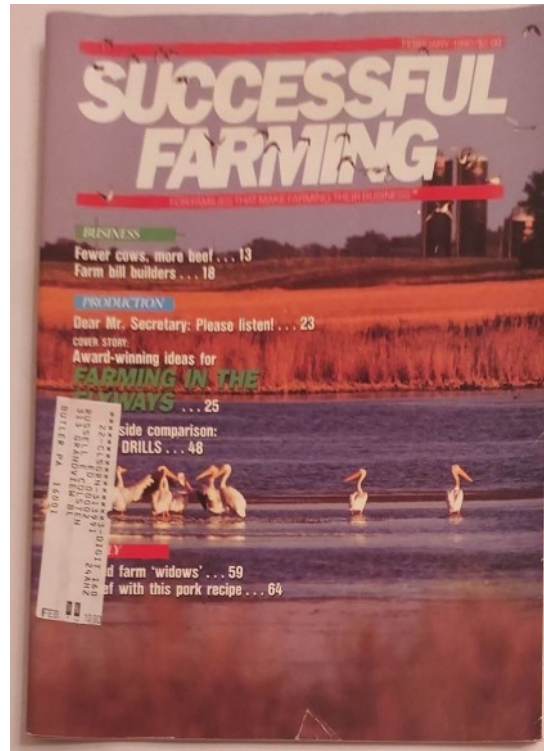


Farm Hints

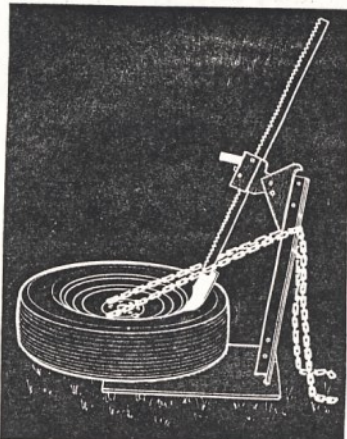
from
Successful Farming Magazine
from the early 1980's



Compiled by
Nathan Kramer
for a high school project in book binding.

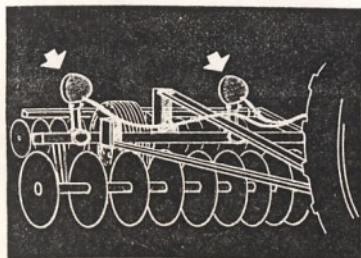
When laying new water lines or underground wiring, we bury old disk blades 10 in. below the surface, directly over joints and T's. When troubleshooting later, joints are easy to find with a metal detector.—D. L., Iowa.

I've found hydrogen peroxide works to loosen rusty bolts when I'm out of penetrating oil.—W. B., Wisconsin.



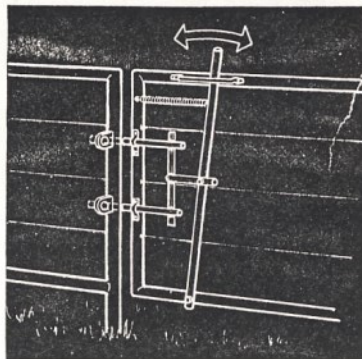
We made this tire breakdown tool by welding two pieces of angle iron to a flat metal base and bolting on a bumper jack. A blunt, rounded head on the jack prevents injury to the wheel. Chains are adjustable through notches cut in angle irons.—D. G., Colorado.

These headlamps illuminate equipment at night. Spring clips make it easy to move them to different implements.—W. K., Indiana.



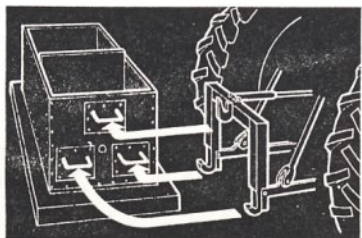
A block of salt in the drain of our milkhouse slowly dissolves and prevents the drain from freezing in cold weather.—J. C., Wisconsin

We run a can of antifreeze through our high pressure washer after each use to keep the pump from freezing up and breaking.—D. H., Michigan



This spring-loaded latch makes it easy to open and close our swinging gate. The handle and latch bars must both pivot for smooth operation.—A. K., Nebraska

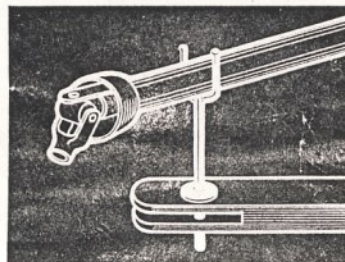
Idea of the month



We made our hog feeders portable by equipping them with stirrups that enable us to use the three-point hitch on our tractor. The three heavy iron bars are welded to large pieces of flat iron which are bolted to the side of the feeder. This is especially handy when we're scraping lots or moving feeders from pen to pen.—L. B., Iowa

A hacksaw blade won't bind up when cutting light metal and thin-walled pipe if you coat both sides with wet soap.—R. L., Nebraska

We can unhook a hay trailer or a forage wagon from the tractor seat by running a rope from the tractor to a trip hitch on the tongue of the baler or chopper.—G. K., Maine.

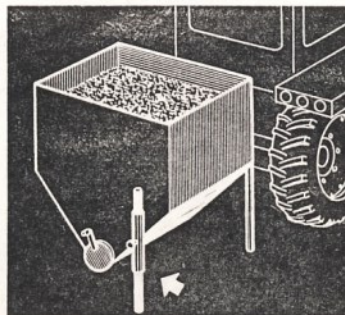


This stand drops in the hitch pin hole to keep the PTO shaft off the ground when an implement is unhooked. Clip it on the implement when not in use.—L. H., South Dakota.

We made a glove rack by fastening spring loaded clothespins to our closet wall. Gloves will dry and can be easily seen, but are neatly out of the way.—J. K., New York.

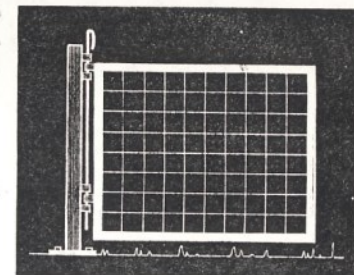
Idea of the month

To carry feed to hogs that are in pens far from the feed bin, we built this three-point tractor-transported feed hopper. We used the hopper off an old combine, rigged up the mounting brackets for the three-point hitch and put an adjustable leg in the rear. Now we don't have to fight our way through the hogs or drag buckets along in the mud and snow.—P. N., Missouri.



To keep my rubber boots from rotting while stored in the basement, I insert 46-oz. juice cans. This holds the boot upright, preventing the cracks which develop when the tops are allowed to fold.—M. W., Illinois.

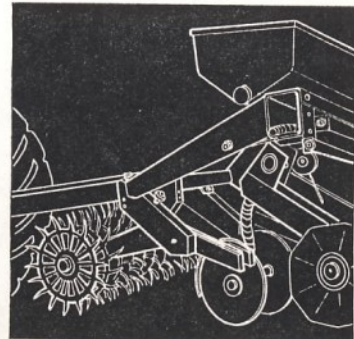
When shortening a bolt with a hacksaw, thread a nut onto the bolt first. After cutting the bolt, removing the nut will smooth the cut bolt threads and make it easy to rethread the nut.—R. L., Nebraska.



We made this gate with offset hinges so we could vary the ground clearance by turning it upside down. The gate, made of angle iron and $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. rod, uses a removable rod as a hinge pin.—D. A., Iowa.

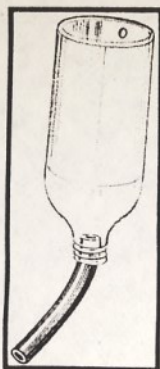
Idea of the month

This rotary hoe I mounted in front of my planter does a good job of digging up small weeds and loosening the soil. Each section pivots on two swing-arms and is held in the ground by a heavy, adjustable spring.—R. J., Pennsylvania.



Cheap funnel

For an inexpensive funnel which will still reach into awkward places, cut the bottom off a 2-liter plastic pop bottle. A piece of standard garden hose will fit tightly in the neck.—D. K., Iowa.



Winterized rain gauge

I keep an inch of anti-freeze in my rain gauge to keep it thawed in the winter and simply subtract an inch from each reading.—R. J., Oklahoma.

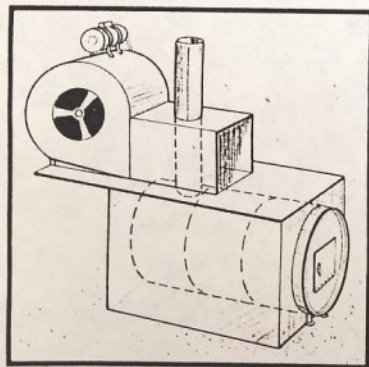
Wash gas smell off hands

I've found that baking soda works to wash the smell of gas or diesel fuel off my hands.—A. B., Minnesota.

Idea of the month

Cheap shop heat

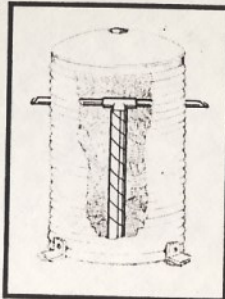
These improvements on the standard barrel heater help distribute heat efficiently. Barrel is mounted inside a steel jacket. Heat rises from jacket into output-tunnel of an old furnace fan.—D. M., Ohio.



To speed cleaning in our dairy barn, I hang polyethylene sheets along the walls. Walls stay clean and we change the polyethylene each year.—G. D., Indiana.

Weatherproof hog waterer

Here's a waterer we built from a 24-in. steel culvert, a disk blade, plastic pipe and some nipple waterers. Wrap the water pipe with electrical heat tape and fill with insulation to prevent freezing.—D. B., Illinois.

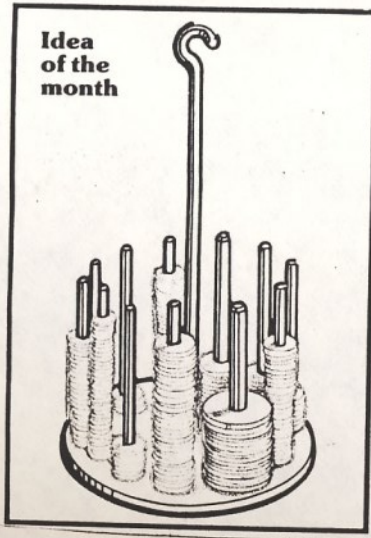


Extra traction for pickups

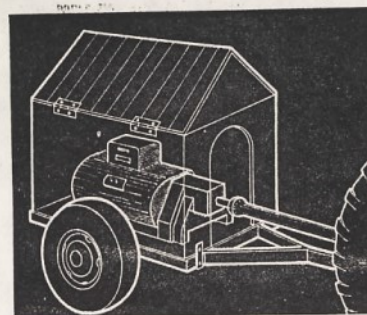
We made a convenient weight for our pickup truck bed by filling an old tire with concrete. The tire doesn't slide much and won't scratch the truck bed if it does. A metal hook set in the concrete lets you lift it with an end loader.—J. G., Illinois.

Compact washer organizer

This handy organizer is made by welding various diameter 6-in. studs to a base plate.—N. C., Pennsylvania.



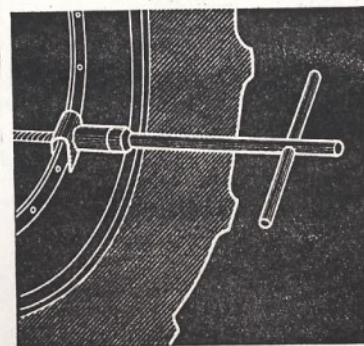
These large pieces of 2-in. Styrofoam float in our livestock tank and insulate the water (right). This helps hold the heat from our tank heater in the water to prevent freezing and still leaves plenty of open water for cattle to drink.—D. M., Nebraska



A trailer built under our standby generator makes it portable and a "dog house" protects it from the weather. There is also room on the trailer for our welder.—G. A., New York.

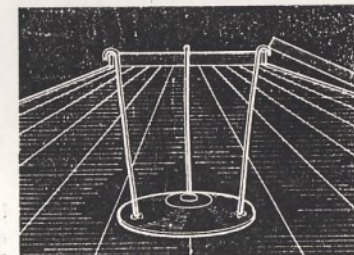
We built brackets under our tractor to carry an extra hydraulic cylinder to the field. This is handy for use as an emergency jack to replace tires or repair equipment.—R. H., Wisconsin.

This homemade wrench makes it easy to remove our dual wheels. A 3/4-in. drive socket is welded to the end of a pipe so the long bolt can protrude through the socket drive and into the pipe. Double bar handle allows free spin.—T. G., South Dakota.



