tires with a piece of masking tape with sizes and other information. This helps me find what I need at a glance. A good tire rack saves space also."

"Check around your area for a battery shop that deals with big companies. Many times these companies put in new batteries on a schedule rather than based on the condition of the battery."

"When I need a battery, I go to a local shop that works with mining companies."



"When I get a new battery, I block off the positive post area with masking tape and then paint that area red. I believe it's a great safety measure and simple to do. I hope this idea will prevent an explosion or acid burn."

**David Heapy, Litchfield, Neb.:** "To turn the heat up in my shop on snowy, cold winter mornings, I have two thermostats – one is set at 38 degrees for nights and is hooked in parallel with one that's set at 60 degrees for work. The 60-degree one is hooked to a small contact that is energized by a 110-volt remote plug, which completes the connection to the heater and overrides the setting on the other thermostat."

"When I get up in the morning, I just walk over to the window with my remote and turn the heat up. I also have a little red light in the circuit that I can see from the house window, so I know when it's turned on."



**Dennis Simontachi, Lakeview, Ore.:** "I had to replace the clutch on a 1987 Homelite 410 chainsaw. I made a clutch removal tool out of a 1 1/4-in. steel pipe, cutting out notches to fit the clutch. I welded a 1/4-in. steel plate to the other end with a hex-head bolt attached so I could use a torque wrench when reinstalling. It worked great, despite the ugly welds."

**John Rochester, Deerfield, Fla.:** "A reader in a recent issue talked about putting a magnet into the oil pan to attract metal fillings. An even better idea is to put the magnet on the outside of the drain pan near the drain plug. It lets you use a larger magnet, and you can easily remove it before draining oil, so the filings drain out with the oil."

**Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.:**

"I've used the same small rag to apply wood stain for a couple of years. The trick is that I wrap it around a magnet and stick it to the underside of the can cover so it's inside the can. It doesn't dry out and you don't lose the stain that has soaked into the rag."



Bond's 6-ft. by 12-ft. worktable folds to 3 ft. by 6 ft. for storage and has a table saw and two routers.

## Double-Duty Fold-Out Worktable

Chadd Bond has a 6 by 12-ft. worktable with a built-in table saw and routers. The custom builder designed it to work with 4 by 8-ft. sheets of plywood.

"I can fold it down to 3 by 6 ft. to store in my shop or haul in my cargo trailer with other tools," says Bond. "I do a lot of kitchen cabinets and closet storage units. It's handy to have on-site and also at home in my shop."

Bond had seen a similar table on YouTube and patterned his after it, but with the table saw and routers added. He started with 2-in. steel tubing for the frame. The base unit is 3 by 6-ft. with a 3 by 3-ft. wing to either side and a 3 by 6-ft. wing to the rear.

Each wing locks into place as it's lifted. Support arms to either side are two short lengths of tubing hinged by a single bolt and attached to the main frame and wing with turnbuckles. The weight of the wing locks the arms in place. To lower the wing, Bond lifts it and kicks the hinged tubing up.

The turnbuckles are welded to either end of the support arm tubing. Eyebolts on the other ends of the turnbuckles bolt to the legs of the main table and wing frames.

"The tables need to be parallel with each other," says Bond. "I can adjust the couplers on the turnbuckles if they aren't in alignment."

Bond wanted castor wheels under the table for moving it onto his trailer or around his shop. However, he wanted the table to rest on rigid feet when in use or transit. His solution was to have the legs extend past the lower horizontal tubing of the frame. He then

hinged a second set of tubing with castor wheels to the insides and parallel to the long sides of the frame.

Resting on its feet, the table is stable. For transit, Bond pushes down on arms welded to the castor wheel tubing and the wheels raise the table off its feet. A corner latch on a spring secures the arms to the frame ends.

With the frame in place, Bond added tops to the center table and the wings. He used a double layer of 1/2-in., pressure-treated plywood topped by a layer of countertop Formica.

After removing the table from a 10-in. table saw, he mounted it under the main table. He also mounted two routers under the right-hand wing.

"The disadvantage is that I lost about half an inch of blade diameter due to the thicker tabletop," says Bond. "I mounted two routers so if I'm making a cabinet door, I can set up two different bits and just go from one to the other."

"It was easy to make and saved money over buying a kit," says Bond.

With the two routers, the table saw, steel, and other materials, Bond estimates he has about \$1,000 invested in the table. He says it's been well worth it.

"I use it every day," he says. "It's super portable, but with a weight of around 300 lbs., it's also super solid."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chadd Bond, 6602 Gaffney Dr., Jones Creek, Texas 77541 (ph 970-683-8772; bondcustomshx@gmail.com).

## "Easy Access" Truck Tire Step

"The Tire Step helps you access places on trucks and other equipment that are hard to reach," says Aaron DeWard of Unique Truck Equipment in Grand Rapids, Michigan. "While some people get tempted to stand on top of tires, we'd rather give you some stability and prevent falls."

The step has a flat platform that rests on top of the tire, and multiple steps to get up to the platform safely.

It won't scuff up tire rims either. DeWard says it has rubber pads that push up against the tire rim for added stability.

"For people who might need access to a tire where the rim doesn't protrude out, we sell an adapter bar that covers the total width of a tire. The bar presses up against the tire for added stability."

The Tire Step is made of aluminum and folds up easily for storage. When it's unfolded, it looks like a mini-staircase.

"There are single-step, two-step, and three-step versions. The right one depends on how high a particular tire might be," says DeWard.

He says semi-owners are the largest target audience for the Big Truck Tire Step.

"The Tire Step is welded together and assembled here in the United States," DeWard says. "It's been tested to handle up to 400 lbs."

"One thing people are surprised at is how



Ladder folds up for storage. When on the tire, it can hold 400 lbs.

light the step feels," he says. "It's very easy to handle."

The Big Truck Tire steps are available direct from the company and range in price from \$235 for the one-step model up to \$580 for the three-step model.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Aaron DeWard, Unique Truck Equipment, Inc., P.O. Box 8798, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49518 (ph 616-531-8868; Sales@UniqueTruck.com; www.uniquetruck.com).