## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

"I built the mover out of some 1/2-in. pipe, some fittings, and a very short length of 1-in. aluminum channel for the lifter.

"The axle is 5/16-in. threaded (ready) rod inside a 4-in. length of pipe. A nut at either end of the pipe stabilizes the ready rod. Wheels from a Razor rider are mounted to the ends of the threaded rod. I used the Razor wheels because they have heavy-duty ball bearings.

"A 1/2-in. fitting welded to the top of the axle is the seat for the aluminum channel nipple. A 30-in. length of pipe welded to the axle at a 45-degree angle serves as a handle.

"I drilled and threaded the U-shaped lifter for a 5/16-in. bolt, which I drove into a short length of 1/2-in. pipe.

"To mount the lifter on the mover, I thread the pipe with the nipple into the fitting until it is almost tight. This lets the lifter pivot with the load when I turn the wheels.

"If I want a taller lifter, I use a longer length of pipe and bolt. I'm still experimenting with different materials for the top piece."

Preston Williams, Victoria, Va.: "My Ford 2000 tractor would pour steam out the pipe valve cover to under the motor. I pulled the head and replaced the head gasket, and it's okay now.

"I used Flex Seal on tires that were cracked. It helped keep the dirt out. It's a good temporary fix.

"I welded a 6-in. by 1 1/2-in. piece of tubing to my loader bucket and hung my hay fork on it with a metal loop on the fork tip. I put it on or off easily.

"I never take the loader bucket off. It's a big help.

"I had a 6-in. piece of rebar stuck in my rear tractor tire. After removing it, I plugged it and covered it with Flex Seal, and it's still holding."



William Ridgway, Salem, Ind.: "When a bucket is no longer repairable, it can make a good hose hanger with internal storage for spray heads and more."

Steven Hood, Claremont, N.H.: "The carb gasket on my wood splitter was seeping. I rubbed the area with hydraulic oil. It's still good years later."

Kent MacDougal, Yonges Island, S.C.: "Like many readers, FARM SHOW is my favorite publication. I'm glad to see I'm not the only one who braids baling twine. I built a cargo net with mine.

"Acetone and power steering fluid (50/50) make great penetrating oil. Heating the nut and touching it with a candle also works to loosen a stuck nut or bolt.

"An iron rake head attached to the wall holds box end wrenches and sockets. Save the broken handle; they make great stakes.

"Soak tools that are rusted shut in water.
"I found that a 2-in, eye bolt fastened to
the hitch of my lawn tractor let me pull my

utility trailer easily. I never bent it, even with the trailer loaded.

"Cutting grooves in your mower blade (like a Ginsu knife) doesn't make for a better cut; it only wears the blade faster.

"I beg everyone that uses old motor oil in their saws or as a stain to stop it. You can't filter out dissolved solids. Burnt oil is carcinogenic. Dispose of it correctly."

Gordon D. Myrick, Grand Coulee, Wash.: "I put ratchet straps inside PVC pipe to keep them untangled."



Larry Wood, Waldo, Ohio: "I had trouble lining up the hitch pin on my receiver. So, I welded a stop block on the top of my hitch. I first put the pin in and then welded a 1/4-in. steel block on the top. When I slide the hitch into the receiver, it now stops at the correct position.



"I always carry my pintle hitch with me in my truck. But it was constantly sliding around in the truck bed. I came up with the idea of mounting it under the truck behind the bumper. I welded a square receiver over the top of my truck hitch frame. This stores my pintle hitch or any other hitch. I also drilled a 1/2-in. hole in the side of the receiver and welded a nut for a bolt. This bolt, when tightened, clamps the hitch in place.



"I pick up lots of equipment with my skid steer forks, but I was always afraid that my lifting straps or chains would slip off the end of my forks. I drilled a 1/2-in. hole near the end of my forks. Then, I made a U-shaped steel strap and welded a 1/2-in. bolt to the bottom of the strap. Now, I have no fear of the straps slipping off. I also welded a 1/2-in. nut to the fork frame to store the new brackets. Now, I always have them with me."

## No-Compressor Handheld Sand Blaster

The handheld BLSTRsander removes paint, rust and more from wood, metal, glass and brick, no matter how complex the surface. Unfortunately, it's not yet available in North America. The corded, no-compressor sandblaster solved a common problem faced by anyone renovating an old building.

In 2014, Koen Meukens bought an old house in Antwerp, Belgium, and began sanding wood surfaces. The flat parts were easy, but sculpted parts, corners and curves frustrated him.

When he couldn't find a machine to do the job, he developed a concept of what he needed. He brought the idea to life with the help of a mechanical engineer at the University of Antwerp and two graduate students.

In 2018, Meukens started GenR8BV to patent the concept and develop the prototypes. In 2024, he launched a Kickstarter program to do a test launch. By August 1, 725 backers had pledged \$194,026, more than triple Meukens' goal. The first 500 paid only \$267 for the device, now retailing for \$414.

"The funds allowed us to pay for tooling, factory setup and the first production," says Meukens.

The cost is due to abrasion-resistant ceramic components designed specifically for the BLSTRsander. The output is described as similar to a compressor rated at 26 gal. at 145 psi (100 liters and 10 bar) with a blast gun. A high-speed wheel creates the pressure. Blasting medium gravity feeds into the airflow from the abrasives container. Equipped with a laser pointer, the handgrip, with its protective



A high-speed wheel creates the pressure. Blasting medium gravity feeds into the airflow from the abrasives container. Equipped with a laser pointer, the handgrip, with its protective shield, directs the flow to the target.

shield, directs the flow to the target.

The blast is wider, with a larger target area than a conventional compressor-powered blaster. However, that means no deep spots and smoother results.

While the device can use various grits, 0.2 to 0.5-mm grit and Metabo grit aluminum oxide are recommended for beginners. Although the product claims to be low-maintenance, thicker grain grit can cause blocking and require cleaning.

"For the moment, the BLSTRsander is only available in the European Union but will soon be introduced in the United Kingdom," says Meukens. "We hope to launch in the U.S. and Canada eventually. However, no 120-volt machines are available yet, or planned."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BLSTRsander (info@BLSTRsander.com; www.blstrsander.com).

## **Ladder Works In Shop And Field**

The Little Giant Conquest ladder is a new multi-position ladder with added features aimed at helping you get work done.

Little Giant ladders are known for their grip and twist lock, allowing the rails to easily adjust to the desired size.

The integrated tip and glide wheels enable the ladder to move easily from job to job. The extension side of the ladder is narrow enough to access tight spaces and can be safely set up on poles or outside corners. The wall pad feet are designed for use on inside corners and flat walls without damaging the surface. The V-bar leans on poles, corners and walls.

Optional leveling outriggers keep the ladder stable on uneven terrain. A weight-balanced carrying handle makes transport

The fiberglass Conquest ladder meets or exceeds all OSHA and ANSI standards. It's rated Type IA to hold 300 lbs. and is available in 17 ft. and 22 ft. sizes.

Prices start online at \$500 plus shipping for the 17-ft. standard model and go up to \$700 for the 22-ft. all-terrain model.

It's available from Little Giant, Fastenal and other select retailers. The ladders come with a limited lifetime warranty.

While not cheap, this ladder may fit the bill for those who want a versatile one with handy features that can be used in the shop and field.



Ladder offers a V-bar for corners and poles, tip and glide wheels, and optional outriggers for uneven surfaces.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Little Giant Ladder Systems, 1198 Spring Creek Pl., Springville, Utah 84663 (ph 800-453-1192; customerservice@ladders.com; www. littlegiantladders.com).