Two large pipes are cemented on the sides of our shop door just inside the door frame to protect it from wide implements. A hump of concrete at the bottom wedges tractor tires safely through the opening.—F. W., South Dakota

I mounted a spotlight on an old TV antenna rotor at one end of my shop roof. Using a control box just inside the shop door, I can aim the light toward machinery I'm working on in front of the shop.—J. K., Michigan.



We built our own grain spreader with an old disk blade. Weld three pieces of rod to the disk and bend a hook on one end of each to hang it from the lip of the bin. We hang ours about three feet below the top of the bin.—D. S., Minnesota.

We carry a few short pieces of garden hose in our toolbox to make handles for metal files. Just slip one over each end and save bumping your hands.—F. P., Wisconsin.

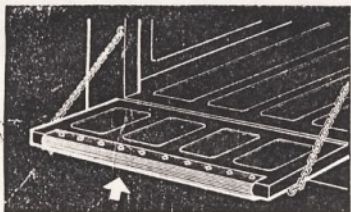
To keep from slipping when working on the roof of a building, we cut sections from an old inner tube and pull them up over our legs to serve as kneepads. The rubber grips the roof and keeps us from sliding off.—S. V., Oregon.

We use a plumb bob to drill a straight hole on a vertical surface such as a wall. Loop a string around the drill bit and tie a weight to the string. If the drill is tilted up or down, the weight moves toward or away from the wall.—B. C., Illinois.

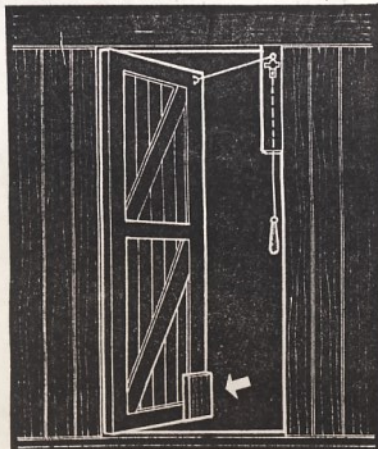
We mounted a piece of angle iron over the lip of our workbench. This protects the bench top and provides a hard surface when needed. Countersink the holes so screws are not in the way.—R. L., Nebraska.

We protect the threaded end of our hose by cutting a short piece from an old hose and slipping it over the end of the other hose. This prevents the threads from being nicked and bent and guarantees the hose can be screwed in wherever needed.—*F.S., Ohio.*

The plastic cases toothbrushes come in make a handy place to keep small drill bits.—*F. G., Wisconsin.*



We mounted a strip of aluminum stairstep molding to the edge of our pickup tailgate. The molding protects the tailgate from bumps and scratches and also prevents someone from slipping off the tailgate when it is down.—*R. S., California.*

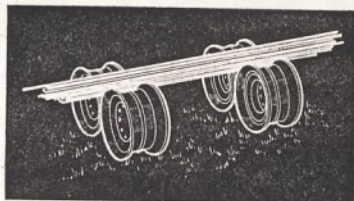


We use this weighted chain to close our farrowing house door behind hogs as they go in and out. The bottom of the door is reinforced where the hogs push it open.—*G. S., Iowa.*

We made an emergency shutoff for our PTO-powered auger by tying one end of a rope to the tractor PTO lever and the other end to the auger near the hopper. A tug on the rope shuts off the PTO.—*D. W., Illinois.*

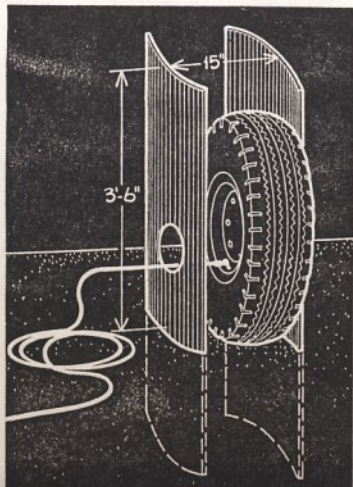
To easily remove stuck-on pieces of old gaskets, coat the gasket with paint remover, wait a few minutes and scrape off easily.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*

To cut twine easily, mount a mower sickle section in a short piece of board to form a hatchet-shaped cutting tool. Cut a slot in the end of the board, drill two holes and bolt the sickle section in place.—*R. K., South Dakota.*



This sturdy storage rack keeps oil barrels, iron stock, steel posts, etc. off the ground. Simply weld two pairs of discarded wheel rims together.—*C. O., Illinois.*

This safety shield, made by burying used grader blades in concrete, protects us from the danger of large split-rim truck wheels blowing apart during inflation.—*D. H., Wisconsin.*



We carry a package of the large plastic garbage sacks in our tractor cab to pull over seed and fertilizer boxes in case we're caught out in the rain during planting.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*

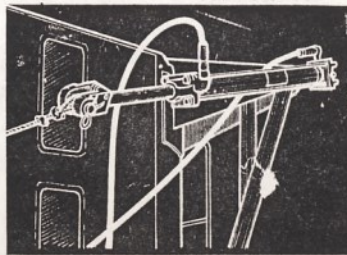


We made a handy holder for veterinary supplies by welding strap irons to an old nipple bucket. The bucket can be hung on the fence near where you're working livestock.—*M. A., Kansas.*

We cut our old inner tubes into narrow cross-sectional pieces. These circular pieces form heavy-duty rubber bands.—*F. G., Wisconsin.*

Idea of the month

We replaced the crank that lifts the unloading auger on our mixer wagon with a long-stroke hydraulic cylinder. The two-way cylinder lets us control the auger from inside the tractor cab. The only alteration we made was some additional bracing to the bracket at the top of the mixer.—*C. M., Missouri.*



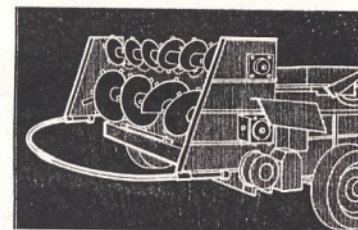
A magnet is a standard tool in all our equipment. When we work on machinery in the field we place washers, pins, nuts and other small pieces on the magnet to keep them from getting lost.—*P. H., Indiana.*

To help me back my grain truck up to the unloading auger, I stake two pieces of twine in the ground to serve as guides. One string sits parallel to the truck while the other is set so the truck is in position when the back wheels touch it.—*D. D., Minnesota.*

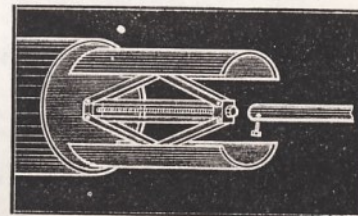
I kept sparrows from roosting in my farm buildings by smearing a coat of grease on their nesting places. Cost was minimal and the sparrows have never returned.—*J. K., Iowa.*

We hang a reference card with abbreviated planting information on all our fields in the combine each fall. We can never keep track of all those little corn books.—*G. W., Michigan.*

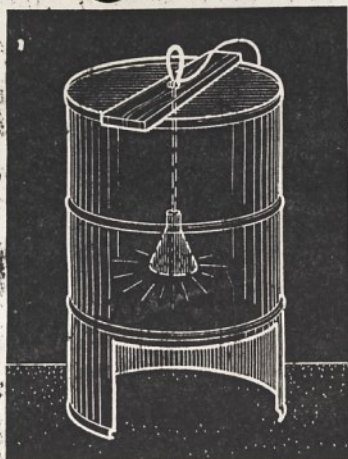
To cut sheet metal easier, lubricate tin snips by rubbing the stub of a wax candle along the layout line. The wax path makes cutting easier, especially around curves.—*T. L., California.*



I keep cattle away from the beaters of my spreader by bolting a curved rod to the back. I use the spreader to scatter corn cob or bean straw bedding in the feedlot.—*D. L., Illinois.*



To remove dents from auger tubes, we welded two rounded iron sections to a scissor jack. Drill holes through the jack's bolt head and at the end of an 8-ft. pipe. Run a small bolt through both holes to attach the pipe handle to the jack.—*M. K., Indiana.*

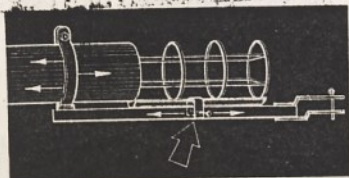


To keep baby pigs warm in winter, we cut a 12-in.-high opening in a used 55-gal. barrel and hung a heat lamp about halfway down the barrel. File off any sharp edges after cutting opening.—*J. W., Nebraska.*

When replacing inner-tubes, we use an old booster cable clamp to hold the valve stem from slipping out of the tire rim.—*J. K., Ohio.*

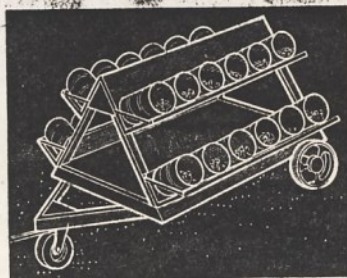
To keep feet warm in the winter, we cut boot inserts out of scraps of foam-backed kitchen carpet. This helps to both cushion and insulate our feet.—*S. W., Michigan.*

To keep water hydrants from freezing, I squirt antifreeze on top of the handle pivot point.—*E. B., Missouri.*



This auger tongue slides out of the way when not in use. Tongue is 21-in.-long piece of heavy square tubing. Strap is 1½-in.-wide, ¼-in. steel. A safety latch to help hold tongue in place during towing was made by welding a ¼-in.-thick steel strap to bottom of safety cage and drilling holes for a PTO safety pin.—*R. B., Indiana.*

For neat-looking concrete footings, I use the top ring cut from a 55-gal. barrel as a form. After digging a hole, I insert the barrel (already split for easy removal) so a few inches stick up above the ground level.—*C. F., North Dakota.*



Portable shop cart stores nuts and bolts in used coffee cans. Space under A-frame holds larger tools.—*E. C., Illinois.*

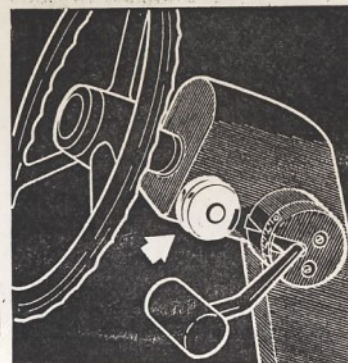
To clean creep feeders in farrowing pens without so much bending and reaching, I use a long-handled ice scraper.—*B. D., Minnesota.*

We mounted our stand-by generator on an old tractor. When power goes out, we pull tractor into shop, hooking exhaust to flexible pipe which vents outside. Running tractor also helps keep shop warm.—*H. S., Kansas.*

My silage chopper doesn't sink into mud so badly since I mounted a dual wheel on the header side of 3-row pull-type chopper. I made a ring spacer that fits just inside the rim, then bolted new rim to original with threaded rod.—*R. M., Kansas.*

I store small bolts and screws in see-through containers made by bolting the lids of glass jars to a piece of ½-in. plywood. Jars hang down from lids to hold bolts.—*L. B., Iowa.*

To make small holes in paper gasket material without ripping it, I heat a proper-sized welding rod and burn through.—*C. H., Minnesota.*

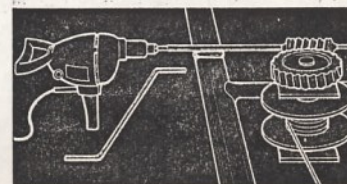


To read hydrostatic control numbers at night, we use a red clearance light mounted on the combine steering column. To prevent distracting glare, the light is painted black inside and out except where it shines on the control lever numbers.—*D. E., Illinois.*

Grab hooks welded to each side of our loader bucket make it easier and safer to use log chains for lifting. Grab hooks hold chain securely for more even lifting, preventing twisted loader frames and damaged hydraulics.—*B. C., Illinois.*

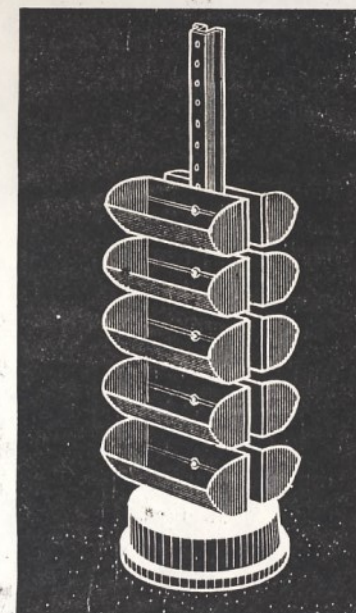
Grain slides easily out of gravity bed wagons after we coat corners and chute with silicone-based lubricant.—*T. T., Wisconsin.*

