

Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts

see what's on there, he notes.

Lon D. Stretesky, Big Springs, Neb.: "I use plain calf ear tags to mark hydraulic hoses. They're great because you can write on them and they won't fade."

David Hopkins, Little Rock, Ark.: "If you drill a small hole below the lip of your trash can it'll let air out so the can liner won't balloon up when full. Try it."

Arco Rosenow, Chillicothe, Ill.: "Over the winter the carburetor on my mower varnished up. It's one of those sealed units that is hard to take apart. I tried spraying carburetor cleaner through it but it didn't really work. I took the carburetor off, put in a jar with water, and dropped in a couple of denture cleaner tablets. The next morning I sprayed cleaner through the carburetor and mounted it on the mower, and it ran great. My neighbor laughed at this 'tightwad' cleaning idea, but later he tried the same idea on a plugged fuel carburetor and it worked for him, too."



Dennis and Roger Koelling, Bartelso, Ill.: "By mounting our Lincoln AC-DC electric welder on the deck of an old 22-in. push mower, we can easily move the welder anywhere inside our shop."

We stripped the engine and removed the blades from the deck, keeping the handle intact. The welder bolts to the deck, with a pair of 1 by 4 wooden boards providing an even surface for it to rest on.

"It's nothing fancy or complicated, but it lets us move the welder right to the job without spending money on longer leads. We use the mower's handle to hold a heavy duty extension cord which we can plug into a 220-volt outlet. We have two 220-volt outlets, one

on each side of our shop.

"We got the idea after my dad decided he needed something better than his 40-year-old AC welder, which was permanently mounted in a corner of our shop. It had long leads, but we had a big welding project to do and needed DC capabilities so we decided to buy the AC-DC welder. The new welder came with two tiny wheels, which were almost useless, and it also had much shorter leads. We could have bought longer leads for it. Instead, we decided to save money by mounting the welder on the deck so that we can move it around. If the new welder would've had longer leads or bigger wheels, we probably wouldn't have needed to mount it on the mower deck, but it has worked out fine for us."



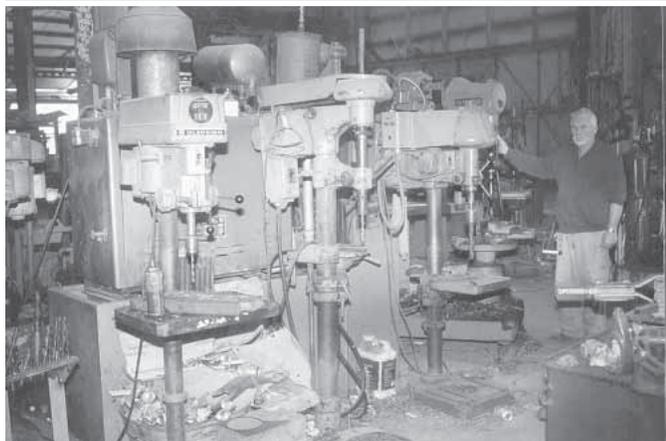
Dwight Shiels, Stoughton, Sask.: "I saved close to \$900 by making my own portable hydraulic power pack. The unit is great for running a bin sweep or raising a field implement without the need for a tractor."

"I used a hydraulic pump from a Massey Super 92 combine powered by a 5 hp Briggs and Stratton motor. It could be used to power a post pounder or log splitter. The whole thing is mounted on a frame for easy transport, and it weighs only about 75 pounds so it's very portable."

"The unit cost me \$125 for materials and I would have had to spend close to \$1,000 to buy a commercial unit."

Leon Bailey, Elkton, Virg.: "I broke the cable inside the shaft on my Weedeater trimmer. A new cable would have been expensive so I welded mine using a mig welder. I just welded a little bit at a time so it wouldn't get too hot, and then I dipped it in oil while it was still hot. Works fine now and I saved some money."

"To protect the hydraulic lines on my front-end loader, I bolted pieces of angle iron over them. Works good."



