

Shop Ideas

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"I used soft wire to make a harness to hold the bottle over the roller chain and drilled a hole in the container cap small enough to make a tight fit for the air hose, which I insert up into it about 5/8-in. I use gear lube in the hottest weather and lighter oil as the season cools. A small vent hole poked in the bottom of the container keeps the liquid flowing. A drop of oil every 3 to 4 sec. is sufficient. When not in use, I tuck the tube back up into the harness, high enough so oil won't drip out."

David Fangman, Elma, Iowa: "Setting the detent valve on my IH 1440 combine was always a job. I drilled a hole through the sheet metal and put a long bolt in so I could adjust it from outside where I could see. I also put a hinge on the cover over the hydraulic stack for easy access. Both ideas work well."

Dean Kinzer, Pullman, Wash.: "When the teeth on my flex harrow wore out I priced new teeth and decided to try welding 8-in. sections of 5/8-in. rebar on each old tooth. It worked well and cost only about \$10 per section compared to \$80 per section for new teeth."

Doug Allemang, Bartlett, Neb.: "When the round bars on my New Holland baler needed replacement, I brought new pipe two sizes thicker but the same diameter and cut them to the right length, then had a muffler shop expand 2 in. on each end. Then we cut the old ends off and placed them inside the new pipe and welded them on. I was able to put these together for less than 1/2 the price of new and they work great."

David Wilke, Brandon, Wis.: "One simple maintenance idea I have that works great for me is scratching the hours or miles on spin-on oil, fuel or air filters when putting them on. That way I can just look at the filter to see when I put them on. No need to keep a separate record anywhere."

Gerry Hilliard, Huntingdon, Tenn.: "To make it easier to change oil on our Ford tractors (9700 & TW-30) with saddle tank brackets that block the bottom of the oil pan, I installed a pipe fitting elbow and a 6-in. nipple with a pipe plug. Gets oil off the bracket and into a bucket. Keeps from making a mess on the bracket and attracting dirt that makes the tanks hard to mount."

Bill Short, Hamilton, Mo.: "You can use 4-in. wide truck springs to make excellent replacement wear shoes for sickle mowers, hay conditioners and some balers. The cost for broken springs



off trucks is negligible so the only cost is fitting sections of spring to the worn shoes. Replacement mower shoes now sell for about \$80 at retail. These cost almost nothing and will last many times longer than

the originals because they're made out of spring steel.

"As parts prices have risen, I've found myself making many retail parts at a materials cost that's negligible in comparison to the retail price. One of my best tools for making steel parts is my Marvel hacksaw, which was on the market between 1880 and 1947. It did not have wheels on it originally. I wanted it to be portable so I could store it easier as well as be able to move it where needed. Because of all the various types of work I do on different machinery, I prefer shop machines to be mobile. One advantage of portability is that it saves space in the shop. You pull out the machine you need when you need it."

Bruce Gamble, LaFeria, Texas: "I made an alteration to the rear end of my Deere 7720 combine that speeds up removal and installation of straw walkers. We cut an 18 in. high by 24-in. wide hole in the

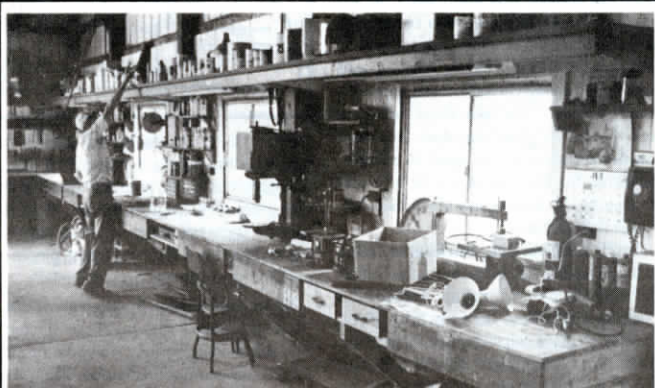


sheet metal using a jigsaw. Then I welded in a frame made out of 1-in. angle iron all around the hole. The angle iron protrudes into the hole so we can bolt the sheet metal back into place and it's nearly flush with the back. To get inside, we now just have to remove 6 bolts."