We prevent operator from accidentally hitting our tractor's ether assist button by bending a 1"x4" piece of thin metal into a U-shape with flattened ends and bolting it over the button.—*L. C., North Dakota.*



Auger raises fast since I replaced hand crank with straight rod and ½-in. reversible drill. A pipe section welded to the straight rod lets me use a hand crank if electricity isn't available for the drill.—*D. L., Illinois.*

To repair water, oil or air lines (low-pressure lines only) in an emergency, wrap a strip of ¼-in.-wide inner tube around the leaking line, stretching the rubber as it's wrapped. Then secure the patch with tape.—*G. J., Oregon.*

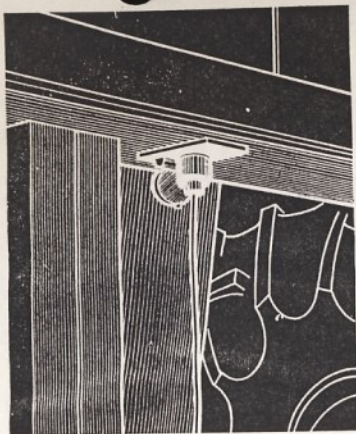


We made this bolt bin by welding a studded, prepunched T-post to a discarded brake drum, then bolting on old elevator buckets.—*D. H., Ohio.*

To hold open our gas nozzle, I made a wedge out of 1-in. board and fastened it to the hose with a small chain.—*R. B., Kansas.*

To clean greasy hands in the shop, I keep a used window-spray bottle full of kerosene.—*T. L., California.*

Help boots slip on easier and last longer by sprinkling in some talcum powder before putting them on.—*M. R., Ohio.*



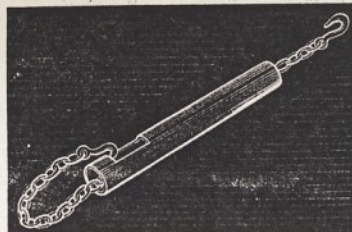
A plug-in on our combine lets us run the electric fuel pump on our portable fuel cart without having the pickup truck around. The weatherproof, twist-lock 30-amp receptacle is totally enclosed to eliminate possibility of sparks. Plug-in is located next to clean grain elevator.—*J. S., Illinois.*

To make a fuse tester, I soldered a small insulated wire to each contact in the switch of an ordinary flashlight and ran the wires through two small holes punched in the side. Place the wires on each contact point of a fuse. If the light comes on, the fuse is good.—*L. B., Iowa.*

We made a better loading chute by building solid fence up to the beginning of the ramp. Then we cut small square holes in the sides so we can use prods.—*K. K., Nebraska.*

We make our own sturdy hog panels by bolting together a 3' x 12' frame of 1" x 6" oak lumber and then nailing 3-ft.-tall woven wire to the frame.—*R. B., Ohio.*

Cleaning out weeds tangled in corn picker rollers is easier since we sharpened the inside edge of a hay hook.—*A. K., South Dakota.*

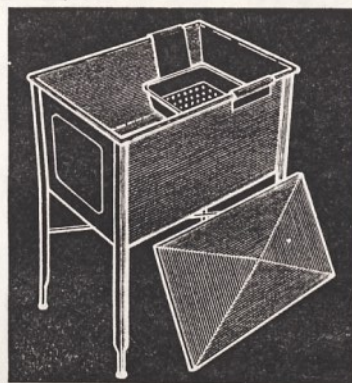


Chain won't slip when pulling brush if you add this 3-in.-diameter, 15-in.-long pipe section to your log chain.—*B. C., Illinois.*

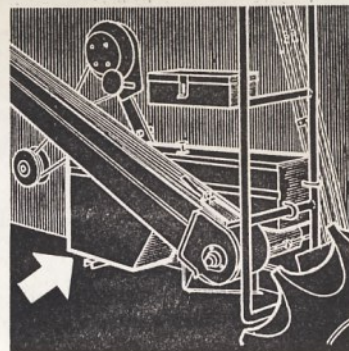
We hang spare chisel teeth on a rod welded to our chisel plow. This keeps teeth handy, yet avoids cluttering the tractor cab.—*B. D., Missouri.*

To cut plywood without splintering, run a strip of masking tape over area to be sawed. Cutting right through the tape prevents saw from splintering the wood.—*J. A., Minnesota.*

A handy shop seat can be made by welding two old wheel rims together and putting a cushion on top.—*M. H., Alabama.*

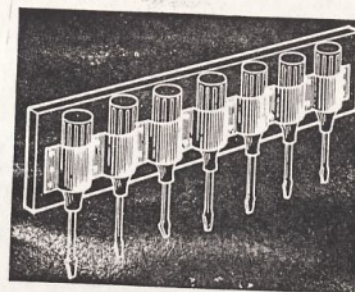


We made a parts washer from an old rinse tub. The lid and tray are made by bending 24-gauge steel in a sheet metal brake. Tray holes are 1/4-in. diameter.—*K. C., Nebraska.*



We added a toolbox big enough to hold all the tools and spare parts for our combine. The wheel-well box designed for a pickup is bolted to an angle iron for support underneath. Two U-bolts support it in front. A piece of belting placed between the toolbox and tailings elevator protects sheet metal. All shields and pulleys still fit and the lid clears chains and pulleys.—*D. E., Illinois.*

To drill several holes of consistent depth with my drill, I slip empty thread spools of various sizes over the bit.—*J. K., Ohio.*

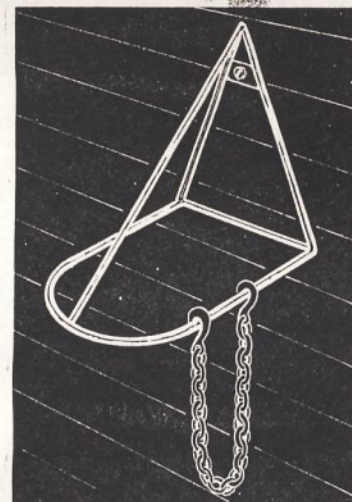


This screwdriver holder is made from a narrow strip of inner tube and is mounted along the wall of our farm shop.—*J. M., Nebraska.*

When an electric fence must cross a drive-through gate, we run the wire along the ground instead of raising it up and going over the top. A rubber hose or plastic pipe won't ground the wire out and we can drive over it with trucks and tractors.—*D. F., Iowa.*

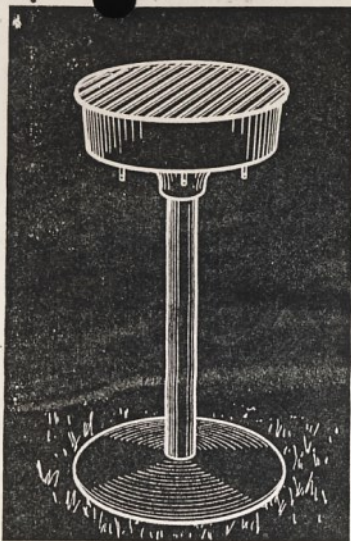
We made an easy-to-unload cart for hauling rocks, dirt or wood by removing the beaters (but keeping the conveyor) from an old manure spreader.—*M. G., Minnesota.*

Fine sandpaper lasts longer if you place a large felt pad between your hand and the sandpaper. The felt pushes wood dust off the board with each stroke and keeps the sandpaper from filling up so fast.—*T. L., California.*



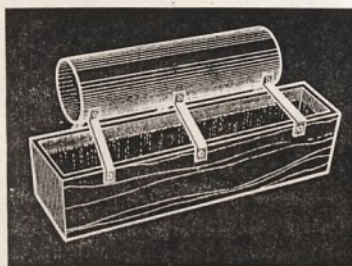
Keep chains hanging neatly with this frame made from 1/4-in. or 3/8-in. steel rod lag-bolted to the wall.—*R. M., Indiana.*

We made an attachment for our tractor-mounted log splitter that would smash chemical cans. We use a piece of flat iron in place of the metal wedge.—*T. V., Minnesota.*



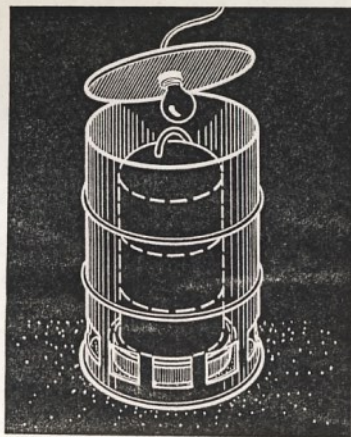
We made this sturdy grill by welding an old brake drum on one end of a pipe and a disk blade on the other.—*S. L., Illinois.*

We keep small washers and nuts handy in the shop by slipping them onto a bathroom curtain clip.—*A. H., Pennsylvania.*



We keep hogs from lying in water troughs by bolting a section of old stovepipe just high enough so the hogs can get their heads in to drink.—*J. G., Iowa.*

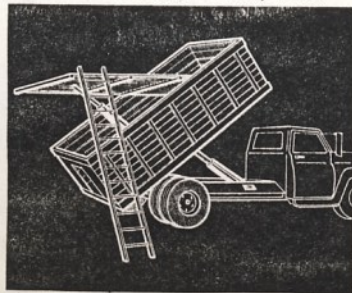
To safely handle pigs around a testy sow, we scoop them out of the pen with a fishnet.—*L. D., Michigan.*



This inexpensive heater keeps our chicken waterers thawed out in the coldest weather. It's built from a 30-gal. barrel and a heat bulb.—*H. H., Illinois.*

When you can't find the chuck key for your electric drill, here's a good emergency substitute. Select a drill bit which fits snugly into the key hole in the chuck. Then, using the bit as a fulcrum, use the blade of a screwdriver to tighten the drill's ring gear.—*T. L., California.*

We built portable scaffolding by backing a hydraulic hoist wagon into the bed of our truck.—*D. H., Iowa.*



We make sure each engine on our farm gets the right kind of oil by using paint to color code each oil filler cap with the hand pump for the corresponding oil barrel.—*R. N., Illinois.*

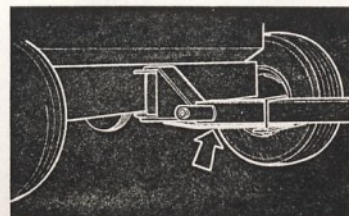
To help remove oil filters that are tight or slippery, drive a punch through it to make handles.—*B. C., Illinois.*

I made a combination tool for feeding hay by welding a hay cutter blade on the back of a hay hook. The hook speeds loading and unloading of bales and the blade is handy for cutting the twine.—*D. S., Michigan.*

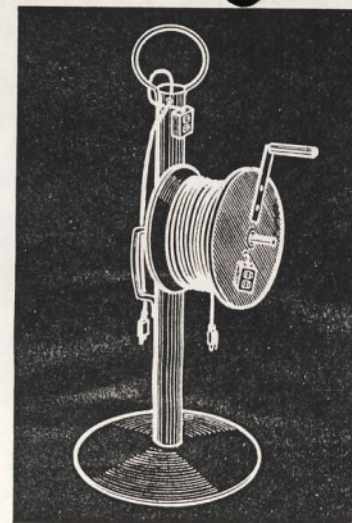


Prevent paint build-up on the top lip of paint cans by using an old lid, cut in half, to wipe excess paint off of brush while painting.—*J. S., Illinois.*

To refinish insides of wagon boxes, use wads of coarse steel wool dipped in solvent. Paint will bond better to the rough, clean surface that results.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*



This spring assist helps lift heavy extension tongues on our wagons. I attached one end of a discarded piece of heavy leaf suspension spring to the tongue with a U-bolt. The other end of the spring rests against the steering pivot point. The tongue still rests on the ground, but can be lifted much easier.—*R. C., Illinois.*



Make this portable power pole by welding 1½-in.-diameter pipe to an old disk blade. Axle for cord reel is a piece of ½-in. pipe welded to the stand.—*L. S., Iowa.*

To keep water tanks from accidentally overflowing inside buildings, weld in a 2-in.-diameter pipe a couple inches below top of the tank. Run the pipe outside.—*D. M., Illinois.*

A spotlight mounted on the back of our pickup cab helps us see to hook up, unhook or unload a wagon after dark.—*J. R., Minnesota.*

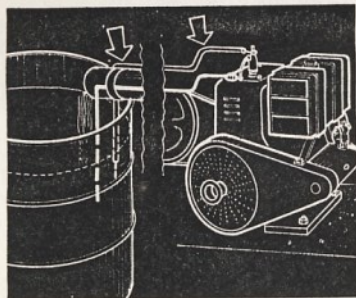
To unroll barbed wire easily, set the spool on a disk blade next to the corner post. Drive a rod through the center of the wire and hook the top of the rod to the corner post with a chain. Then, hook the end of the wire to a tractor and drive slowly down the fencerow.—*R. L., Nebraska.*

Strap down electric cables in farm buildings by cutting strips from a plastic jug, drilling holes in the end, then using a ¾-in. wood screw and washer to attach to studs.—*G. E., Iowa.*

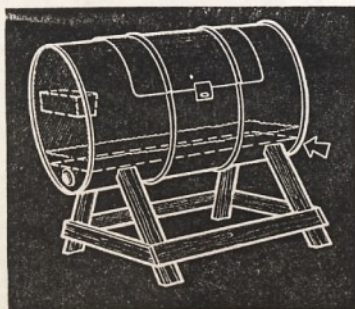
When painting rack wagons, spread on a light coat of sand to improve traction for workers riding the rack in the field.—*R. W., Pennsylvania.*

Keep wood screws from vibrating loose from hayracks or trailers by shooting a staple from a staple gun over the screw head so the staple locks into the slot.—W. B., Wisconsin.

