

**Bill Mahle, Aitwahnee, Calif.:** "I used J-B Weld Steel Stick to repair broken and missing trim tabs on a 1966 Ford Thunderbird's headlight brackets. This epoxy putty dries steel-hard so you can drill and finish it with hand tools."

**Dalbert D. Wright, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.:** "Here's an easy way to treat a rusty metal roof. Mix latex paint with enough water so it's thin enough to pass through a hand-pump garden sprayer. It'll penetrate the rust and preserve the roof. Works great."

**Chris Wilske, Jonathan Steinbrink and Shea Wilton, South Kitsap FFA, Port Orchard, Wash.:** *Ageless Iron Almanac* featured an idea from this group of FFA tractor restorers. The boys hit on the idea of using heavily diluted blackstrap molasses to loosen rusted parts. They put smaller parts in a tub and let them soak in the molasses for close to two weeks, then rinsed them off. Parts were loose, clean, and any paint on the parts was softened.

**Richard Edington, Norwalk, Ohio:** "When installing tires, I spray them with PB Blaster penetrating oil. Makes them easier to mount and then to dismount down the road."

**Larry Place, Perry, Mich.:** "Pure biodiesel (B-100) makes an excellent penetrating oil. You can also use it to take grease off your hands. Just wash with soap and water after wiping hands with a rag."

**Richard Knouse, Liverpool, Penn.:** "I enjoyed the list of best rust-busting penetrating oils in one of your shop books. Another good one you could add to the list is Army gun bore cleaner, which comes in a small green can. Although made to clean gun bores, it eats through almost any type of corrosion. It will also take off paint and the bluing of a gun barrel if left in contact. Most military surplus stores stock it."

**Bill Mitchell, Tuscombua, Ala.:** "I have a Ford 642 tractor and when I'm pulling a 72-in. King Kutter mower, it runs fine for an hour or so. But when it becomes hot (but not overheated), it quits after a sputter or two. If I let it sit for a while it will start back up okay. But then the same thing happens again."

"I've changed the coil, put heat tape on the fuel line, and tuned it up but nothing seems to

help. It doesn't use excessive oil. Has anyone else had this problem?"



**Bob Lounsberry, Columbus, N.J.:** "I used to have to hunt all over whenever I needed the header drive coupler chain for my Deere combine. I solved the problem by attaching an S-hook to the bottom of one of the steps to the cab. Now I always know where the chain is hanging."

**Joe Hummert, Jonesburg, Mo.:** "I was having a lot of vibration in my 1972 New Holland square baler, but only under load. Another farmer told me the problem was U-joints that were too tight. I pulled back on the flywheel and felt some play in there so I put in a new bushing and it solved the problem."



**Edward Fett, Lennox, S. Dak.:** There are a lot of different ways to start a tractor in extremely cold weather. Fett says he's tried them all and nothing works as well as the method he came up with.

"I mounted a metal ring on three adjustable-height legs. The ring is just the right size to hold a large heat lamp. I adjust the legs so the

**FARM SHOW**

## Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

Have you come up with any unusual money-saving repair methods for fixing farm equipment? What maintenance shortcuts have you found? Have you had any equipment recalled by the factory? Name a particularly tough mechanical problem you've had with a piece of equipment and how you solved it.

These are a few of the questions we asked randomly selected FARM SHOW readers. If you have a repair tip, maintenance shortcut, or other mechanical experience you'd like to share, send details to: FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or email us at: editor@farmshow.com.

Mark Newhall, Editor

lamp is about 1/2 in. from the oil pan on the tractor and then turn it on. What's great about this idea is that it not only warms up the oil but also the entire engine compartment.

"It doesn't cost much to run and you can adjust the height to any tractor. I've used it on Deere, Moline and White tractors. Works better than any plug-in heater I've ever tried, and it's a lot safer than a pan of hot coals."

