

AUTOMATICALLY APPLY GREASE, OIL TO BEARINGS, MOTORS AS NEEDED

"Continuous" Grease Injectors Catching On Fast

Latest idea in machine maintenance is automatic greasing with self-contained, continuous-acting grease injectors. Popular in Europe for 20 years and growing in use in North American industry in recent years, the grease injector units are just starting to become popular with farmers in the United States and Canada.

Automatic grease injectors are credited with cutting downtime from ruined bearings since they constantly supply the bearing with lubricant. They're reportedly more effective than hand greasing because they can apply grease while the machine is working. This provides cooler, smoother bearing operation and increases the life of the machine.

They save time by automatically greasing bearings that require daily or more frequent greasing and they prevent overlooking or skipping hard-to-find zerks.

At least two American companies are selling automatic grease injectors: Perma Associates and Sons in Denison, Texas; and Jemalee Industries in Grand Prairie, Texas.

The Perma Lubricator

This German-made import has been used throughout Europe and Japan for about 20 years, according to distributor Chuck Hauber. It's a disposable canister filled with 4.8 oz. of grease or oil. One canister lasts from 1 to 24 months, depending on the amount of lubrication the bearing requires.

Pressure is supplied to the Perma Lubricator by a gas-filled rubber bladder. The gas is formed when the activating screw on the bottom is engaged. It permits a galvanic strip to contact an electrolytic solution which causes a gas to form.

"As the bladder expands with the production of the gas, it pushes against the piston which, in turn, pushes the lubricant out of the injector and into the bearing," explains Hauber.

The rate of gas production, and thus the grease discharge rate, can be controlled by the mix of chemicals in the solution. So far, the company offers 5 units, each with a different discharge rate to match most lubrication needs. The five units work for bearings requiring anywhere from daily up to semi-monthly lubrication.

Perma units can't be refilled, nor can the pressure production be stopped once it is started. Thus, the unit must be left in place until the canister is empty.

Grease is fed into the bearing at

about 130 psi, according to Hauber. He says this is not enough pressure to blow the seals on any bearings. For remote installation, tubing up to 10 ft. long can be used to convey the grease from the lubricator. The Perma unit simply mounts in place of the regular zerk.

Price for the Perma lubricator is \$16.95, including shipping. Type of grease desired and lubrication frequency must be specified. For electric motors, oil can be used in the injectors, too. They must, however, be installed with the exit port facing up when oil is used.

For more details on Perma lubricators, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Perma Associates and Sons, Box 202, Denison, Texas 75020 (ph 214 463-1225).

Petromatic Grease Cups

Petromatic is a refillable cup that supplies grease to the bearing with pressure from a simple compression spring acting on a plunger. A clear plastic dome permits quick inspection of the grease level.

Although it won't work with oil, most types of grease work well in the Petromatic. Virginia Hanks, president of Jemalee Industries, the manufacturer, recommends a good multi-purpose grease for most bearings.

Three styles of springs permit use of various weights of grease. The light spring works with No. 1 or lighter grease, the medium spring works with No. 2 grease and the heavy spring works with No. 3 or 4 grease. Most customers prefer the medium spring option, according to Hanks.

"The Petromatic feeds the bearing only as it needs the grease," Hanks explains. Two sizes, 2 and 4 oz., are available. They can be refilled with any type of grease gun, including pneumatic or electric models.

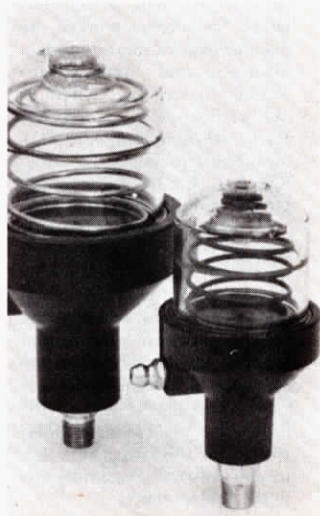
Petromatic installs in place of the grease zerk. Hanks says the Petromatic is especially popular on grain leg elevators, combines and other harvesting machinery where frequent lubrication is needed. "We don't, however, recommend them for automobiles or on a piece of machinery that would normally only need lubrication once a month or less," she told FARM SHOW.

The 2 oz. Petromatic sells for \$9.50, and the 4 oz. size for \$11.50.

For more details on Petromatic grease cups, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Petromatic Products Division, Jemalee Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 361, Grand Prairie, Texas 75051 (ph 214 262-2344).



A gas-filled rubber bladder inside Perma unit forces grease into fittings, as needed.



Petromatic is operated by a compression spring and can be refilled.

"THE UNISKREDGE"

Fast Way To "Unstuck" Pinched Chainsaws

New from the Thackery Co., manufacturers of the popular Unicorn log splitters, is the Uniskredge, an all-metal corkscrew type device that lets you "unstuck" a pinched chainsaw blade in seconds.

You simply screw the "Uniskredge" into the saw opening, using its built-in handle to turn it into the saw cut until it opens enough to free the pinched blade.

"This system is a lot simpler and safer than the usual method of driving a wedge into the saw cut to free a saw," explains James Fahy, of the Thackery Co. "There's no chance of damaging the saw chain or blade in freeing the pinched saw, whether stuck in a log or a still-standing tree."

The "Uniskredge" is made of machine-tooled steel and opens the saw cut a full 1 1/2 in. when screwed into the log its full 2 1/2 in. length. Regardless of log dia. or how deep into the log the saw is stuck, a few turns on the "Uniskredge" will free it, explains Fahy.

Sells for \$15, including shipping and handling.

For more details, contact: The Uniskredge, The Thackery Co., 1820 Frebis Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43206 (ph 614 444-6882).



A few turns of the Uniskredge frees pinched chain saws, preventing damage.