Make handles for hitch pins by welding on the steel handles from used 5-gal. herbicide cans.—B. B., Illinois.



We made an automatic shutoff for the gas-engine powered pump on our livestock watering tank. We ran an insulated wire from the spark plug down a few inches into the tank. A second wire runs from the tank to a ground on the engine shroud. When water rises to the level of the two wires, the engine grounds out, shutting off the water.—D. R., Colorado.



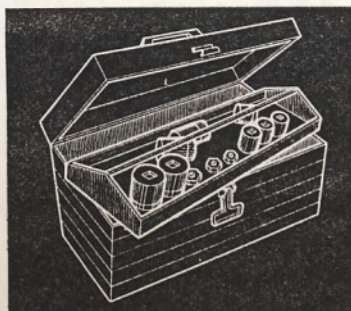
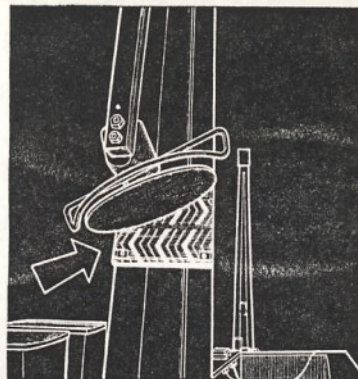
We made this parts washing tank by cutting a 19x24-in. section from the side of a 30-gal. drum. Then, we cut a 21x26-in. piece from another drum to serve as a hinged lid. Hardware cloth with 1/4-in. holes keeps parts up off the bottom of the drum and a pan bolted to the side holds parts while they drain.—D. D., Illinois.

We keep a fire extinguisher handy near our welder. We cut the top off of an empty oil can and nailed it to the wall above the welder. This holds a small spray can extinguisher.—A. H., Pennsylvania.

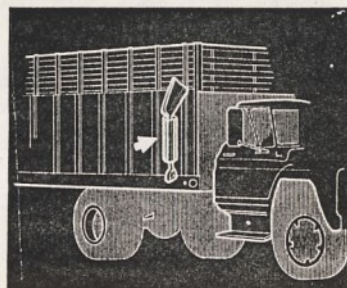
Tubing bends easily without flattening at the bend if it's first packed with sand.—R. L., Nebraska.

To wash off boots, we use a 6-ft. section of garden hose with a spray nozzle on one end. The short section of hose is easy to drain and does not freeze up in winter.—R. S., Maryland.

This bumper made of old pieces of recap tire tread bolts to our planter marker to reduce noise and damage from marker blade striking the arm.—D. E., Illinois.



Sockets stay orderly and easy to find since I fastened a nut for each size socket to the toolbox. The sockets slip onto the nuts and stay in place.—H. A., North Dakota.

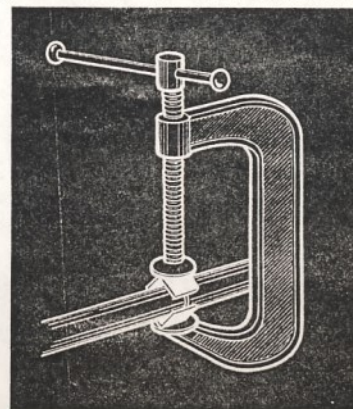


Keep shovels handy by welding or bolting a section of 6-in. pipe to the outside of the truck or wagon box.—B. C., Illinois.

To make a chain saw shield for off-season storage, cut a section out of an old inner tube the length of the blade.—K. B., Wisconsin.

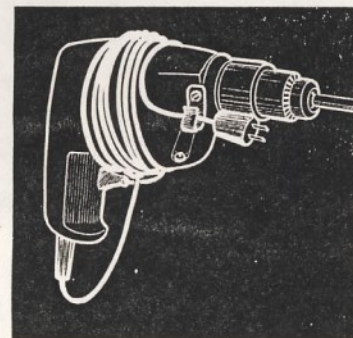
We made a heavy-duty foot scraper by mounting an old chrome car bumper on two pieces of creosoted post buried in the ground.—C. C., Ohio.

To hold pipe in place for welding precise joints, we use this jig made by welding a piece of angle iron to each jaw of a C-clamp.—T. L., California.



To hold small nails or screws in position to drive them, notch a magnet from a cupboard latch with a file. The magnet holds the nail in the notch and lets you keep your fingers away from hammer.—G. P., Michigan.

We made a chick feeder by cutting off a round plastic ice cream container 2 1/2-in. high, then bolting in a 3-lb. coffee can with 1x2-in. holes cut around the bottom to let feed out.—T. S., Washington.



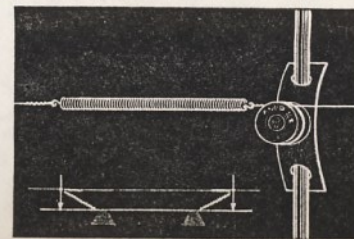
Bolting a spring metal clip to your drill allows you to keep cord wrapped tightly around drill for storage.—W. B., Wisconsin.

To remove the odor of hogs from your hands when soap and water don't work, rub in some baby powder while your hands are still wet. Then rinse again with water and the odor is gone.—C. K., Michigan.

To start a grease zerk in a hard-to-reach place, extend your reach by inserting zerk into the end of a plastic drinking straw.—M. S., Iowa.

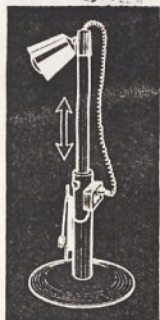
Idea of the month

Make an entrance through an electric fence by attaching long screen door springs to wire between two posts. Spring allows you to hold down fence and drive over.—D. G., Minnesota.



To keep wiring harness connectors on my small utility trailers from becoming bent or corroded when they are disconnected, I insert each connector into an extra dummy male or female plug.—K.R., New York.

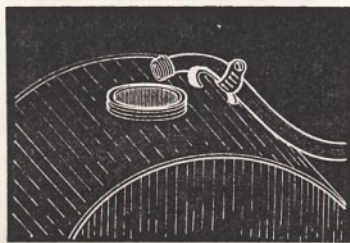
We stopped dirt and rust from clogging our hand sprayer by installing an in-line fuel filter between the pump and sprayer nozzle.—J.W., Iowa.



This portable, adjustable shop light is made of 1 1/4-in. pipe welded to a used disk blade. The telescoping section of 1-in. pipe is secured by a bolt tapped into the larger pipe. An ordinary single outlet switch box is welded to the stand.—K.L., North Dakota.

Keep tools from rusting by placing mothballs in toolboxes to absorb moisture.—J.R., Minnesota.

To keep water hoses securely in place when filling sprayer tanks, I clamp a hooked piece of strap iron a foot from the end of the hose.—J.K., Ohio.

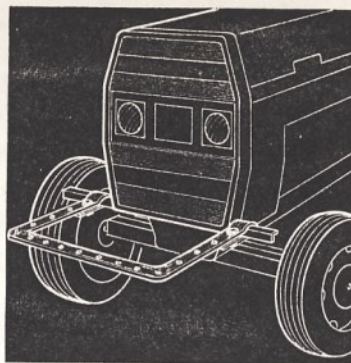


Make a painting mitt by slipping a plastic bag inside a tube sock. This inexpensive idea works great for painting tubing or rods which are difficult to paint with brushes or sprayers.—T.H., South Dakota.

I tape an extra blade to the frame of my hacksaw so I always have a spare blade on hand.—T.B., Montana.

To help me weld in a straight line, I place strips of 1/4-in. asbestos right next to where I want to weld. Using the reusable asbestos strips as a guide, it's easier to keep the weld straight.—W.B., Wisconsin.

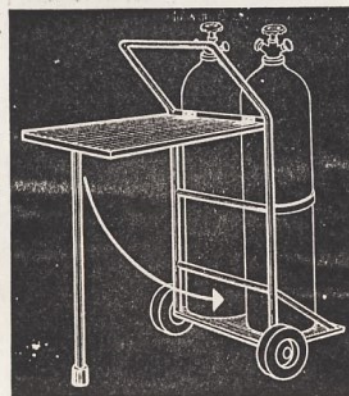
We use a plastic label maker to help remind us to change oil and filters on schedule. After each servicing, we print the mileage or hour reading when the next change is due and stick the label on the corresponding instrument gauge.—A.D., Ohio.



We mounted an old drawbar on the front of our tractor to push and pull wagons around the farmstead. The drawbar is attached to angle iron brackets with two bolts, allowing us to remove the bar quickly and easily.—R.C., Illinois.

I protect welding rods from moisture and dirt by storing them in cylinders made from PVC pipe. I cut the cylinder to a 16-in. length, cap one end and use a threaded cleanout plug to seal the other end. Also, labeling each cylinder helps me easily locate the type of rod I want.—D.K., North Dakota.

To keep a workbench ruler handy but out of the way, I mounted it right in the edge of the bench. I chiseled a recess in the edge of the bench, then mounted the ruler flush with the bench top using two countersunk wood screws.—A.W., Wisconsin.

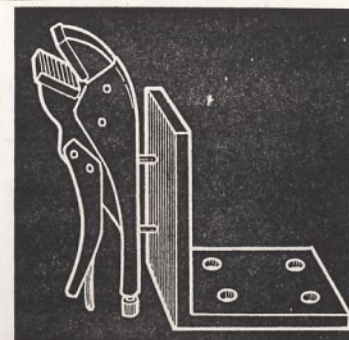


This hinged table flips up for handy welding and stores folded up against the cart.—B.C., Illinois.

To find a hole in an inner tube, inflate the tube and wipe it with a rag soaked in soapy water. Escaping air forms bubbles.—S.C., Missouri.

To unroll barbed wire easily, place the roll on a length of pipe between the lower links of a three-point hitch. Fasten the end of the wire to corner post and drive away to unroll.—W.D., Ohio.

To make a good funnel, cut top out of 2-liter plastic pop bottle. Slip bottle bottom back over funnel when storing to keep out dust.—C.D., Colorado.

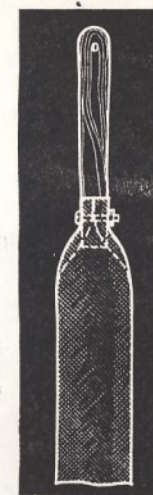


This handy portable vise bolts to any of several workbenches in my shop. I made it by welding a pair of Vise-Grip pliers to a bent piece of 1/4-in. flat iron.—J.R., Minnesota.

Punching a vent hole high on the side of a chemical can rather than on the top lets me control the flow by putting my gloved finger over the hole. This also reduces chance of dirt or water getting into partially full cans.—B.C., Illinois.

When you need to drill a hole through the threaded end of a bolt, first screw on a nut. Then lock the nut into a vise and drill the hole through nut and bolt. The nut allows you to keep the drill on center.—T.L., California.

To aid installation of washers and nuts on hard-to-reach bolts, I lightly solder the nut and washer together. Then, I don't have to worry about the washer falling off while trying to install the nut.—H.M., Minnesota.

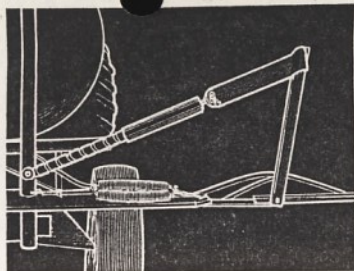


We made this hog slapper by bolting a 4-in.-wide x 15-in.-long piece of drive belt to a 12-in. wooden handle.—H.W., Iowa.

