

so they're flat to the floor while a cord is in use."

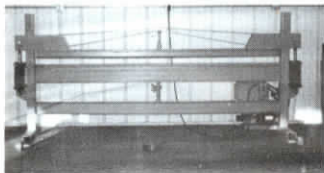
Harvey Melcher, Friendswood, Texas: "The wheels and spindles on my 1508 Deere flex wing mower get bent too easily and bearings and seals are expensive. So I bought 3,500-lb. spindles made for trailers and welded them on. Worked great. "When 6-ft. mower blades (or larger) get too worn to sharpen, weld on a section of grader blade. The metal is harder and will last much longer. Beats buying new mower blades."

"One thing I did when I built my shop and equipment building was to make it large enough so I can leave trucks and trailers hooked up. I pull in at night, fuel up and do service, and then be ready to go again first thing in the morning without having to hook up."

Art Thomas, Stryker, Ohio: "A good use for old socks is to slip your hand in one when unscrewing oil filters and drain plugs. Another thing I do that's handy is to clean radiators with a shop vac. Lets me work from the front rather than blowing them out from behind."

Oliver Drummond, Keota, Okla.: "I have found that using oven cleaner on heavy grease, oil and dirt buildup on tractors works better than any degreaser available. And it's cheap."

Steven Birkholtz, Willow Lake, S.Dak.: "I made my own 9 1/2-ft. 12-ga. sheet metal brake using 4-in. square tubing for the uprights and the base. The main frame is made of heavy I-beam and the dies



are made of angle iron. A 3-hp. electric motor runs a hydraulic log splitter pump, which pumps the oil to a divider valve, then to the cylinders. I also built a remote foot control for easier use. It does a very good job."

Ray Hicks, Martin, S.Dak.: "This past summer, I had the radiator out of my 5010 Deere tractor, repaired it, and put it back in. On a Deere tractor, the radiator and fuel tank are right close to each other. I goofed up and poured about 1/2 gal. of anti-freeze into my fuel tank, which was nearly full of fuel. I thought to myself that there had to be a way to get the anti-freeze out of the tank without draining and flushing it. I knew diesel fuel is lighter than water or anti-freeze, so I made a syphon gismo out of a 3-ft. piece of 3/8-in. copper tubing and hooked it onto a 5-ft. length of 3/8-in. gas line hose. I filled the tube and hose with diesel fuel, held my finger over the end of the hose, and inserted the copper tubing into the fuel tank, holding it at the bottom of the tank. I let the fuel flow into an empty container and to my amazement - green antifreeze, along with some rusty water, came flowing from my siphon. After a few seconds, the stream was flowing pure and clean diesel fuel, so I stopped. I used the tractor all summer and never did have any fuel problems. I've used this setup several times since then on other equipment to get water and dirt out of fuel tanks. Works great anytime you have moisture or other contamination problems in fuel."

Don Moss, Tallula, Ill.: "We were tired of trying to balance on a regular ladder rung while working high up on combines and other big equipment," says Moss, who designed a rolling service ladder with a platform on top. "The platform is 5 ft. 6 in. off the ground and has 7 steps. The frame of the ladder is made of 1-in. tube steel. The deck is 2 1/2 ft. by 4 ft. Wheels are off a go cart. One man can move it easily. Cost



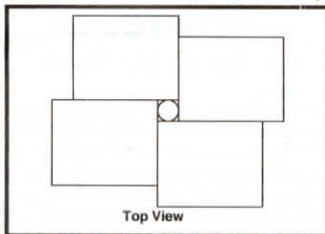
of building it was about \$600."

Charles G. Bowman, Harwood, N.Dak.: "Here's a simple idea that works for me. When cutting a small piece of metal with a chop saw or power hack saw, clamp the piece in a Vice Grip pliers and then clamp the pliers in the saw."

Grant T. Faust, Coggon, Iowa: "My Tool Tree is handy for storing a large amount of tools in a small area. I started with a 10 by 20 truck tire and wheel. I