Clair & Warren Wilson, Winchester, Ill.: The Wilson brothers are innovative operators who farm and also do a bit of light manufacturing in their farm shop. They live near St. Louis, Mo., so they frequently find opportunities to make good buys of shop equipment from companies that are either going out of business or upgrading their equipment. That's how they came up the 6 drill presses

that stand side by side along one wall of their shop.

"Anytime we can pick up a drill press for \$50 or so, we buy it," says Clair. "It's easier for us to have a bunch of drills with different size bits than to have to continually change bits whenever we want to use a drill. Saves time to have the most common bits all ready to go."

Customers can order chains from his website, from a catalog, or over the phone.



Hard-To-Find Chains Found Here

Finding chain for chain-driven farm machinery is getting tougher and tougher as old companies go out of business and new machinery switches to belts or hydraulic drives.

That's why business is booming at Farmchains.com. Owner Ken Novak, self-styled "Krazy Ken, the Farmer's Friend," says customers can order chains from his website, from the catalog or over the phone.

"About a year and a half ago, I started selling direct," explains Novak. "All I sell are chains. I offer different quality levels of common chains and some chains that are hardly used anymore except by the Amish."

Novak carries gathering chains, precision welded chains, rod and pintle chains, T-Bar and T-Rod chains, agricultural roller chains, and more. He also carries rare chains like steel detachable.

"I have guys calling up looking for it for 40 to 50-year-old machines," he says. "It was the first real 'ag' chain. I deal direct with the only manufacturer of steel detachable chain left in the world."

Even Novak can be stumped when it comes to some kinds of chains. A close working relationship with Allied Lock Industries comes in handy then.

"Their engineers have helped my customers design around obsolete chain problems," explains Novak. "Sometimes it simply requires a sprocket change."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ken Novak, Farmchains.com, P.O. Box 77, Dixon, Ill. 61021 (ph 800 648-5429; fax 915 288-6790; chsupply@grics.net; www.farmchains.com).

3-Ton Coil Spring Compressor

"It'll service 99 percent of the shocks and struts on the market today, and get the job done a lot more safely," says Peter Amstutz, North Lancaster, Ontario, about his new 3-ton hydraulic coil spring compressor. It can be used to remove damaged coil springs from most cars and pickups as well as ATV's and other equipment.

Amstutz is a licensed mechanic who at one time was also a tool salesman. "While on the road I saw a lot of problems with the strut spring replacement tools that mechanics were using. The tools required the use of an air gun or impact wrench, which acted on a threaded bolt to squeeze the spring enough that it could be removed from the car. The operator had to bend over the spring, and a lot of guys got hurt when the spring released under compression," says Amstutz.

His tool can handle springs from 3 to 12 in. in diameter, including non-concentric models. It makes use of a hydraulic jack and allows the mechanic to work at eye level, thereby staying out of the spring's potential trajectory. A safety tie-down chain, combined with the double cross system, makes the compressor much safer to use, says Amstutz.

The tool has a double cross design, with a pair of self-locking horizontal arms. Each arm has its own vertical adjustment. The spring hooks on between the arms and is held secure by either hooks or angle irons. The jack is located about 1 ft. off the floor next to a 6-ft. high vertical steel pipe. The jack lifts a T-bar section that pushes against the upper arm, which is stationary, to compress the spring. Once the spring has been compressed, a new shock can be installed.

The horizontal arms can be adjusted to accept springs ranging up to 12 in. in dia. Adjustable screws on each arm allow different shapes and sizes of springs to be used.



Hydraulic coil spring compressor can be used to remove damaged coil springs from most cars and pickups, as well as ATV's and other equipment.

"With the right combination of hooks and angle irons, coil springs can be compressed with a minimal amount of force, which reduces the risk of weakening or breaking the spring. This feature also allows for the spring to be quickly repositioned," notes Amstutz. The tool sells for \$790.

Amstutz is looking for distributors. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Peter Amstutz, Rt. 1, North Lancaster, Ontario, Canada K0C 1Z0 (ph 613 347-1124; fax 613 347-2746; website: www.iss-sales-service.com/amstutz).