



Jasper Christensen, Morrison, Okla. (chrisrossok@gmail.com): "Cutting the pour spout off used plastic jugs makes it easy to store chains tangle-free. I leave the handle on and use different size jugs for different size chains. Metal pails and containers can be used to store heavier chains."

Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.: "A couple of years ago I got a good deal on a heavy steel shop table, but I wasn't sure where to



place it in my shop. Putting the table against a wall would limit its use for big projects, and putting it in the middle of the shop would take up too much space. Instead I welded angle irons between the legs on both sides of the table, about 6 in. above a shelf, and then bolted boat trailer jacks onto them.

"To move the table I just crank the jack handles a few times to raise the table off the floor. Once the table is in place, I lower the table legs back onto the floor to keep flat spots from forming on the jack wheels."

James Jicha, Streetsboro, Ohio: "I put split hoses over fuel and brake lines to reduce wear from vibration and metal-against-metal wear.

"One time-saver in my shop is using overhead retractable airline and electrical outlets. Convenience saves time."

A. Schollenberger, Egg Harbor City, N.J.: "When replacing bearings on any equipment it often is hard to press them into place. I place the new bearing into my freezer for 1 or 2 hrs. before installing. It shrinks enough to allow for easy installation."

Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N. Dak.: "I recently refurbished the 3 Gas Boy pumps I use on my fuel tanks. My pumps are old but still going strong after pumping close to 100,000 gal. of diesel fuel and gasoline on my farm. All parts are available online



for these pumps, including the brass vanes and the little number wheels that register the gallons dispensed. The impellers and vanes are easy to get at with only 2 bolts holding the cover. I replaced the clear plastic over the dial with a piece I cut out of a clear liter bottle of soda.

"Recently, I found an old Gas Boy pump at the junk yard. It was locked up. I took off the cover on the impeller and found that one of the brass vanes on the impeller had broken off and got wedged in the housing. I turned the impeller backward with a screwdriver and the broken piece fell out. After that, the pump worked perfectly."

Bill McCall, Seaside, Ore.: "I have numbered all my parts drawers and alphabetized my shelves in order. I make up a 3 by 5 index card for each part and where it's stored. All the cards are in a box so no more searching the shop for parts. I just look at the cards and go right to the drawer or shelf."

Bob Muller, Delanson, N.Y.: "A lot of people don't know about Corn Head Grease, otherwise called thixotropic grease.

That means it acts like grease at rest so it won't leak out but becomes fluid when agitated. It won't repair a leaky seal but it can't be beat as a backup solution until you make a repair. Deere has a great video online (just search 'Deere' and 'corn head grease' on YouTube). They use it in many of their heavy ag equipment gearboxes and it's often found in heavy-duty rotary mower gearboxes and garden tractors. I know people who use it in winch gearboxes, steering gearboxes, differentials and more. It works best in warm weather because in cold weather it takes more motion to fluidize it.

"On older vehicles, I often replace the plug in the bottom of fuel tanks with a 2 to 3-in. nipple and petcock. This serves as a 'dirt leg', allows me to easily drain off old gas, check for water in the gas, and provides an emergency supply of gas that I can easily access with a short hose. I put a cap over the petcock just to be safe."



Ryan Van Der Bill, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.: "One idea is that when you need to drill a straight hole and you don't trust your eye with a hand drill, take a small block of oak or maple and drill a hole through it with a drill press. Then use that block as a guide when using a hand drill."



Fisher cut into the deck on his bush hog mower and installed an 8 by 12-in. hinged access door. "I remove a bolt and flip the door up, then use a grinder to sharpen the blades," he says.



"Access Door" Makes Mower Blade-Sharpening Easy

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga., came up with an easy way to sharpen the blades on his 3-pt. mounted bush hog mower equipped with a 5-ft. deck.

"I just remove a bolt and flip up an 8 by 12-in. hinged access door that I cut into the deck. Then I use a 4-in., 110-volt angle grinder to sharpen the blades.

"I've used this idea for about 20 years and it works great. It only takes about 5 min. to sharpen each blade," says Fisher. "It's a lot easier and safer than using a tractor's 3-pt. hitch to raise the mower and then crawl underneath, or raise the mower with a loader tractor. I think all rotary mowers like mine

should have access doors built into the deck."

Fisher cut an 8-in. wide opening into the deck and welded on a pair of metal hinges. He then cut out the rest of the door and welded matching angle iron brackets onto the door and deck that bolt together.

"The bracket that's welded onto the door extends about 1/2 in. beyond the opening. That way if the lock bolt is ever missing, the door won't accidentally fall into the blades," says Fisher.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glenn Fisher, 751 Boling Road, Homer, Ga. 30547 (ph 423 364-0158).

Protecting Gator Axle Boots

After having to replace the front axle rubber boots a second time on his Gator 825i due to tearing by sticks and other debris, Bob Myracle, Baxter, Tenn., came up with a simple way to stop the damage.

He used pieces of vinyl floor molding, tying them in place over the boots with heavy-duty zip ties. The vinyl flexes so it doesn't interfere with steering and hopefully prevents further punctures to the boots, which allows dirt and water into the flex joints. The factory shields just don't provide enough protection.

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Myracle zip-tied pieces of vinyl floor molding over the rubber front axle boots on his Gator to prevent punctures.

Simple Fix For A Broken Cable End

"When the blunted end of a cable came loose on one of our tractors so the control handle didn't work, I couldn't find a replacement part, so I decided to fix it myself," says handyman Reid Allaway of Tourne-Sol Co-operative Farm in Quebec.

Allaway located a hex cap screw in his parts bin that was almost the same size as the stranded wire cable. He cut the end of the cable straight across, then inserted it into the 1/4-in. recess of the cap head. "I spent a few minutes heating the end and brazing it in place and it was as good as new. In fact, I think the new cable end knob is stronger than the original lug," Allaway says.

After allowing the brazed knob to cool, Allaway cut off the threaded section of the screw and discarded it because he didn't need it.

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