



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.Dak.: “My old Farmall has a cracked exhaust manifold. When it was out in the rain, water would get into the engine. So I came up with a quick fix until I have time to fix it permanently. I cut a hole in a heavy piece of sheet metal and slipped it over the exhaust pipe. The sheet metal fits tightly so it keeps water out. It’s hidden under the hood so it doesn’t change the look of the tractor.”

Wess Cornelius, Winlock, Wash.: “Silicone spray that you would normally use to waterproof leather shoes works great on shovels to keep them clean and sharp. A spray can costs about \$3 at a shoe store.

“When fixing a broken window, you can avoid making a mess inside the house or vehicle by putting duct tape over what remains of the window before removing it. Keeps shards of glass from going everywhere.”

Harold Billings, Kenosha, Wis.: “Our 50-year-old bathroom fan was squeaking badly. The bushings are worn out but replacing the fan would be difficult as it is an oddball one with unique mounting brackets. However, it’s easy to take it out for maintenance. I tried various oils over the years but they only last 6 mos. or so. Then I got the brainstorm to try automotive wheel bearing grease. I think it has some sort of fiber material in it that helps it stay in place. There’s enough side-to-side movement around the rotor shaft that I could work the grease into the bushings. The fan has remained as quiet as a new one for the past 3 years.”



Kevin McLain, Albany, Ore.: “I rigged up a little tool to put bleeder valve caps back

on. There’s often no room to reach the valves so I attach 1/8 or 1/4-in. fittings to a hand-held vacuum pump which holds the caps until they’re in place. Then you release the vacuum. This is also useful for putting caps on grease zerks where dirt is a problem.”



Dale Rogers, Mayfair, Sask.: “Like many people, we had trouble with dirt, dust, and snow from roads building up inside the back wheels of our 2013 Dodge Minivan. It would often put the wheels out of balance.

“So I made scrapers that mount to the bottom bolt of the brake calipers. They don’t do a perfect job but I would estimate that they do a 95 percent job of cleaning out road grit from inside wheels. It was relatively easy to put them together and a quick job to attach them to the wheels.”



Vise Grip Locking Pliers: Have you seen the many types of Vise Grip locking pliers that are available? All of these can be found on amazon.com or other places where tools are sold.

Richard, Batesburg, S.C.: “I use Rubbermaid stock tanks to water livestock and install stock tank heaters in the tanks each winter. Sometimes the gasket washer for the drain plug assembly gets damaged. I’ve been trying to find replacement gasket

Wheel Rim Tractor Stands

“I made these garden tractor stands by cutting a wheel rim from a 1/2-ton pickup in half, then welding a pair of wide channel iron brackets onto each half rim. The plates are the same width as the rim and spaced about 1 1/2 ft. apart to hold the wheels in place,” says Michael Heron, Rivercourse, Alberta.

He uses a floor jack or chain hoist to raise the tractor high enough to clear the stands, then lowers the tires down between the brackets and onto the rims.

“It makes working under a garden tractor much safer and doesn’t take up much room,” says Heron. “I had been using conventional axle stands, but a garden tractor’s frame rails are so close together that it’s hard to find a safe place for them. Also, with 2 axle stands on each side of the tractor there’s very little room to work. My wheel stands don’t take up much space and the extra room is especially handy for servicing deck mower blades.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Garden tractor is raised high enough to clear wheel rim stands, then lowered down between brackets and onto rims.



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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



washers but Rubbermaid doesn’t sell just the washer gasket – you have to buy the complete assembly for \$18. So I found a washer gasket that works perfectly. You can get it at Tractor Supply Co. There are 2 gaskets in a bag for \$4.95. Part #200G BF2 for the 2-in. cam lock fitting.”

Jake Kappelman, Bloomfield, Iowa: “I had a warped fuel bowl mount that leaked fuel, even after I replaced the gasket. Instead of buying a new mount, I took a socket the same dia. as the fuel bowl, wrapped it with sandpaper, and sanded the mount flat. It stopped the leaking and I saved money by not having to buy a new part.”

Joe Eilert, Jewell, Kan.: “We have had problems with vaporlock in our 427 Chevy trucks. I’ve found the best solution is to avoid gas with ethanol, which boils at a lower temp.

“Also, Sea Foam additive in all small gas engines and all old gas tractors is like a mechanic in a bottle.”

Marvin W. Anderson, Glyndon, Minn.: “If you use ethanol in small engines, plan on replacing the carb inlet needle and seat regularly. To minimize problems, I use carb cleaner instead of starting fluid to start small engines having trouble. The bonus is that it cleans out the carburetor, too.”

Fred Wieck, Canyon, Texas: “When you need just a drop or two of oil to lube something, just pull the dipstick from whatever engine is close by and use what drips off the end. I’ve used Chapstick to do little lube jobs as well.”

Norman Bennett, Newport, Vt.: “One of the remotes on my tractor stopped working and the dealer wanted \$2,500 to install new ones. I solved the problem with a Summit Manufacturing outlet multiplier that I bought on Amazon for about \$450. Everything you need is included, including 4 quick couplers. Plug the well-machined aluminum billet block into your existing remote and mount the switch in a handy location on your tractor.



Hook up power and run the two leads to waterproof connectors on the solenoids, and you’re done. Works like I expected, I saved money, and now I can run extra cylinders.”

Fred Yutzy, Vermontville, Mich.: “To keep shovels and other tools clean and rust-free, I fill a 5-gal. bucket with sand and then saturate the sand with diesel fuel and motor oil. After I use a shovel, hoe or other such tool, I clean them and then run them through the sand. It applies oil evenly to keep them from rusting.”

Butch Beck, Hope, Arkansas: “The use of a 2-post car lift is not only great for working on cars and light trucks, but the arms can be used to hold equipment at a convenient working height. Very handy.”

Mike Grubb, Georgetown, Ind.: “I like to tinker with small engines and am always amazed that so many string trimmers, chainsaws, and lawn mowers are thrown out simply because of clogged carburetors. I don’t even bother fixing carbs anymore because you can buy entire new ones online for \$7 to \$15 new. You’ll spend only about \$20 or so for the carb, 6 in. of fuel line, filter, and primer bulb. Makes a machine destined for the junkyard run like new.”

Ron Nahrwold, New Haven, Ind.: “While I was changing oil in my New Holland L220 skid loader, the oil fill cap fell underneath the engine and I spent hours trying to retrieve it. To make sure I don’t lose the cap again, I attached a steel brake cable off an old bicycle. I used electrical wiring terminals to attach one end of the cable to the cap, and the other end to the skid loader’s frame.”

Lyle Smith, Defiance, Ohio: “I use bags of dry ice to help remove stubborn bearings.