Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



The self-adjusting head instantly grabs and releases pipes. You position the wrench around the material, then press the head forward or pull up on the jaw to release and re-engage.

Unlike conventional pipe wrenches that require turning a wheel to adjust the jaws, the self-adjusting wrench tightens against the pipe when you turn it one way and loosens when you turn it the other way.

The wrench works with pipe from 5/8 to 1 1/2 in. in dia., including black-iron, galvanized, pvc, and copper. According to the manufacturer, it can also be used like a ratcheting tool to quickly tighten nuts, bolts, and couplings.

Brad Miller, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio:

"I was constantly losing the chuck key on my drill press, but I found a simple way to keep it always close at hand.

"I took a metal key holder with retractable cable and fastened it with a hose clamp to the drill press post. Then I attached the chuck key to a wooden dowel and hooked it to the retractable cable. Problem solved."



Chris Born, Minneapolis, Minn.: "If you use spray cans such as WD-40 that come with a straw, put a couple of rubber bands around the can to hold the straw on when not in use. Also, put a small piece of tape on the straw itself. That way if the straw shoots off the tip of the nozzle, the tape will shorten the straw's flight and make the straw easier to find. You can use WD-40 with the straw to flush out the tips on paint spray cans, but be careful to keep the oil out of your eyes."

John Lubinski, Plainview, Minn.: "I use portable wooden blocks fitted with homemade handles to jack up everything



from tractor wheels to trailer tongues. The handles make it easy to take several blocks with me at a time.

"I make the handles by inserting a 3/16in. dia. steel cable inside a short length of garden hose. The cable ends are fastened to lag bolts and washers on both sides of the block. The hose provides a soft handle and keeps my hands from getting cut."

Jeff Guidry, Breaux Bridge, La.: "I had to weld a piece of cast iron on our IH 784 tractor using cast iron nickel welding rods. I preheated the part, welded it, then buried the part in masonry sand until cool. This kept the part from cracking." E-TIP, Inc., North Aurora, Ill. ph 630 966-8992; www.etipinc.com: E-TIP's new Universal Bulk

Tank Filter Preheater is designed to prevent diesel fuel from gelling and keep fuel flowing when the temperature drops below freezing. It wraps around the metal filter and plugs



into 120-volt power. The unit is held in place with 3 springs and nylon ties. Fuel can be continuously pumped, as the Preheater thermostat controls the temperature. Fits metal filters from 3 1/2 to 4 in. dia. and from 7 to 10 in. tall. Sells for \$225 plus S&H. Comes with a 3-year warranty.

Ronald Lankford, South Rockwood, Mich.: "I had to replace the roller height adjuster on my 84-in. Mott 3-pt. flail mower. I had steel pipe cut to length, made end caps, and used Cat III hitch pins welded to the caps for spindles. It cost less than 1/3 the cost Mott charges for a new roller and it's better than the old one because it has sealed bearings."

Jonathan Dean, Baskin, La.: "I have had terrible trouble with starters on Deere 4020's not holding up. However, I discovered that if you replace them with a gear reduction starter, or one from a larger Deere tractor, they'll start easily.

"To keep hydraulic lines from rubbing against frame rails on equipment and wearing holes in them, take a piece of 1 or 2-in. flexible conduit and a hose clamp and mount it to the equipment. This will form a sleeve that protects hoses."

Russell Spears, Magnolia, Texas: "The steering bearing on my Ford 3600 tractor broke inside the steering gearbox. It was originally oil-filled but the oil goes bad and then the bearing is not lubricated. I fixed the problem by fitting the gearbox with a grease zerk so I can grease it with a grease gun. The new bearing will last a lot longer.

"The fan belt on that 3600 tractor was always loose. I solved the problem by placing 3 small washers under the AC compressor to raise the compressor slightly, keeping the belt tight. Worked great."

David A Crooks, Ottawa, Kan.: "Having to deal with alcohol in gasoline has been a constant headache for me, particularly on small engines. After trying everything else, I became familiar with VP Racing Fuel's 110-octane gas (www.vpracingfuels.com; ph 210 635-7744). I now mix 25 percent 110 VP fuel to 75 percent 91 octane gas. Problem solved! All my small engines run great and don't jell up, even when stored all winter."



Lester L. Kinzer, Edon, Ohio: "I made a modification for my older model Deere 1560 grain drill that protects the seed deflector strap.

"The problem is that the press wheel drops down onto the strap when out of the ground, which ends up making a hook on the end of the strap. This causes the strap to rake seed out of the trench.

"I added a strap to stop the wheel from dropping down on the seed strap. It eliminated the problem."

Electronic Module Helps Control Throttle Response

Get faster response from gas and diesel engines with a Throttle Sensitivity Booster (TSB) from BD Diesel Performance. Step on the fuel pedal in most modern vehicles, and you're stepping on an electronic sensor, not a mechanical linkage.

A computer controls the throttle, and that can produce throttle-lag," explains Ron Clift, BD Diesel Performance. "Our Throttle Sensitivity Booster speeds up the performance curve and lets a driver get into traffic faster with more control."

Factory programming of the electronic control module (EMC) determines how fast the engine responds, not how fast and hard you step down. The TSB connects with the throttle position sensor, and it then boosts the signal to the EMC. This is what gives it a "snappier" response. The module has 3 modes: stock, low and high. Low increases the throttle response by 50 percent, while high increases it by 100 percent.

Installation is relatively simple with easy to follow instructions for replacing the factory throttle harness with a new harness.

An optional push button switch kit lets the driver change modes on the fly. It also adds 3 additional modes. "Medium" enhances throttle response by 75 percent, and "Ludicrous" increases it by 400 percent. "Valet" mode decreases throttle response by 50 percent. "It's designed for drivers who have souped up their horsepower, but want



Throttle Sensitivity Booster electronic module is designed to produce a faster response from gas and diesel engines.

to let others safely drive their vehicles," says Clift. "They can put it in Valet mode, and it essentially negates the horsepower increase. It is also recommended for weather conditions when a less responsive throttle is called for."

Clift says the TSB is available for a large number of domestic cars, vans, pickups and SUV's. "The application list keeps growing for both gas and diesel," he says.

The TSB is priced at \$278. The Push Button Switch Kit is priced at \$52.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, BD Diesel Performance, PO. Box 231, Sumas, Wash.98295 (ph 604 853-6096; shopatron@ bd-power.com; www.dieselperformance. com).



Overhead drawer for pickup toppers slides on ball bearing rollers and is fitted with adjustable storage dividers.

Overhead Sliding Drawer For Pickup Toppers

"Our new overhead sliding drawer uses the wasted space directly beneath your pickup topper to organize and secure tools and other equipment. It's really handy to use," says Mitch Johnson, Radco, Fargo, N. Dak.

The Leer Locker consists of a 36-in. wide lightweight aluminum drawer wrapped in marine grade carpet that mounts on a steel frame. The ceiling-mounted storage system slides on ball bearing rollers and is fitted with adjustable storage dividers. To access the contents the operator grabs a pair of handles on back and then pulls the drawer back and down. The unit has a dual rotary latching system and dual push button locks, one on each handle. Drawer capacity is 100 lbs.

The system extends 8 in. below the top of the topper and has about 6 in. of storage depth.

"Installation requires drilling 4 holes in the topper and then bolting it on. Rubber dampeners on the bolts keep water out," says Johnson.

The Leer Locker is available in 50 and 60in. lengths. Both sell for \$799.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Radco, 14336 Dellwood Drive., Baxter, Minn. 56425 (ph 888 637-9638; info@radco.com; www. radco.com).

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