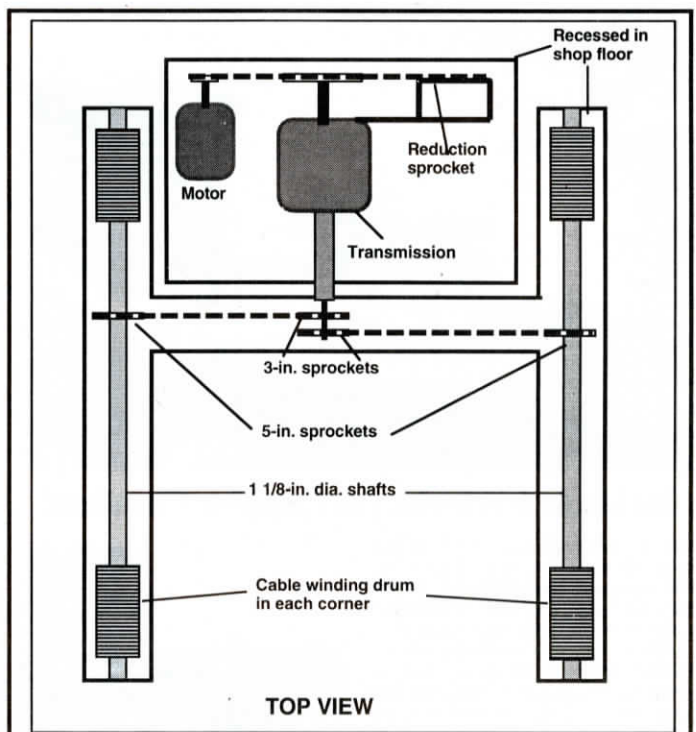
welded a pedestal to the center of the wheel and used a tapered timkin bearing for the shelves to turn on. I used some new and some used lumber to build 4 sets of 24 by



24-in. plywood shelves mounted on the center post. Shelf spacing varies. Each set of shelves has two solid sides, one open side, and one side with 1 1/2 by 3/4-in. vertical slats."

Kevin Johansen, Mound, Minn.: "Some time ago, FARM SHOW featured a tool consisting of a vise grips equipped with a slide hammer attached to the adjusting screw (Kammco, Rt. 3, Box 25, Colfax, Wash. 99111). I made my own by welding a nut to the adjusting screw, tack welding the formed seam of the vise grips (to take the added pounding), and modifying my existing slide hammer to fit it."

"I learned two things: First, Kammco's listed price of \$39.95 (plus \$6 shipping) is a bargain. Paying the money for one is easier and probably cheaper than building it from scratch. Second, it works great for pulling cotter keys and drive pins, but I find it most valuable for pulling nails from finish trim, shingles, cedar shakes, and other places where a hammer would crush or mar the surface. I've even used it to reach under cedar shakes and pull nails out sideways without breaking the shakes. I don't know how I got along without it."



"Made-It-Myself" Shop Hoist

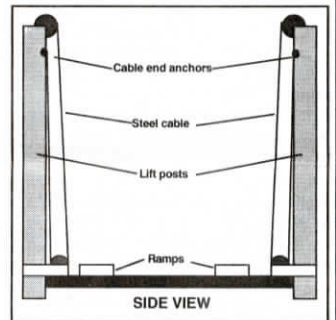
"My hobby is working on cars so my home-built drive-on shop hoist gets used quite a bit," says John Zobeck, New Hampton, Iowa.

He built the hoist from almost all scrap parts. It's anchored in the concrete floor and uses steel cable to lift.

The hoist is driven by an electric motor through a 200:1 gear reducer that mounts on a 3-speed auto transmission. The motor and transmission are recessed in the concrete floor below the hoist. The driveshaft off the transmission is fitted with sprockets that chain-drive shafts under both sides of the hoist. The shafts turn 4 drums - one at each corner of the hoist - that wind up the steel cable that lifts the hoist ramps. A steel pipe upright mounts over each drum. Cable feeds up the pipes and over a pulley and down to the ramps, around a pulley, and back up to the top of the post. Running the cable around the pulleys this way cuts the speed of the lift, notes Zobeck. Ramps are supported by brackets that slide up and down the posts.

"It lifts big cars and pickups with ease. I spent about 100 hrs. building the lift and lots of extra time designing and researching to make it work. Ramps are adjustable to fit different wheel widths."

Zobeck notes that you can build "stops" into the lifts posts so you can safely lock the lift ramps in place once a car or truck is lifted.



Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Zobeck, 2450 McCloud Ave., New Hampton, Iowa 50659.

Sturdy "Swingout" Toolbox

This new tool storage chest has drawers that swing out for easy access to tools instead of rollers that often stick or wear out, says Valley Engineering, Franklin, Neb.

"When closed, the drawers rest on a support system so they can't be damaged by the weight of tools shaking in the back of a pickup," says Bryan Hayes. "Drawers on conventional toolboxes supported by rollers often break or wear out."

Sells for \$275. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Valley Engineering, Inc., Industrial Park, Franklin, Neb. 68939 (ph 800 400-0124).