**Larry Clausen, Wauseon, Ohio:** "To break loose old manifold bolts, take a large punch and a big hammer. Hit the bolt right on the head with the punch several times and then try to turn it. Repeat if necessary. Almost always works."

**Curtis Murray, Wheatfield, Ind.:** "After several moves over the past several years, my old cast iron table saw was very rusty. I tried wetstones, emery cloth, and even power buffing with polishing compound. Nothing would clean it up. I finally bought a product at Menards (also available at Amazon.com) for cleaning barbecue grills called Grillstone. It's made from recycled glass bottles that are ground into ultra-fine silica foam. In 20 min. I had the table top looking good, slots and all. I followed that up with a coat of Teflon spray."



**Albert Holt, Butternut, Wis.:** "I made a handy tool trailer from a 250-gal. fuel oil tank. I cut it in half and welded angle iron around the inside edge. The lower



angle iron sticks up 3/4 in. and the upper angle iron is recessed 3/4 in. to provide a rainproof cover.

"It has parts and tool compartments built on the sides, leaving the center part open for larger parts and tools. A folding prop holds the top half of the cart open.

"It saves me a lot of loading and unloading of my pickup."

**Franklin Zitta, Petersburg, Va.:** "Dried-up sealed bearings are often a pain to replace. Instead of replacing them, I drill a pin hole into the bearing and partially refill it with grease. By using this method I've been able to keep some bearings running for years."

**Allen Kimball, Dover, Ark.:** "I've had some trouble with the 12-volt system on my Allis Chalmers D19 tractor. I would buy a new regulator and it would work for a while but then quit. Finally I moved the regulator from its original location behind the radiator and ran a separate ground wire from the regulator to the battery."

**Ron Nikolai, Marshfield, Wis.:** "To save money I use antifreeze instead of calcium chloride in the rear tires on my garden tractor. I get the antifreeze free in 50-gal. barrels from a local salvage yard. I take the tire off the rim, let the air out and break the bead. Then I use a 1-gal. jug and a funnel with a long spout to add the antifreeze until it almost reaches the top of the tire. Antifreeze isn't quite as heavy as calcium chloride so the tires ride a little rougher than they would with calcium chloride, but it's not a problem."

**Daryl Holte, Pincher Creek, Alta.:** "When a starter rope breaks on a push lawn mower or other equipment, most people take the machine to a small engine shop to have the rope rethreaded. It's a tricky thing to do yourself.

"I came up with a simple, quick way to thread the rope. I turn the starter spring until it's tight and reverse it one or two turns, securing the rope pulley to make sure I don't overtighten the spring. Then I thread some mechanics wire through the starter housing where the rope comes out and through the hole in the pulley. I use a torch to heat the end of the wire until it gets red hot, then push the end of the nylon rope onto the wire and let it cool. That lets me pull the wire through the starter housing and the pulley, then cut the rope off the wire and tie a knot. I finally release the pulley so the starter spring will



Art Hertz made this grease cartridge dispenser out of a long piece of 2 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe. "I pull a cartridge out of the holder and another one immediately comes down to take its place," he says.

## "Snuff-Style" Grease Cartridge Dispenser

"It's really handy to use and hardly takes up any space in my shop," says Art Hertz, Fairfax, S. Dak., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the homemade grease cartridge dispenser he made out of a long piece of 2 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe.

"It's based on the same idea used in stores to hold cans of chewing tobacco. You pull a cartridge out of the holder and another one immediately comes down to take its place. The pipe is long enough to store almost an entire case of cartridges."

The pipe is strapped on between a pair of steel posts that support the ceiling in Hertz's

shop. He cut a 1-ft. long rectangular slot at the bottom of the pipe. Then he glued a plastic cap into the bottom end of the pipe and drilled a hole in the center of the cap, just big enough for his finger to fit into it.

"To remove a cartridge, I stick my finger up through the hole and lift the cartridge to pull it out of the slot, about 1/4 in. The next cartridge immediately drops down in its place," says Hertz.

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