

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



**Lonnie Fisher, Baytown, Texas:** "I needed a flat belt drive system to operate my Chattanooga 44 cane mill, but none of my tractors had a flat belt pulley. So I turned the gearbox 90 degrees on an old Rhino 5-ft. mower and

adapted an 8-in. dia. pipe to the blade bar to run the flat belt. Now I can operate the cane mill using any tractor equipped with a pto. Works great."



**Eric McNutt, Sulphur Springs, Ohio:** "My home-built welding table makes use of a simple 2-wheeled dolly and folds up for transport and storage. As a result, the table doesn't take up much more storage room than the dolly itself.

"The 2-piece table measures about 2 ft. wide by 3 ft. long. I built it because I didn't want to give up floor space to a dedicated welding table. The top part of the table is separate from the front and is formed by an angle iron frame and expanded metal. The front part is made from 1-in. sq. tubing, with



a length of flat steel serving as a brace at the bottom. The brace is what the front rides on during transport.

"I wrapped and welded a piece of 1-in. flat stock around the dolly to support the hinge, which consists of a length of tubing with a rod going through it. By removing a cotter pin at each end of the rod I can remove the dolly and use it as an ordinary 2-wheeled cart.

"A simple bungee cord holds the entire unit together for storage."



**Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.:** "Here's a tip that allows you to comfortably haul quite a few 10-ft. lengths of steel in your mini van without getting the interior dirty. For the last 10 years, I've been using a 5-in. dia. cardboard tube that once held a roll of new carpet. Instead of discarding it, I wrapped the tube with duct tape so it can be wiped off if it becomes dirty, and position it down the center of the van whenever I go to town to buy steel.

"I use it for hauling various lengths of angle iron, bar stock, channel iron, pipe, and anything else that fits inside. By hauling steel in the tube, it keeps our van's upholstery from getting stained with oil or dirt.

The tube lays the entire length of the mini van, from the back, all the way up to the front where the radio is. It doesn't interfere with anything.

"I use it all the time, as our mini van gets better gas mileage than our pickup truck, and our van can haul up to 6 people comfortably while we hardly notice the tube's in there. Our pickup truck only has a 5 1/2-ft. bed, so to use that would mean the end gate would have to be open and 3 feet would still be sticking out the back, which is kind of a safety hazard, plus with the end gate open, grocery bags and other cargo would have to be secured.

"When not in use, I simply store the tube in our garage."

**Roger Hughes, Janesville, Wis.:** "In regard to the Florida reader in your last issue, who was having trouble with ethanol in his chainsaw, my Stihl chainsaw dealer highly recommends that you use premium gas with at least 93 octane and no ethanol in it. Most gas stations do not add ethanol to their premium gas. The shelf life of gas with ethanol is not nearly as long as gas without ethanol. Another reason to avoid gas with ethanol added is that on some older 2-cycle engines, the seals and O-rings will not tolerate ethanol."

**Allen R. Colombo, Bogalusa, La.:** "The V-belt on my Sears garden tractor, with a 54-in. deck, kept coming off the drive pulley on uneven ground. I fixed the problem by installing a larger spacer on the anti-sway bar. It also reduces wear on the V-belts."



**Roger Foster made brackets for his commercial 10,000-lb. rotary hoist to raise and lower his zero-turn riding mower.**

## Car Hoist Adapted To Riding Mower

"It's a simple, low cost way to raise our riding mower up in the air so we can easily service it," says Roger Foster, Tower Hill, Ill., who made brackets for his commercial 10,000-lb. rotary hoist to raise and lower his zero-turn riding mower.

"I've used the hoist for years to service my cars and pickups. Now I can use it to service my mower and to sharpen the blades without any hassle," says Foster.

Foster used 2-in. steel tubing to build a 3-ft. high metal arch that straddles the mower's front wheels and pins onto the hoist's front swing arms. A pair of light chains are used to connect the arch to the mower's front axle.

A length of 3-in. wide channel iron slides up under the mower's rear bumper and pins onto the hoist's rear arms. The mower's rear wheels rest on top of the arms.

To attach the mower to the hoist, Foster drives the mower forward until the front wheels are under the arch. Then he swings the arms in, pins the arch to the arms and attaches the chains to the front axle. Then he slides the channel iron under the mower's rear bumper and pins it to the hoist's rear arms.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Roger Foster, Rt. 1, Box 108, Tower Hill, Ill. 62571 (ph 217 567-3417; cell 217 827-2213).

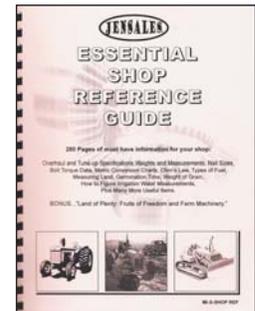
## You'll Like This "Old Tractor" Shop Book

Tune-up specs, bolt torque data, handy formulas and much, much more are covered in the Essential Shop Reference Guide from Jensales. Newly revised, the 280-page book is full of information handy in any shop, especially for anyone with an older tractor. It is also full of information for someone not that familiar with engines to begin with.

"We recently updated it," says Paul Jensen, Jensales. "We added material like carburetor and magneto specs for old equipment."

From battery electrolyte freezing points to tractor tune-up specifications, this reference manual deals in detail. With batteries, it isn't just the freezing points and how temperature affects cranking power that is covered. The manual covers boiling points of water at different elevations and a comparison of Centigrade and Fahrenheit temperatures as well. The tune-up specs cover 18 items on 300 models from 11 makes built from 1939 to 1972. If you're looking for the piston displacement in a Cockshutt Model 20, you'll find it here, not to mention the spark plug gap and tappet clearance.

"We tried to make the information more accessible," says Jensen. "One thing we do with all our manuals is to publish them with



comb binding. That allows the user to lay them out flat on a workbench."

Engineering bulletin FT-53 on farm tractors alone may well be worth the \$24.99 price, especially for first time tractor owners or someone fixing up an old tractor for the first time. It walks the reader through the operation and components of two and four cycle and diesel engines. It is a valuable primer and well illustrated.

FARM SHOW Followup, Jensales, Inc., 200 Main St., Manchester, Minn. 56007 (ph 507 826-3666; toll free 800 443-0625; fax 507 826-3777; www.jensales.com).

**Dan Fitzsimmons, Good Thunder, Minn.:** "The differential lock on my IH 5488 MFWD tractor was activated by holding down a button on the cab floor with your foot. On half-mile rounds that would get very uncomfortable. So I installed a 12-volt toggle switch on the shifter lever and wired it into the differential lock. Now I just flip the switch off and on at the end of the row and keep my feet in a relaxed position."

**Fred Hoffmeyer, Grass Valley, Calif.:** "Tires are expensive but they'll last a lot longer if you keep them inflated to a proper level. You also save money on fuel. The problem is that it's often a hassle to get an air hose to inflate them. To make it easier, I ran air lines and put pressure gauges real close to my vehicles. Makes all the difference."