



David Obrecht, Zearing, Iowa: To protect the electric motor on his bin auger from the weather, David cut a 55-gal. drum in half and mounted it over the top of the motor.

Robert Shoe, DeGraff, Ohio: "This happened a number of years ago. Saved me a lot of aggravation.

"The rear bearing on my New Holland side-slinger barrel-type manure spreader would go out repeatedly, lasting only 6 mos. to a year, even with new seals. I finally replaced it with a 2 by 8-in. block of oak with a hole bored through it and an oil hole at the top. I used the old bearing housing to reinforce it. I thought this fix would maybe last a few months but it held up for 6 years, spreading manure from 150 head of dairy cattle. When it finally wore out, I rotated it 180° and used it for another 3 years."

Tom Bruhn, Marshfield, Wis.: "I like your publication "More Great Shop Ideas", and noticed on page 45 that a reader had problems with the inside part of the tires on his gravity wagon wearing out faster than the rest of the tires.

"I think the problem could be due to 3 things: the center part of the axle was bent downward; the spindle wasn't square with the axle; or the toe was wrong with the tires.

"The camber, or tilt of the wheel, must be way out of line so the tires aren't running straight down the road. Replacing the tires won't solve that problem. Maybe the wagon was overloaded. I think the bushings in the kingpin may be worn, due to a lack of lubrication. If he corrects any of these problems he won't wear out his tires."



Homemade generator cart rides on 10-in. pneumatic tires, allowing the cart to roll easily over uneven ground.

Homemade Generator Cart

"I made this 2-wheeled cart out of scrap metal for my Honda generator," says Kerry Kligora, Mineral Point, Wis. "The only things I purchased were the tires, which cost \$14 at Harbor Freight.

"Most carts for this type of generator cost \$150 to \$200 online, and many require drilling into the generator's frame and limit access to the motor for maintenance. My design allows access to all panels and, to remove the generator, I just undo a ratchet strap. The design also allows me to set the cart directly on the ground, eliminating the need for posts that tend to sink into soft ground."

Abilene Machine (ph 800 255-0337; www.abilenemachine.com): Abilene Machine recently began offering remanufactured transmissions for Deere 6000, 7000 and 8000 series tractors. The transmissions come with a standard one-year warranty. A company spokesman says Deere rebuilds some of the same transmissions but not all of them, and that Abilene offers substantial cost savings. The company says the components used to rebuild the transmissions surpass industry standards.

Steven Bellaw, Piketon, Ohio: "When rebuilding a transmission I needed a special compressor but it was way out of my price range. So I looked at a photo and built my own.

"To avoid spending money on sandblasting sand, go to your local river and bring a bucket or two of river sand home. Dry the sand out and filter it through a screen. Works great. There's a little work involved, but the sand is free."

Daniel and Frances Huppert, River Falls, Wis.: Their Deere 318D skid loader has a small toolbox located under the seat in the cab. However, the toolbox is too small and hard to reach. So Dan decided to attach a toolbox to the upper part of both loader arms.



"It puts my tools outside the skid loader where they're easier to reach," says Dan.

He bought two 15-in. toolboxes, as well as a 1/4-in. thick rubber mat, 2 snap pins, and four 1/4 by 3/8-in. hard steel bolts. He welded 2 bolts to the upper part of each arm, using the toolbox to measure where they should go. He cut two 3 by 4-in. rubber mats for each arm and bolted them on. "The mat makes a good surface to set the toolboxes on," says Dan.

He measured and drilled 1/4-in. holes in the toolboxes to match the bolts, then set the toolboxes over the bolts and onto the mats.

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

Next, he cut two 6 by 15-in. mats and set one mat inside each toolbox. The mats keep the tools from sliding around. He also attached a snap pin to each toolbox latch to keep the toolboxes from accidentally opening up while operating the skid loader.

Merrill J. Smith, Deer Park, Wash.: "I had lots of smaller items and parts to put on shelves in my shop but not enough storage space. I hit on a simple solution that cost very little and works as well or better than anything I could have bought.

"I stacked old plastic milk baskets, which measure 12 in. sq., on their sides against one wall right up to the ceiling. I zip-tied them all together and screwed the whole bunch to the wall. Works great."

David Millsap (sappo59@gmail.com): "My trailing lawn vac cart had a tendency to turn over when on sidehills. To fix the



location so the hose will easily reach all areas of my shop."

Jerry Brandt, La Grange, Mo.: "I read an article in FARM SHOW about Shane Myrick of Pleasonton, Kan., who uses an old refrigerator to store all his welding rods (Vol. 36, No. 3). I keep 5 old refrigerators in my back shed and use one to store welding rods, one for paint, two for canned tomatoes, and one for canned asparagus, new potatoes and fruit jelly.

"I installed a night light inside each refrigerator, and run short extension cords from a power strip to all the refrigerators to provide a little extra heat. The power strip is hooked up to a thermostat so the night lights come on at 35 degrees. Last winter none of the contents froze inside any of the refrigerators, even in temperatures down to 14 degrees below zero."

BJE/Husky Corporation (ph 800 325-3558; info@husky.com; www.husky.com/bje/tank): Husky's battery-operated 55-gal. drum gauge is designed

to monitor the liquid level in standard 55-gal. drums. The plastic unit fits into the barrel's 3/4-in. vent opening. It can be used to measure oil, transmission fluid, anti-freeze and other non-explosive liquids.

The unit is in sleep mode until activated when you touch either side of the device. An LED illuminates for 20 seconds to display the



problem, I designed a hitch system that supports the motor and fastens to the vac with two 1/2-in. bolts and a 3/4-in. dia. hitch pin. The hitch pivots up and down and twists back and forth. All the metal came from an old hay rake, including the curved brace that connects with the hitch pin."

Don Dyas, Rosamond, Calif.: "If you ever lose the gas cap for a small metal gas tank, you can often use the cap from glue containers for pvc pipe. Just remove the glue dauber and drill a small hole in the middle of the cap for a vent so you won't collapse the tank. Put a baffle under the cap to prevent gas from spilling out of the vent."

Braden Lever, Clatskanie, Ore.: "I used 1/2-in. gate pins and hinges to mount a 50-ft. by 3/8-in. retractable air hose reel on a post in my shop. I can grab the hose and walk in any direction, and the reel will swivel 180 degrees. I mounted the reel in a central