Keep paintbrushes moist during overnight storage, without cleaning off paint, by placing them in a small plastic bag and tying the end tight.—J.R., Minnesota.

We made a stand for our shop vise from a 55-gal. barrel. We strengthened the barrel by filling it half full of sand and then poured concrete to the top. Bolts are embedded in the cement.—D.R., Idaho.

An empty plastic bandage box makes a good first-aid kit for the toolbox. Carry some gauze, tape, a few bandages and some antiseptic.—B.M., Wisconsin.



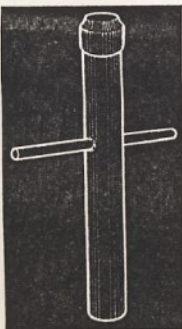
We mounted old shock absorbers on our sprayer booms to reduce bouncing when traveling over rough ground.—*J. M., Wisconsin.*

To cut new slots into worn screw-heads, put two hacksaw blades into the frame instead of one. This makes a groove wide enough to accommodate a screwdriver.—*A. W., Wisconsin.*

We keep tractor toolboxes dust-free by gluing a piece of old carpet inside the lid. The carpet acts as a gasket.—*D. F., North Dakota.*

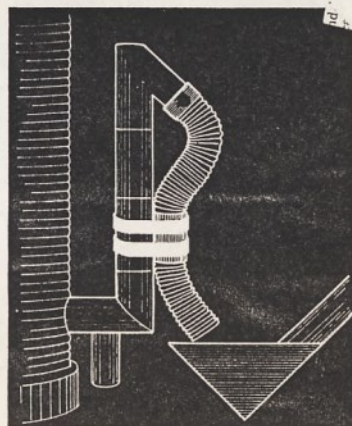
Prevent skins from forming in partly used cans of paint by closing the lid tightly and storing the can upside down. This seals the paint from air.—*G. L., North Dakota.*

Leverage was added to our steel post driver by welding steel bars to act as handles. The rest of the driver is made of a 3-ft. section of 3-in.-diameter steel pipe with a solid steel cap welded into one end of pipe.—*B. M., Kansas.*



To work small calves, I bolted a section of 1-in. pipe to one side of my headgate. This helps hold their heads in place.—*J. S., South Dakota.*

Spray-on oven cleaner works to clean the gummy buildup from our circular saw blade. Just spray it on, let it set a few minutes, and wipe it clean.—*R. L., Nebraska.*

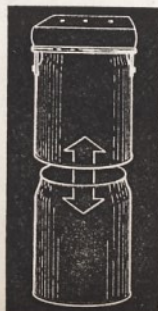


We fill our auger hopper from the vertical unloading spout on the grain bin with the aid of a 6-in. plastic drain tile. The tile is secured to the vertical auger with rubber straps. A 6-in. section of metal tube keeps the tile from collapsing at this point. The tile is easily slipped off the spout for loading trucks or wagons.—*F. M., Minnesota.*

To repair water hoses, I cut the hose in half at the leak, then splice it back together with a 3-in. piece of plastic conduit. Liquid soap helps slip the conduit into the hoses and hose clamps keep the splice secure.—*O. B., South Dakota.*

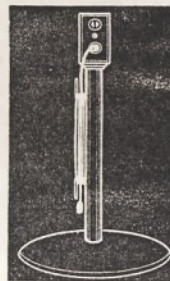
To weld tubing together easily, I keep a supply of several sizes of wooden dowel over which I slip each end of the sections to be welded. This gives nearly perfect alignment.—*P. K., Nebraska.*

I made this handy shop stool by bolting a discarded tractor seat to a used 5-gal. chemical can. The low stool lets me work without bending over or it can be stacked snugly on top of a second can to make a workbench seat.—*D. S., Iowa.*



We made two heavy-duty drain pans for oil or antifreeze by cutting an empty 55-gal. drum into three sections. Cutting along the middle of the ribs leaves the top of each pan flared so used oil pours easily into larger containers.—*J. K., Illinois.*

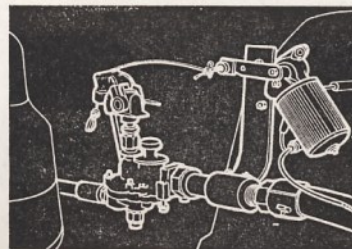
Our extension cord is always handy and untangled because it's built into this portable 2-outlet stand. The stand is made from an old disk blade and a piece of hollow pipe. The cord is connected to the outlet box through a hole drilled in the pipe.—*R. M., Iowa.*



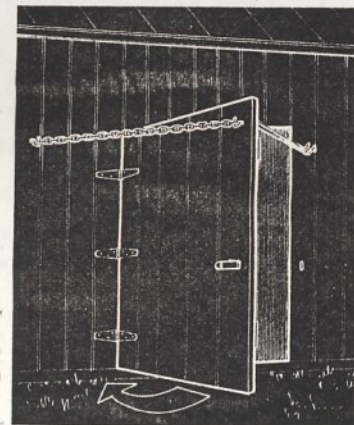
To keep our castrating knife handy and make sure it doesn't fall on the floor, we drilled a hole in the handle, inserted a key ring and attached it to our pig processing cart with a 3-ft. length of small chain.—*D. S., Ohio.*

Idea of the month

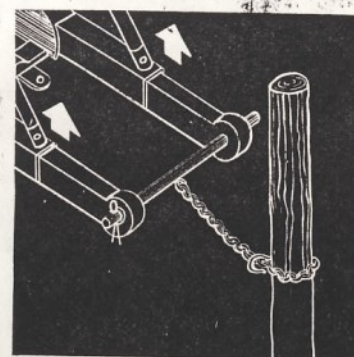
We replaced the trip rope of the Nitrolator on our NH_3 applicator with an old windshield wiper motor. Due to an internal limit switch in electrical wiper motors, one punch of a button in the tractor cab causes the motor to make one complete revolution, turning the Nitrolator on. The next punch turns it off. This device has worked well through two seasons of use.—*R. B., Michigan.*



We made a tough, portable hopper for our grain auger by bolting a used disk blade over the opening in an old wagon tire. We cut the sidewall away in one section so the auger fits neatly into the hopper.—*S. L., Illinois.*

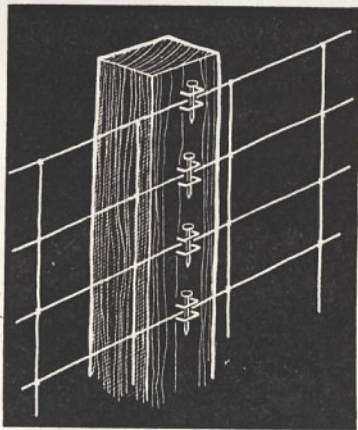


Keep barn doors propped open by attaching inside of door to the barn with a rubber tie-down strap. Door stays partially shut to keep out drafts; hogs can crowd through and it returns to its normal position.—*T. L., Ohio.*



To pull posts easily with a 3-point hitch, we added this 2-ft. piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. steel bar. We welded a chain and hook to the middle of the bar and drilled holes for clip pins near the ends.—*H. S., Kansas.*

To make a long, straight cut with my torch, I clamp a piece of angle iron to the material with the vertical side of the angle iron next to where I want to cut. I then run the torch along the angle iron for a smooth, even cut.—*T. L., South Dakota.*



For easy-to-remove temporary wire fencing or stock panels, I drive large staples above and below the wire. A nail slipped through each pair of staples holds wire.—*T. L., California.*

I bolted my air compressor to an old lawn mower frame to make it more mobile.—*J. R., Minnesota.*

After I inflate an inner tube to locate a puncture, I insert a nail in the hole so it's easy to locate after the tube is deflated.—*J. R., Iowa.*

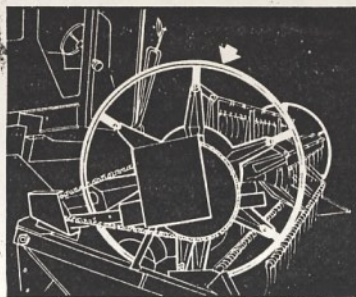
Holster your electric drill in a quart-size plastic bottle to keep drill off floor or cluttered benches. Cut bottle bottom off at angle and mount on wall with wood screws. Drill fits snugly in bottle and bit extends through spout.—*W. B., Illinois.*

To ease driving nails into hard woods, I first rub them on a piece of beeswax.—*F. S., Ohio.*

Keep extra saber saw blades handy by stringing them on an ordinary shower curtain hook.—*B. C., Illinois.*

To clean hog odor off my hands, I rub on tomato juice or catsup, let it set a few seconds, then wash it off with water.—*K. C., Iowa.*

We made an air hose holder on our workbench by drilling a hole in the edge of the bench and bolting on a C-shaped clevis.—*W. H., Iowa.*

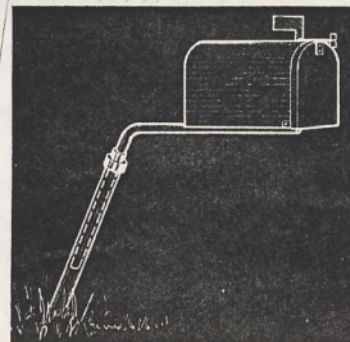


Weeds and grass don't wrap around the reel of my combine anymore since we added these circles made from electrical conduit.—*R. C., Missouri.*

Protect bearings and shafts from hot slag when welding nearby by smearing on a heavy coat of grease.—*H. L., Kansas.*



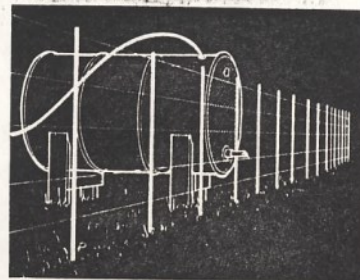
Keep stored boots dry with this boot rack made by welding re-rod to a disk blade. Bend the tops just enough so boots slip on easily.—*D. B., Indiana.*



Our mailbox swivels when bumped by passing snowplows, then is pulled back into position by gravity.—*C. L., New York.*

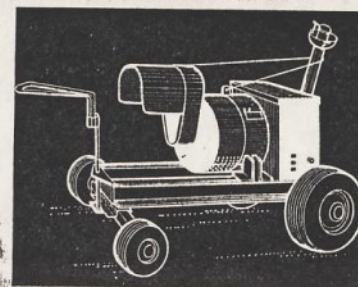
We clean metal stovepipes by attaching a length of 1/2-in. thin-wall conduit to a wire wheel from our bench grinder. Selecting a wire wheel the same diameter as the stovepipe works best.—*J. B., Michigan.*

Screws drive easier into hardwoods if you rub paste wax into the threads.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*



We made this waterer for our hogs by using a pipe reducer to mount a nipple waterer in the small orifice of a rinsed 55-gal. drum.—*R. B., Illinois.*

Before storing machinery for the season, we mark down any necessary repairs or maintenance on a piece of paper and tie it to the machine as a reminder.—*L. S., Ohio.*

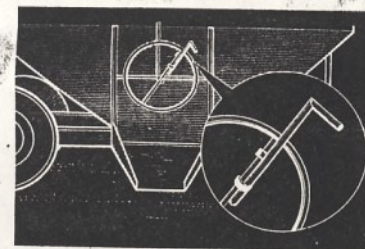


We mounted our portable generator on an old riding lawn mower frame to make it really portable.—*A. B., Illinois.*

Dull or chipped Plexiglas ice scrapers can be sharpened back into usefulness again with an ordinary flat metal file.—*L. F., Wisconsin.*

I made a scraper blade for the back of my push broom by bolting on a 2-in.-wide piece of 1/16-in. metal.—*H. R., Minnesota.*

Keep battery terminals clean by squirting on a teaspoonful of high-detergent motor oil.—*B. S., Missouri.*

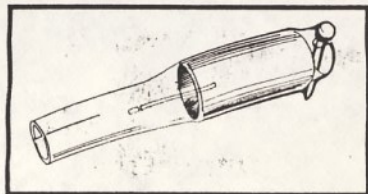


To ease opening of side-unloading wagons, we made this wrench out of a 2-ft. piece of 1/4-in. strap iron. The wrench slips on and off the door-opening wheel to provide greater leverage.—*R. S., Illinois.*

We keep locks from freezing on our walk-in machine shed doors by cutting a doorknob-sized hole in an empty plastic antifreeze jug and slipping it over the knob to keep out freezing rain and snow.—*S. H., Illinois.*

Prevent damage to O-rings when installing them on threaded shafts by first covering the threads with a layer of electrical tape.—T. R., Minnesota.

