Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

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sprockets, usually the smaller of the two drive sprockets. I've found a 20 percent reduction in size from the original is ideal. For instance, if the drive has a 20-tooth sprocket, I replace it with a 16-tooth sprocket.

"With this modification, the machine

runs quieter and should last 20 percent longer. If the average combine is used 15 years, that translates to three extra years of use. All for just a couple hours work."

David Schlies, Denmark, Wis.: "On those bitterly cold below zero winter days when I've got manure to haul, I've come up with a low-cost way to keep it from sticking to metal spreaders, making both spreading and clean-up a breeze.

"I simply coat the inside steel surfaces of my New Idea 363 320-bu. spreader with diesel fuel or waste oil. I apply a thin coating with an old broom. Works really well."

Steve Pope, Brown's Summit, N.C.: "We're America's largest distributor of replacement parts for lawn and garden power equipment. We handle parts for everything from lawn tractors to string trimmers. Everything's listed in our free 500-page catalogue." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dixie Sales, 5920 Summit Ave., Brown's Summit, N.C. 27410 (ph 800 753-4943; fax 800 535-2862, or 910 375-7500; fax 910 621-3555).

Dennis E. Heck, Pendleton, Ind.: "Many people do not know there's a special welding rod on the market for extracting broken-off bolts. Called X-TRACT-ALLOY (X-ERGON Co., 1570 East Northgate Blvd., P.O. Box 152102, Irving, Texas 75012; ph 800 527-7782 or 214 438-0306), it's ideal for welding a nut to a broken bolt because it flows down into the threads but won't adhere to the equipment that you're pulling the bolt out of. You simply lay it on top of the broken bolts, strike

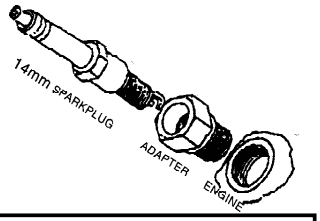
an arc on the bolt, and fill the nut. The rod is available in 3/16, 5/32, 1/8, 3/32 and 5/16 in. dia. Sells for around $50 per pound."

Duane Miller, Middlebury, Ohio: "If you have an old windmill that you would like to see in good operating condition, I can help. I sell, service, install, repair, restore, overhaul, even manufacture parts for old windmills, virtually any model ever built. I'll travel just about anywhere to work on them, too. A windmill requires an annual oil change and greasing of all external moving parts. The most common problem I fix in the shop is replacing bearings and shafts, which costs approximately $600 to $1,000. House calls cost more." Contact: FARM SHOW Follwup, Sam's Windmill Service, 14386 Co. Rd. 14, Middlebury, Ind. 46540 (ph/fax 219 825-2877).

John Richardson, New Lothrop, Mich.: "Tired of paying an arm and a leg to buy specially manufactured spark plugs to fit antique farm machinery?

"I've come up with an adapter that lets you use an ordinary automotive spark plugs in your old engines. An ordinary automotive spark plug screws into the adapter, which then screws into the engine. Incidentally, I've had many orders for adapters for Deere "hit and miss" stationary engines, which require my 1/2-in. NPT adapter.

"Three sizes are available - 18 mm, 7/8 in. and 1/2 in. for $5 apiece plus $2 S&H. (Orders of 50 or more are $4 apiece)." Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, R.E.A.M. Corp., P.O. Box 311, New Lothrop, Mich. 48460 (ph 517 743-4360).



Overhead Creeper Doubles As Ladder

Overhead "creepers" that let you lie down while working from the top side of a vehicle aren't new. But Dennis Fisher, Sisseton, S. Dak., has designed one that can be used to service almost any machine.

A hydraulic jack raises and lowers Fisher's "creeper" and it also can be set at an angle and used as a free-standing ladder to work on big trucks, 4-WD tractors, and combines.

"It works great for working on combines and tractors because it doesn't have to lean against the vehicle so it can't scratch the paint," says Fisher. "The ladder is 7 ft. long so when the hydraulic jack is fully extended you can work safely up to 12 ft. high. The frame's wide base makes it virtually impossible to tip over. As you raise the ladder up you can fold down an add-on step at the bottom of the ladder, making it easier to climb. The top of the ladder has a handhold and a steel bracket with a notch for a chain, allowing the unit to be used as a light duty cherry picker.

"You can lock it into the horizontal position at anywhere from 40 to 60 in. high. A foam chest pad can be placed on the platform. By removing the chest pad and placing a plywood cover on the platform you can convert it to a portable work bench."

Fisher is looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dennis Fisher, RR 3, Box 115, Sisseton, S. Dak. 57262 (ph 605 698-7492).

Harlan Olson, Elbow Lake, Minn.: "I made this handy swing-out shop light a few years ago.

"I started with a 10 by 12-in., 500-watt quartz outdoor light. I mounted it on track rollers off a sliding door, threading heavy-duty wiring through a 16-ft. length of 1 1/2-in. dia. electrical conduit. The conduit attaches to a swivel that bolts to a stud on one wall of my shop. The light swings 180°. The light hangs about 10-ft. above the floor. The track wheels permit me to pull the light to the farthest corners of my shop, from work bench to drill press to second work bench, etc. It works better than I'd ever dreamed

Photo courtesy Herman, Minn., Review

and is particularly useful for working on engines."

Ed Allspach, Mt. Pulaski, Ill.: "We could only use our 1941 IHC M for pulling our 6-row cultivator until we built a quick-tach 3 pt. hitch for it. Now we use it all the time to pull our 7-ft. sickle mower and 9-ft. disk mower.

"We made the 3-pt. using lift arms off an old Ferguson tractor and Cat # 2 arms off a Case tractor. It's raised by a 4-in. hydraulic cylinder with 18-in. stroke that we clamped between the rear axle housing and top link. The quick-tach mechanism is store-bought. The whole system cost virtually nothing to build and gives us a tractor that's 100 times more useful than before."

Walter S. Pittman, Sury, Va.: Walter and his son came up with a quick and easy way to change chaff separator trays on their early 1980's Massey-Ferguson 750 combine.

"Those galvanized pans are heavy and have to be slid in and out just so. There's hardly any room inside the machine to work," he says. "We made rails out of 1 1/4-in. angle iron that bolt to each side of the machine and act as guides for taking pans out and putting them in again. They turn what used to be a 1 1/2-day job into a 1/2-day job."

J.E. Williams, Windsor, Mo.: "I recently came up with a neat idea for painting wheel rims without getting any paint on the tires. First, I deflate the tires and push the beads in a little. Then I lay a large piece of paper over the wheel rim and run my thumb around the rim to make an impression on the paper. Then I cut out the curves and slip the paper under the rim.''

"Sawstand" Makes It Easy To Cut Pipe, Rods, Etc.

A Florida inventor came up with this nifty "sawstand" that's equipped with a foot-operated clamp, making it easy to cut through pipe, rods, electrical conduit, or even small dimension lumber.

The 29-in. high, 3-legged stand has a U-shaped support channel on top and a metal stirrup at the bottom that's connected to a steel hook on top. Stepping down on the stirrup pulls the hook over whatever you want to cut.

"It keeps whatever you want to cut rigid so it's easy to cut. The stand is made from a light but strong steel alloy so you can easily carry it to the job site," says inventor Robert Ramoski. He's negotiating with a manufacturer and says the unit will probably sell for $30 to $35.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert J. Ramoski, 6449 Tillery Road, Lakeland, Fla. 33813 (ph 941 644-6126).