

Leete Etheridge, Columbus, Texas: "I had a big cut on the face of a tractor tire, located between the treads. Local tire repair places said there was nothing to be done. So, I figured I had nothing to lose. I squirted carb cleaner into the gouge to clean it out and then put a glob of FiberFix Extreme Gel by J-B Weld into it. Then I wrapped a come-along around the tire, placing a 2 by 6-in. brass pin across the gouge to compress the edges of the cut together as I tightened it up. I had to keep pounding on the pin because it rolled while I tightened. I let that sit for 24 hrs. Since I made the repair, I've used the tractor to haul 30 cords of wood and to do other work. I looked at the cut the other day and you can hardly see where it was. Problem solved."



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Tom Dufrense, Grant, Minn.: "I got tired of having coiled air hose getting tangled up around my portable shop air

compressor. So I bolted a heavy-duty air hose reel on top of the compressor's pull handle. It was relatively easy to attach with a bracket attached to the bottom of the hose reel. Keeps my shop neat and I've got a lot more hose available."

Johnny Lawrence, Abbeville, S.C.: "The old tubeless tire on my mower deck kept going flat overnight, making me think there was a nail in it. I removed the wheel to inflate it and put soapy water on it to find the leak. To my surprise, I discovered many small leaks on the sidewalls due to dry rot. Instead of replacing it, I went on YouTube to look for a fix. A video there showed a guy putting used motor oil into a tire with an oil squirt gun after deflating and removing the valve core. He rotated the tire to evenly spread the oil inside the tire. I tried the same thing on my tire and after I reinflated it, the leaks stopped. It's been holding air for over a month with no leaks."

"Here's another idea: If you ever have to make gaskets out of paper, cork, or thin rubber, a spent pistol cartridge shell can be used to punch the bolt holes if no hole punch is available. Place the gasket material over a wood board and select the caliber that matches the hole size needed. Pound on it with a hammer to punch the hole."



Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: "Hitch pins are sometimes hard to pull so I made a hitch pin puller using an old screwdriver handle. I removed the screwdriver shank and drilled a hole all the way through the handle. Then I drove a heavy #9 wire into the handle and bent a hook into one end. I flattened the other end so it can't pull out of the handle. I keep one of these in my tractor toolbox and one in my shop. Very handy."

"Wrap-On" Hydraulic Hose Markers

Here's a handy, low-cost way to make sure there are no mistakes when hooking up multiple hydraulic hose connections.

Molded from high density polyethylene, Outback Wrap hydraulic hose markers fit hoses from 1/4 to 1 1/2 in. in dia. and can be used on any hydraulic hose or pipe. The markers come in different colors and are coil-shaped to wrap around the hose and grip the surface. You just open out the first coil and loop it over the hose, then "roll" the remaining coils onto the hose.

The markers use the official ISO color system for agricultural hydraulics and are numbered 1 to 6 to indicate which port to plug into. "Between the colors, numbers and letters, the hose markers are universal to all tractor makes and models," says the company. The number 1 stands for green; 2 for blue; 3 for brown; 4 for black; 5 for purple, and 6 for grey. In addition, the letters A & B are lasered into each wrap to indicate left or right, and there's an "above" and "below" indicator when hooking up. A & B wraps are cut to different lengths, providing an additional visual aid when looking at hoses.

According to the company, the wraps always remain in place, yet are easy to take on or off. Unlike zip ties, they won't break or fall off and they're smooth, to keep you from cutting your hands and fingers. And unlike zip ties, they're clearly labeled using the official ISO color system for agricultural hydraulics.



Outback Wrap hydraulic hose markers come in different colors, and are coil-shaped to wrap around the hose and grip the surface.

Four pairs of Outback Wrap hydraulic hose markers sell for \$19.99 plus S&H; 2 pairs for \$9.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Outback Wrap, P.O. Box 111, 600 Main St., Unit no. 7, Faulkton, S. Dak. 57438 (ph 605 695-7123; info@usakangaroo.com; www.outbackwrap.com).

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

Donald Jaster, Bruce, Wis.: "A reader in the last issue said he had problems mounting thin cut-off wheels on his angle grinder. I have had 2 angle grinders and both had the same problem. The boss on the driveshaft and the nut are meant to center the wheel but the gap between them is too big for thin cutting wheels. The fix is to just turn over the nut so the boss is on the outside. That idea might not work on all grinders if the nut is flush on both sides. That might have been the case with the reader's Makita."



Bill Derrick, Crossville, Tenn.: "I recently noticed that the bottom of my loader bucket was starting to rust. I remembered I had an old tractor tire lying in the grass so I set the bucket on it. Problem solved. Why did I have an old tire lying around? Because my Dad was a hoarder. He spent his life keeping stuff and I'll spend the rest of mine cleaning it all up. He's probably up in heaven right now saying, 'See, you needed that!'"



John Dodge, North Port, Fla.: "I bought a used wood jointer and had to rewire it from a 3-phase motor to a single phase, which required a different switch. I didn't want

the machine starting up by me bumping it with my knee so I decided to make my own safety switch.

"A friend happened to be tossing out some drawer handles. I mounted 2 of them on either side of a metal switch plate so I could only turn on the switch with my finger. It worked. The handles just have to extend out further than the toggle switch. It's handy because I can turn the switch off from either side or the middle."



Gus Pachta, Cuba, Kan.: "I cast my own aluminum row cleaning planter parts by setting up my own mini foundry using methods I learned by following YouTube videos. I've also cast gearboxes using the same methods. The parts are as good as buying new, although you have to smooth out some of the rough edges. The original parts wear out fast, though, so I saved a lot of money and learned a new skill. The videos I followed explain everything in detail, including how to set up the propane heat source and use a barrel lined with a heat resistant blanket and filled with sand. I make the molds out of foam, which melts away when you pour in the liquid metal. Here are links to the videos which explain the process:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO8NwseRkXA
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAo5o1Y0h9o
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH-PaNugz9w



Various sizes of pins are used for different radiuses of bends. It's particularly handy to

Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio:

"I use a heavy steel plate with pins in it to bend wire into special shapes. I drill the pinholes with a drill press to keep them perpendicular to the plate."