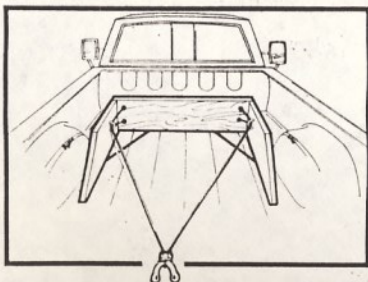
Speed the job of pulling nails from old lumber by attaching a small wood block to the hammer head with a large rubber band.—L. O., Washington.



Prevent smashed thumbs with this magnetic nail holder. Slip a cow magnet into a piece of plastic tubing so it's 1/4-in. from the end, then notch the end to hold the nail.—B. H., Wisconsin.

Hydraulic hoses won't wear through if you slit lengths of plastic hose and clamp them to the hydraulic hose where they rub against metal.—S. C., Florida.

Idea of the month

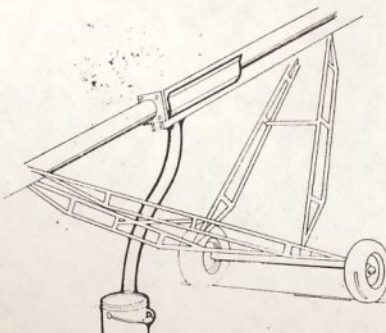
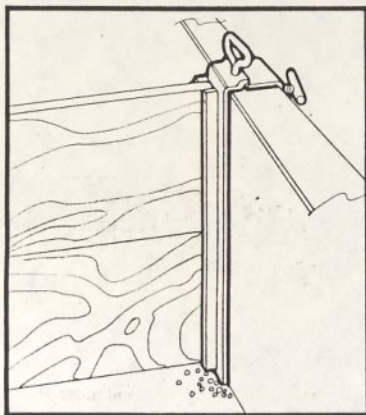


Easily unload sand and gravel from a pickup with this "lazy man's shovel." The 1/4-in. cable is looped through the back and secured with cable clamps. Hook the clevis to a tractor and most of the load can be unloaded without shoveling.—H. K., Missouri.

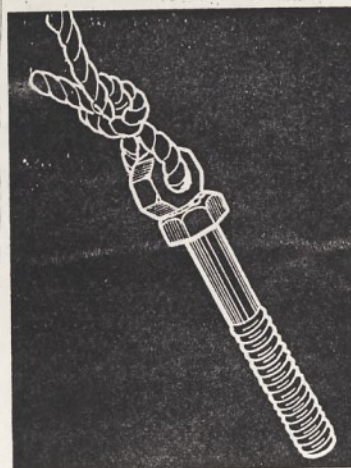
When pigs suffer from tail biting, we use Elastator bands to stop the bleeding. The absence of blood also seems to discourage further biting.—D. L., Illinois.

To keep cars and snowplows from damaging our mailbox, I made the post flexible by cutting the 2-in. pipe in half, putting a heavy compressed spring inside and welding a coil spring outside. You can bump the post and it springs right back. T. C., Illinois.

This handy gate holder fits over the divider wall of a confinement hog building. By using a gate longer than the width of the pen, this movable holder keeps the gate in place and eliminates the need for a man to hold the gate while sorting hogs.—R. H., Illinois.

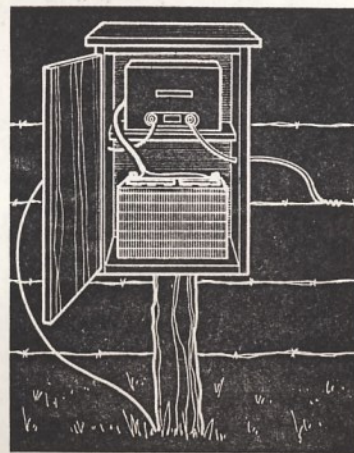


We collect screenings from our auger with the help of a section of U-trough clamped below the screening section. The screenings are caught in the U-trough and funneled to buckets or a wagon through a piece of plastic drainage tile.—R. D., Iowa.



To ease unhitching, we weld hex nuts to hardened bolts which serve as hitch pins. A tug on a rope tied through the nut lets us unhitch from the tractor seat.—B. L., Nebraska.

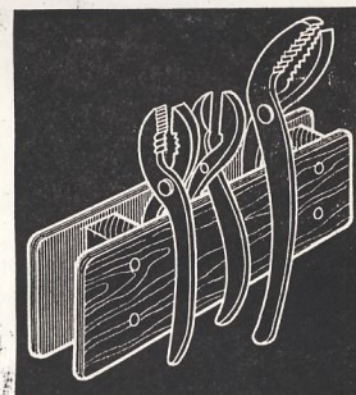
Drop a ball bearing into small cans of paint when you first open them. When you want to re-open the can, the bearing helps stir the paint when shaken.—G. B., Illinois.



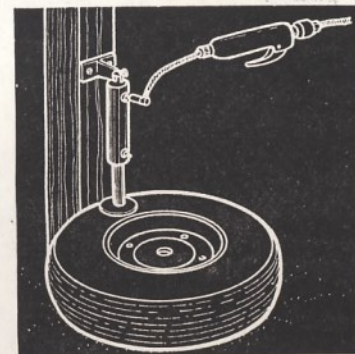
We built this portable fence by enclosing a lead-acid battery and fence unit in a plywood case. It can be moved to a new post in minutes by disconnecting the two wires.—J. H., New York.

To hold irrigation pipe clamps while picking up pipe, we bolted a worn-out feed trough to the side of our pipe trailer. We drilled two holes in the trough bottom to drain rainwater.—C. N., Missouri.

To store welder cords neatly, we bolted an empty welding wire spool to the workbench post next to the welder.—K. B., Iowa.



Handy wall holder for pliers and Vise-Grips is made by nailing plywood to blocks and mounting on the shop wall.—A. H., Pennsylvania.



We made this tire bead breaker by mounting an old hydraulic cylinder to wall post in shop. We replaced oil ports with air valve stems with the cores removed and operate the cylinder with our air compressor. A curved steel plate is welded on the ram to apply pressure to tire.—J. K., Ohio.

A warm workbench

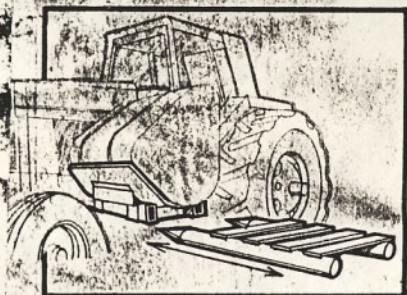
To keep me warm without the expense of heating the whole shop, I hung a gas brooder with 4-ft. canopy over my work bench.—G. R., New York.

Steeple-pulling trick

Remove steeples without marring wood by slipping a nail into steeple and pulling with a hammer.—T. B., Indiana.

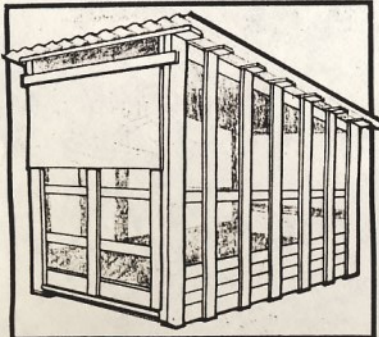
Solar stock tanks

We paint the south sides of our stock tanks black to help keep ice melted in winter.—E. H., Washington.



Saddle tank decks

To ease filling saddle tanks, we made this portable deck from two fence posts and some 2x4 lumber.—M. S., Iowa.



Keep round bales dry with this homemade feeder. Made of rough-cut oak and plywood, the feeder opens on one end to hold two 5'x6' bales.—G. H., Arkansas.

We prevent heat loss from our shop by using an old oven door as a hinged cover for the exhaust fan in the shop wall.—B. C., Illinois.

Two short loops of log chain bolted to the heavy-duty bumper of our pickup make a convenient place to hook on chains for pulling feeders or machinery.—M. B., Indiana.

A red light wired to my bin stirrer and mounted on top of the bin lets me know if the stirrer is running, saves trips up and down the bin.—O. D., Iowa.

Worn V-belts make convenient firewood carriers. Lay the belt on the ground, pile on the wood and fold the belt around to form a handle.—L. C., South Dakota.



Manual steel post puller

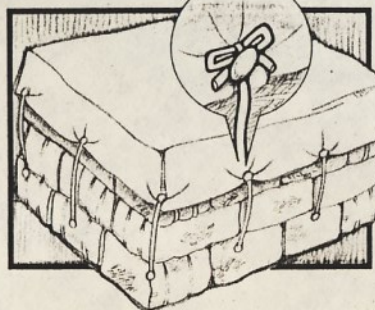
We took an old pump handle, angle iron, 1/2-in. scrap iron and log chain and made this handy steel post puller.—D. H., South Dakota.

A small air compressor mounted in my pickup bed runs the grease gun and pumps fuel to machinery. It runs off the truck battery and is controlled from the driver's seat.—F. P., Texas

Make your own shop air conditioner by welding garden hose fittings to the inlet and outlet of a used car radiator. Bolt the radiator outside a window and mount a fan inside. With the radiator connected to a water hydrant, the fan pulls air through the radiator, which cools it as it enters the shop.—T. A., Nebraska.

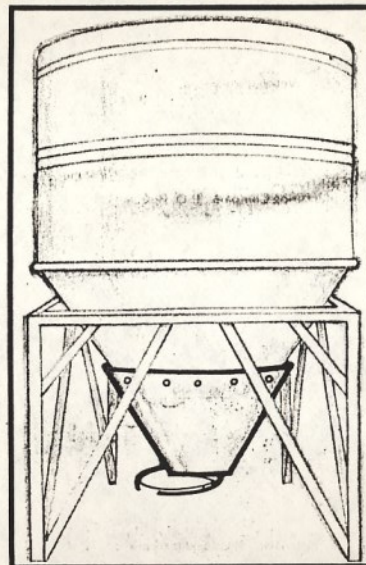
I protect my battery-powered fencer by mounting it in an old ice chest. The chest keeps the fencer clean and dry and makes it easy to transport.—M. C., Colorado.

We made a handy rack for chains and shovels by mounting a bar off a worn-out side-delivery hay rake on our shop wall.—J. A., Iowa.



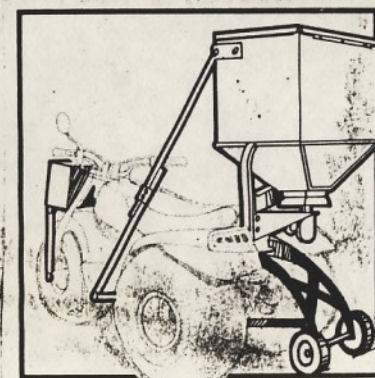
To securely hold plastic covers on hay, we place a smooth pebble or glass marble under the plastic, then tie twine around it. The twine will not slip or tear the plastic.—H. C., Pennsylvania.

Idea of the month



I made this bulk bin for ground feed by rebuilding an old hog feeder. Remove the trough, take the cone out of the inside and bolt it to the outside. Then add a door to the bottom.—T. K., Iowa.

Gas-saving clover seeder



This 3-bu. electric seeder mounted on our ATV sows 60 acres of clover on one gallon of gas. Each charge of the 12-volt battery mounted in front sows 60 acres at a rate of 15 acres per hour.—D. E., Ohio

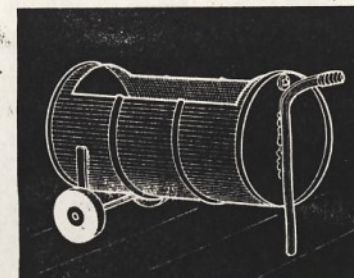
Grain bin safety rope

We tie a long, sturdy rope to the center of our grain bins before emptying them to provide a lifeline should someone accidentally become trapped in the moving grain.—J. R., Minnesota.

Easy way to burn stumps

Drill several holes in dead tree stumps and fill them with diesel fuel until stump is saturated. Stumps burn out quickly.—J. A., Minnesota.

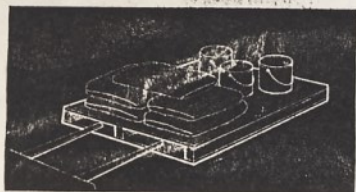
Idea of the month



We made this feed cart for our farrowing house out of an old 50-gal. barrel. We cut a strip out of the side about 12 in. wide and mounted two small wheels under one end and a single leg and handlebar on the other.—B. R., Iowa.

We paint a line on the outside rim of our duals just across from the valve stem of the inside tire. This saves time hunting for the valve stem when checking tire pressure.—D. S., Minnesota.

