

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

an old 5-gal. oil bucket and run the string through the spout on the lid. No more mess, no more fuss. It'll feed without knots until it's completely consumed. Sometimes, I run it through the plastic handle to make it more accessible."

**Warren Zimmerman, Wheeling, Mo.:** "Case IH Maxxum tractors have a foam seal under the cab roof that deteriorates and drastically reduces A/C cooling capability. No longer OEM, I used Emseal sealing foam to repair them."

"A 630 Bobcat skid steer hydrostat pump had the input shaft seal retaining snap ring groove destroyed. Rather than buying a new housing or pump, I ground down the housing flush with the mounting flange and had a fab shop cut out a different mounting bracket with only a small hole around the input shaft. That held in the seal instead."

"I've added small flat free wheels to each front corner of my 7-ft. Brush Hog. It now doesn't gouge or cut in like it used to."



**Curtis Burcham, Guntown, Miss.:** "This storage box from Amazon is a great addition to my tractor. Excellent purchase that allows me to carry tools and other supplies away from the shop."

**George H. Clark Jr., Seneca, S.C.:** "I removed the carburetor on my Stihl MS 291 using a cheap deep-well socket and turned it down to fit the holes."

**William Sanford, Roxboro, N.C.:** "Before removing the power adjust wheels and tires from a 1965 Deere 1010 tractor, I purchased a service manual and read it instead of trying to figure it out on my own."

"My money-saving methods consist of repairing everything I can in my shop and realizing that sometimes I lack the tools or the special expertise to complete a project, so I ask for help."

"I label all parts and hardware so I can locate them. This saves more steps than you can imagine."



**Norman Sieting, Rapid City, Mich.:** "I like to take a trailer to toss wood into when I head to the woods with my splitter. That has meant making two trips with my ATV or pushing the splitter ahead of the ATV while towing the trailer. I installed a hitch on the splitter to tow them both in line."

"I welded a 2-in. receiver tube to the underside of the splitting beam on my wood

splitter. I placed the receiver tube 2 in. from the end of the splitter so it doesn't interfere when I tip it into a vertical position."



"I use a step-down ball mount to attach the trailer. I can toss the split wood directly into the trailer with it in place and the splitter in a horizontal position."

"The step-down mount has come in handy for other uses as well. I have dirt and snow blades that mount on receiver hitches on the front and back of my ATV. I remove the ball mount and put the step-down mount in a horizontal position. This lets me offset the blade by 6 to 8 in., making it easy to move dirt into ditches alongside the ATV."



**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** "An old horseshoe and a barn door hinge made a great gate latch for our backyard fence. It was a simple fix that worked much better than the chain and snap I'd been using. There are a lot of horseshoe latch ideas on the internet, but I think this one is as simple as they come." "Any size heavy-duty hinge will work, but the key is that it has only 270 degrees of travel. This way, when the horseshoe latch is lowered, it only goes a little past the halfway point."



"I figured out which side of the hinge plate would travel to that point and drilled two holes in the horseshoe to match the two holes in the hinge plate nearest the hinge pin."

"I bolted the two together temporarily, marked the excess hinge plate, cut it off and ground the edge smooth with an angle grinder. I also had to grind off a ridge on the horseshoe that prevented it from reaching a vertical position when mounted."

"Bolted back tight, it took only a few minutes to screw the new latch on the gate post. It works great, and I no longer have to deal with a snap that freezes up in the winter."



Shortridge modified an adjustable wrench to use for opening barrel bungs.

## Made-It-Myself Adjustable Barrel Wrench

C.J. Shortridge of Dagsboro, Del., made a homemade barrel bung wrench that turns into an adjustable multi-tool. "I got inspiration because I needed something easier to use than two adjustable wrenches for taking the plugs out of 55-gal. drums and tightening them again. My solution was to add an adjustable wrench to it."

The process was simple. "I cut metal to fit

the patterns on barrel bungs, then welded and ground it for the final fit." All he needed was an extra adjustable wrench and scrap metal already lying around. "It works as well as planned," he says. "I wouldn't do anything differently."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C.J. Shortridge, Dagsboro, Del. (ph 443-359-0199).



"Over time, we noticed different customers wanting the same cables, so we began stocking certain items so they didn't have to wait," says Kevin Schrock, company representative.

## Engine Shop Sells Replacement Cables

Bunker Hill Cables of Holmes County, Ohio, sells individual cables directly to customers. These include affordably-priced replacements for name-brand equipment, duplicates of obsolete cables, and custom work for customer-specific applications.

Bunker Hill Cables is a Division of Bunker Hills Engine, a John Deere engine service dealer that sells and services Yanmar, Iveco, PSI, PSI Heavy Duty, Ford industrial engines, Kohler standby generators and engines, and more. The company began in 2014 when its founders bought out a local engine shop, which included an Orscheln F.A.S.T. dealership that built custom cables while customers waited. "Customers were bringing us cables for skid loaders, tractors, log skidders, winch controls, and other types of equipment," says Kevin Schrock, company representative. "Over time, we noticed different customers wanting the same cables, so we began stocking certain items so they didn't have to wait."

Schrock believes a big part of the company's appeal is price. "We understand that equipment downtime costs you money. When buying from Bunker Hill Cables, you buy directly from the manufacturer, not a distributor. The cables we were seeing most often would cost \$300 to \$400 if you bought the name-brand part from the equipment dealer. We were building a cable of the same quality and selling it over the counter for less than half that price. This saves you both time and money."

Customer enthusiasm pushed their business beyond the shop. "We decided that if a

farmer in Holmes County liked saving money on a cable for his skid loader, so would farmers all across the country. In the fall of 2015, we officially created Bunker Hill Cables and started offering our products on eBay. Sales boomed almost instantly, and we have been developing and adding new products ever since."

Most standard cables run between \$100 to \$200. There's also a small machine shop for custom work. "All of our stock cables are priced on our website, and there are several build-to-order cables ranging from 3 series (10-32 thread) to 8 series (3/8-24 thread)," says Schrock. The shop offers free 2nd-day air shipping on online cable orders across the continental U.S. "We stock all of our standard cables and ship the same day on orders placed Monday through Friday. Since we build all the cables here at our shop, it also gives us the flexibility to build a custom cable and ship it the same day when it needs to be done."

Today, Bunker Hill Cables continues expanding its ability to meet customer needs. "We're more than an internet business," Schrock says. "There are people here you can call and talk to. We also have a showroom. Many customers from neighboring states make the trip to Holmes County to bring in their cables, and most times, we can get them made while they wait."

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