Neil Ohler, Stavely, Alberta: "I have an old NNA Ford tractor which used a 6-volt battery. The electrical cut-out from the generator quit working and it's nearly impossible to buy a replacement. I took the generator, cut-out, coil and condenser off a 1964 Ford car and put it all in place on the tractor. Now, having lots of 12-volt batteries available around my place, this unit starts very quickly. The 6-volt starter turns the engine over very fast but being wired with heavier wiring it will last for a long time. The generator fit the brackets perfectly but I had to transfer the pulley from the old generator to the 12-volt auto generator. I've used the 12-volt system for two years. Runs like a top. I feel any 12-volt generator or alternator would work except that you would have to make new brackets and use their respective regulator."

Jack Rudolph, Grafton, Ill.: "The Briggs & Stratton gas engines on new-style push-type lawn mowers are equipped with 'compression release' plastic cams that make the engine easier to start. However, once the plastic cams get worn the valves won't close tight which causes the engine to lose power and makes it harder to start. I solved the problem by replacing the plastic cams with old cast iron cams that I removed from older Briggs & Stratton engines."

Harry Marks, Delavan, Minn.: "I use a junked side-by-side 2-door refrigerator-freezer as a handy, watertight tool storage chest. It can be used anywhere in the farm yard. I simply strip out all the shelving. The refrigerator is tall enough that I can store



Innovative Farm Shop

Over the years, Hoyleton, Ill., farmer Roland Beckmeyer has found a number of innovative ways to make his farm shop a more efficient place to work.

His work bench runs all along one wall and contains numerous drawers. A key feature of the work bench is the design of the diagonal support legs which run from the outer edge of the bench back to the wall. Beckmeyer does a lot of work sitting down and likes the unobstructed leg room the design gives him compared to conventional table-type legs.

Another handy feature of his workbench is the full-size overhead shelf that runs the length of the bench. It keeps all kinds of supplies within easy reach.

Beckmeyer covered another wall in his shop with hundreds of wood parts bins, making it easy to segregate parts from different machines.

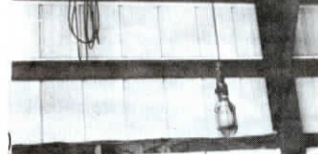
He also built a rolling overhead hoist that's anchored to a point high up on the parts wall. An I-beam runs out from a hinge on the wall to an upright beam that rides on a pair of heavy-duty wheels. The hoist swings back and forth in a 180° circle and is fitted with a chain hoist that rolls back and forth on the overhead beam. When not in use, it swings out of the way to the side.

One nifty idea he had to eliminate tangles of electric cords all over his shop was stringing a light and extension cord across his shop on a steel cable. He attached small pulleys to a long length of electric cord - spacing the pulleys every 10 ft. - and hooked the cord up to a spring wind-up type shop light with an electric plug-in. The light pulls out easily to anywhere in the shop. When not needed, it rolls off to the side with the cord hanging in loops beneath the cable.

One other handy tool Beckmeyer built for his shop is an "anvil" made out of a chunk of heavy I-beam mounted on a metal stand made out of two lengths of pipe with flat metal crossbars on bottom.

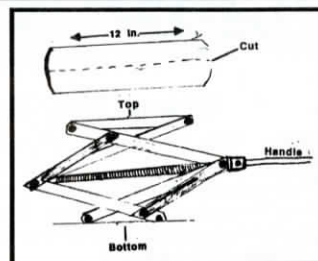
long-handled shovels, rakes, pitchforks, etc., in it. You can often get old refrigerators free from local refrigerator dealers. Don't use this on older model refrigerators with latches rather than magnetic seals because those types are a danger to kids. If they climb inside, they can't push their way out."

Fred Baluski, Ruso, N. Dak.: "I use a screw-type car 'scissors jack' to straighten out dented auger tubing. I cut a 12-in. length of 6-in. dia. steel tubing in half and welded one half onto the top of the jack and the other half onto the bottom. To straighten out a dent in the auger tubing, I remove the flighting from the tubing and insert the jack inside it. Then I heat the tubing and expand



He says the large flat metal surface of the beam lets him work on larger pieces than he could with a normal anvil.

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the jack. It forces the dents out without cutting into the tubing. I've used this technique on two different augers and it worked great both times."