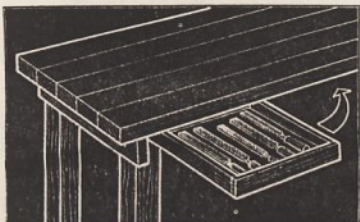
Roller pans are easier to clean up after painting if you line them with aluminum foil before starting. Just drain the paint, peel out the foil and throw it away.—F. G., Wisconsin.



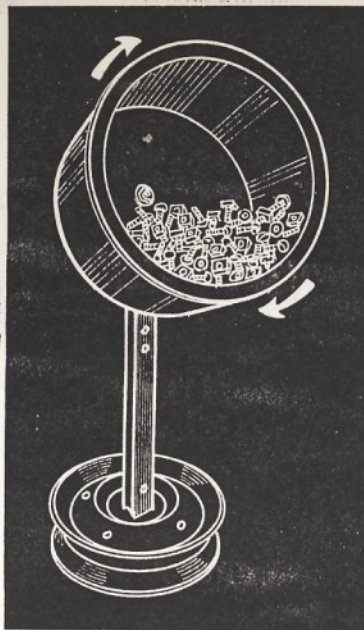
We store the materials we'll need on a job on homemade wooden pallets. When we're ready to go to work we simply load the right pallet into the truck. Pallets are loaded for fence building, painting, planting and other jobs.—M. H., Iowa.

To keep masking tape from pulling the paint off newly painted surfaces, first run it across your pants leg to reduce the stick.—W. B., Wisconsin.

The hose at the end of our spray tank which shows the liquid level gets discolored after a few days of use and the waterline is hard to see. I slipped small cork balls, painted bright colors, into the hose. These can be easily seen at a glance.—K. A., Iowa.



A tray mounted under my workbench keeps my files clean and handy. It swivels out of sight under the bench when not in use.—B. C., Illinois.



We made this rotary bolt sorter by mounting a washing machine tub on a stand built from an old wheel rim. The tumbling action sorts the large and small bolts in the tub and makes it easy to pick out the right sizes.—G. M., Nebraska

Aluminum grain shovels last longer since we put a row of rivets near the bottom edge of the scoop. Put the heads of the rivets on the underside of the scoop so they'll take much of the wear.—J. N., Nebraska

We wrap burlap bags around the top two wires of our barbed wire fence in the spot where we often cross the fence. This makes the fence easy to cross and prevents torn clothes.—J. Y., Indiana

We wear out right-handed gloves much faster than left-handed ones, leaving a bunch of useless, unmatched gloves. Then, I found that turning a left-handed glove inside out makes it a right-handed glove, creating one new pair out of two old gloves.—T. V., Nebraska.

Electric fence gate-jumper

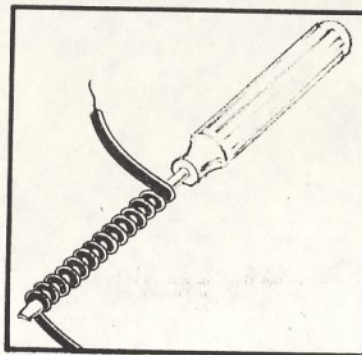
We hook the ends from jumper cables to a section of insulated wire to run electric fences across gates for easy hooking and unhooking.—M. C., Minnesota.

Water pump alert light

To remind us the water pump is running on our stock tanks, we hooked up an easily visible light which shines when the pump is running.—J. R., Minnesota.

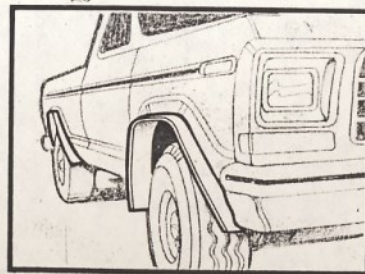
Break stubborn tire beads

Pour hot water into the groove formed by the wheel rim and a tire bead. Let the water stand a few minutes and the tire will loosen easily.—W. B., Wisconsin.



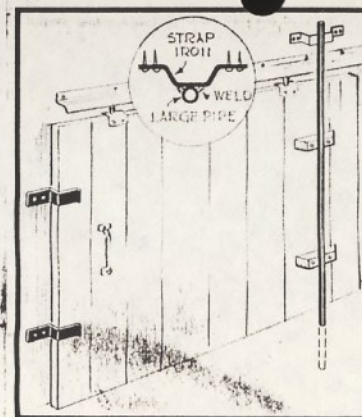
Magnetized screwdrivers

To magnetize your screwdrivers, coil wire around the blade and hook the wire briefly to a 12-volt battery.—E. O., Montana.



Homemade mud guards

We cut the centers out of truck tire liners and bolted them to the fender wells of our pickup to serve as inexpensive mud guards.—D. B., Ohio.



Sliding doors shut tightly

Our barn door closes tightly without having to hook it from the inside since we added these extras.—D. S., Minnesota.

Winterize power washers

Circulate a pint of antifreeze in the lines of power washers to keep them thawed out.—F. R., Louisiana.

Handy post-driving idea

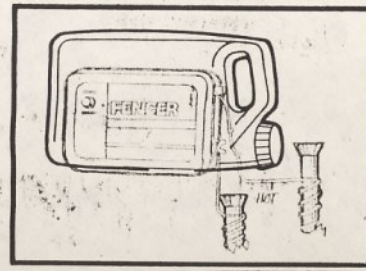
Keep steel posts from twisting as they're driven by using a large C-clamp as a handle.—T. L., California.

Make your own lock nuts

Dip threads of a bolt in shellac, then turn the nut on before the shellac dries. This keeps nut tight.—R. L., Nebraska.

Weatherproof fencer cover

I protect my electric fencer by cutting out one side of a 5-gal. plastic herbicide container.—K. T., Wisconsin.



Sturdy calf feeder

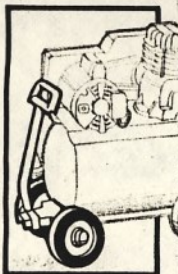
We make our own calf feeders by cutting away a few inches of the sidewall on an old tire and turning it inside out. Make the bottom by nailing the tire to 2-in. boards.—H. T., Missouri.

Handy sand

Keep sand handy for traction on ice by packing it in plastic food bags. Bags hold just enough for one shot under wheels to get you going.—T. L., California.

Mobilized compressor

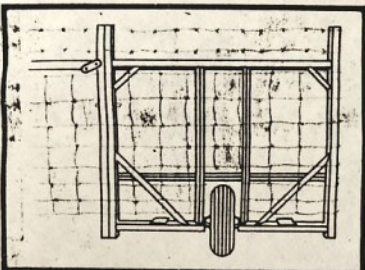
We made our air compressor easier to pull by welding the front of an old coaster wagon to the front stand.—D. A., Iowa.



Welding alignment tip

To accurately line up two pieces of metal you want to weld together, clamp each piece to one side of a horseshoe.—J. R., Minnesota.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

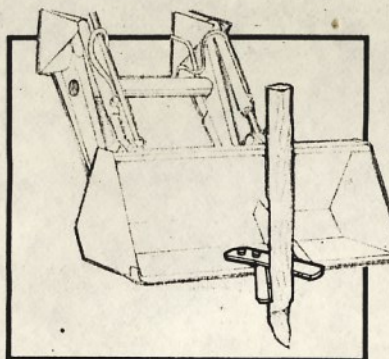


Gate extension

We widened our 16-ft. gates for wide equipment by adding on this rolling 4-ft. extension made from scrap angle iron and square tubing.—K. P., Indiana.

Loosen worn screws

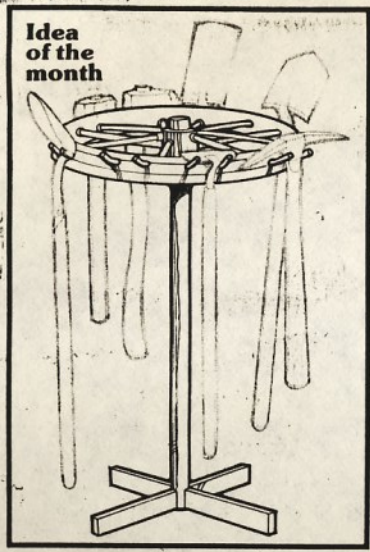
Put valve grinding compound on the screwdriver to keep it from backing out of worn slots on Phillips head screws.—W. B., California.



We made a wood-post puller by welding two old rotary-mower blades together. One person holds the post against the blades while the loader is raised.—S. C., Indiana.

Keep dirt from building up on tractor hydraulic fittings by slipping an old rubber glove over them.—N. P., Illinois.

Handy storage rack was made by welding pieces of rod to an old steel wheel.—B. B., Iowa.



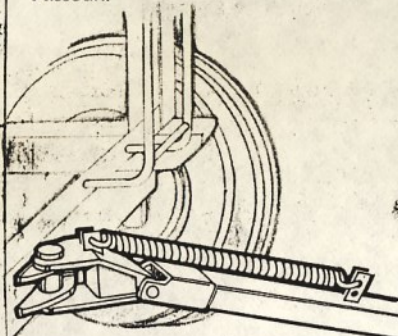
Freeze-free pet waterers

To keep water for pets from freezing, we wrap heat tape around a metal pail and duct tape around that.—C. F., Iowa.

Hydraulic hoses are easier to hook up when I hang cattle ear tags on them with identifying information in indelible ink.—R. K., Nebraska.

We stopped birds from entering our machine shed by installing plastic guttering screen inside above the door tracks.—K. K., Illinois.

Find leaks in radiators by removing them from the vehicle, then cutting a bicycle inner-tube in half and clamping the ends to the radiator inlet and outlet. Use the inner tube valve stem to fill the radiator with air, then pour soapy water over the radiator and look for bubbles.—B. S., Missouri.



An old plow spring helps make heavy wagon tongues easier to lift.—L. L., Iowa.

Easily clean bugs off windshields by wiping with a wet sponge sprinkled with baking soda.—A. H., Minnesota.

To lube hard-to-reach places, I carry syringes full of oil and grease in my toolbox. Keep the needle covered with the plastic tip.—J. W., Washington.

We built a portable air compressor by adding a used air conditioning compressor to the motor of our pickup. The unit pumps up to 120 psi in seconds and is controlled from a switch in the cab.—G. E., Minnesota.

We save time usually spent guessing wrench sizes by using a permanent marker to write the wrench size next to anything we repair. Next time the part needs attention, the wrench size is handy.—R. S., Illinois.

Grind off the ends of allen wrenches which have become rounded with use and they're as good as new. Be careful not to let them get too hot while grinding.—C. B., Kansas.

Keep box-end wrenches handy and in order by storing them on rings from a loose-leaf notebook.—A. W., Wisconsin.

When repairing machinery in the field put down a tarp to avoid losing small parts.—S. H., North Dakota.

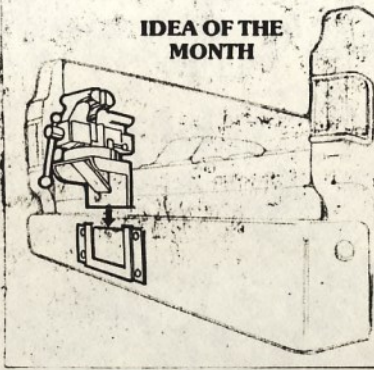
Store leftover putty in an airtight jar with a little linseed oil to keep it soft.—T. L., California.

Prevent fertilizer from caking when you have to leave it in planter hoppers overnight by putting an empty seed corn sack in each hopper. The sack draws off moisture.—S. W., Kentucky.

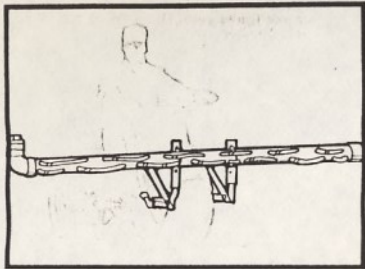
Keep grease gun nozzles clean by slipping a used shotgun shell over them.—J. R., Minnesota.

I made this portable vise by welding a bracket to the truck bumper and bolting the vise to a heavy steel stand which slides into the bracket. A similar bracket on the workbench lets me move the vise from pickup to workshop.—C. H., Missouri.

IDEA OF THE MONTH



Tighten up a hammer handle which has dried out and pulled away from the head by soaking the hammer in linseed oil.—W. B., Wisconsin.



We made our three-wheeler into a weed killer by adding a rope wick applicator to the front.—*K. W., Kentucky.*

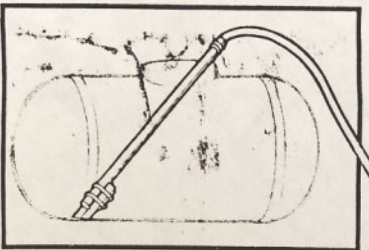
Haul round bales on a flat rack wagon by laying down two railroad ties to hold bales in place.—*R. F., Missouri.*

We paint hydraulic couplers on our implements to match the proper outlet on the tractor so there's no guessing about which hose belongs in each outlet.—*N. S., North Dakota.*

To keep from losing log chains, I paint spots of bright color on them. If they fall off the tractor, they're easy to spot.—*F. W., Kansas.*

Get extra leverage from allen wrenches by grooving a piece of hardwood to serve as a handle.—*B. C., Illinois.*

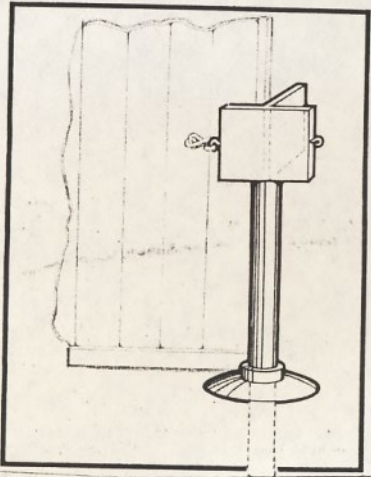
To drill through hard metal, lubricate your bit with turpentine. The bit will drill through easily without overheating.—*C. A., Nebraska.*



Safely fill spray tanks with a garden hose by using a 6-ft. section of 1¼-in. galvanized pipe. The pipe reduces foaming and prevents hose damage from chemicals. A short piece of 2x2 bolted to the end prevents pipe from damaging tank.—*R. S., Iowa.*

Removable center post

Our 28-ft. machine shed door becomes a clear span opening with this removable center post. Bottom half is buried. Top half slips in and out.—*T. M., Minnesota.*

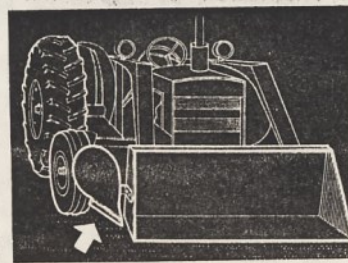
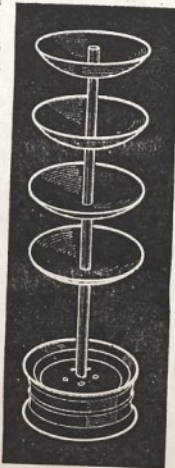


Save the oil in opened cans from becoming dirty by using the plastic lids from 1-lb. coffee cans as snug-fitting covers.—*J. S., Michigan.*

To store feed sacks neatly, I cut the bottom from a 55-gal. oil drum and welded a pointed rod to the center. After sticking sacks onto the rod, I cap the point to prevent accidents.—*B. E., Minnesota.*

Make this handy bolt organizer by welding used disc blades to a section of pipe, then welding the pipe to a wheel rim base.—*D. T., Idaho.*

An old TV tray makes a handy parts tray in the shop. When not in use, it folds and hangs neatly on the wall.—*R. D., Nebraska.*



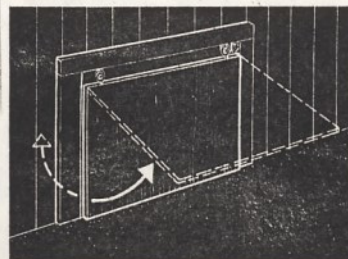
We made a snow thrower by welding a bracket to a discarded moldboard plow bottom and bolting it to the front-end loader.—*J. H., Indiana.*

An old double laundry rinse tub helps in the farrowing house by providing a place to hold several pigs at waist level for shots, ear notching, etc.—*S. C., Illinois.*

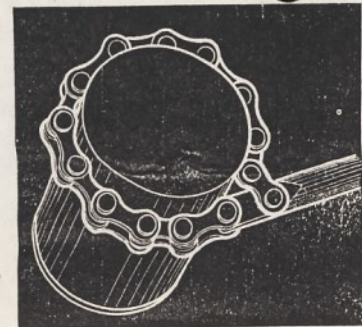
Mud flaps from a truck are mounted behind the front wheels of our narrow front-end tractor to prevent it from throwing mud and manure.—*D. E., Iowa.*

We welded a hammerhead to the back side of a crowbar to serve as a hammer when needed.—*T. J., Wyoming.*

We use sheets of plywood hung from the top of the doors on our hog house to let pigs move freely in and out. A hook and eyebolt is used to hang the doors to permit them to swing in and out and to make it easy to remove the doors when cleaning the shed.—*J. R., Iowa.*



A little petroleum jelly on the contact points of light bulbs keeps them from corroding and possibly shorting out.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*



We made this tool to remove oil filters by attaching a piece of #50 roller chain to a ¾-in. rod which has been ground flat on one end. Holes in the rod to hold chain are 1¼ in. apart.—*C. B., Wisconsin.*

Write down the number of any new drive belts you buy and hang the list on your shop wall. When you need to replace the worn belt, you'll know exactly what to order.—*R. L., Nebraska.*

To loosen paint hardened on paint brushes, soak them in hot vinegar.—*M. K., Iowa.*

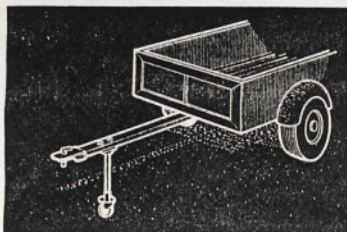
To move wide machinery through narrow gates, we made the non-hinged post removable. The post slips out of a buried pipe which holds it in place. Then, the adjoining section of fence is hinged to make room for machinery.—*P. H., Ohio.*

To keep canvas wagon and truck covers from getting torn on sharp corners of sideboards, we split an old garden hose and slip it over the corners.—*R. O., Illinois.*

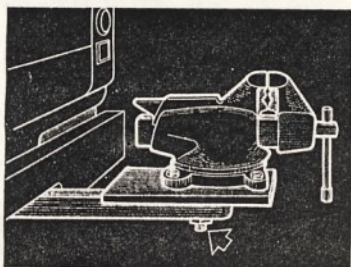
We got an old gaso-line nozzle from our petroleum company to use at the end of our water hose when mixing chemicals. This way we can have fingertip shutoff when filling saddle tanks.—*D. W., Michigan.*

We mounted two small wheels at the top end of our ladder. This makes it easy for one man to move the heavy ladder and roll it in place up the sidewall. The rubber tires also prevent side slippage.—*B. M., Illinois.*

This removable caster keeps our small trailer level when unhitched and provides a good grip for maneuvering the trailer by hand. The pipe and caster screw into a threaded hole in the mounting plate, which remains bolted to the trailer hitch.—A. W., Wisconsin.



Idea of the month _____



Our portable vice is carried in the toolbox of our pickup until needed. Then it is attached to the hitch with a large bolt welded to the bottom of the mounting plate.—T. H., Ohio.

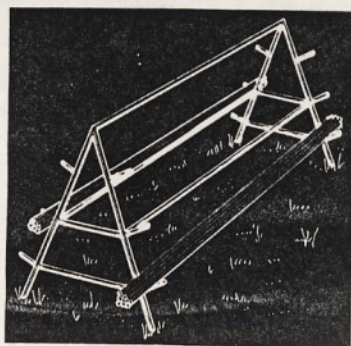
To protect a storm-damaged tree we saw off the broken limbs and coat the wound with melted paraffin wax.—S. L., Missouri.

I made this portable foot scraper from an old disk blade and one half-inch rod.—H. H., Iowa.



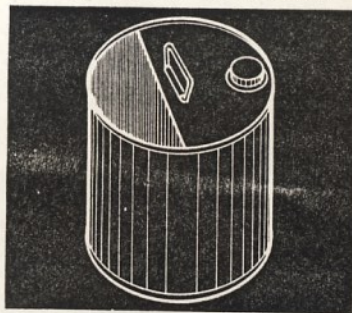
We use a hair dryer to dry the distributor cap and wires on a car or tractor after washing the engine.—A. H., Illinois.

Bundles of five or six twine strings tied to the fence in our hog lot keep the pigs from tailbiting.—R. W., Iowa.



We made this handy iron rack in the shape of an A-frame.—C. W., Iowa.

When breakdowns occur during busy times of the year, we take a Polaroid picture of the equipment and broken part. Our driver can then show the picture to the dealer, saving time and avoiding confusion.—D. T., Illinois.



We cut half the top out of a rinsed 5-gal. chemical can to make a handy container for draining oil out of our tractors. This doesn't weaken the handle and lets us easily carry and pour the used oil.—B. G., Missouri.

We keep extension cords untangled and ready for use by storing them coiled in 5-gal. cans.—D. S., Kansas.

This holster helps keep our saw handy on the sawhorse.—T. L., California.

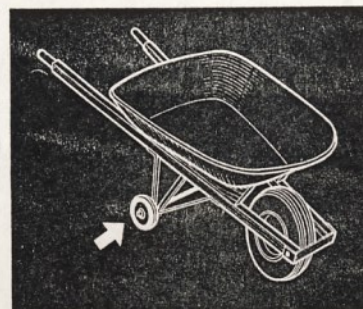
We made a gate in a steel stock panel. Cut a section off a panel, weld pieces of pipe to one section, run a steel rod through the pipe, forming a hinge, then weld the rod to the other piece of panel.—R. R., Missouri.



Keep gas and oil cans from sliding around in the back of the pickup truck by splitting lengths of garden hose and slipping them on the bottom of the cans.—J. K., Ohio.

Keep grease gun tips clean by slipping old shotgun shells over the ends after each use. Twelve- and sixteen-gauge shells are about the right size.—W. B., Wisconsin.

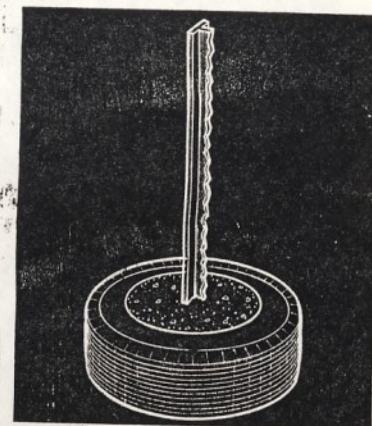
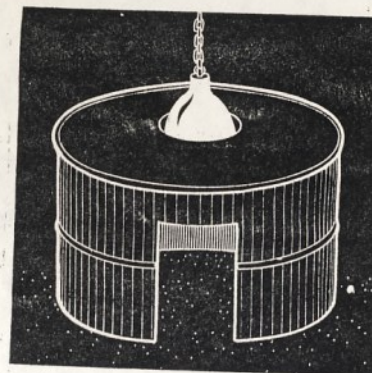
Our wheelbarrow is much easier to handle since we added these small wheels to the back. Frame for the axle is mounted to the handles of the wheelbarrow.—J. B., Minnesota.



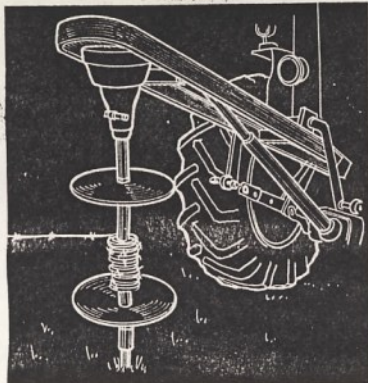
We made a bolt storage rack from a section of our old tandem disk. Stand the section up so the cup of the blades is to the top and brace and tie it back to the wall.—P. R., Nebraska.

We made portable fences in our feedlot by cementing steel posts in the center of used car and truck tires. These serve as posts to hold a line of panels that can be easily torn down and wheeled away when we are cleaning pens.—D. B., Iowa.

This half barrel makes a handy baby pig hut in our farrowing house. Cut a doorway in the side and a hole in the top for the heat lamp. Baby pigs sleeping in the barrel stay warmer than if they lie in the open.—J. S., Minnesota.



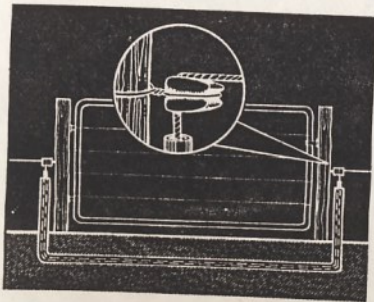
We built a portable fence by cementing fenceposts inside old tires. After fence is removed the post and tire can be rolled to another location. This works well to divide pens in our barnyard.—J. M., Iowa.



Our three-point mounted post-hole digger can also be used to roll up fence. The regular auger is replaced with a length of pipe with two disks welded in the center. A small pipe driven in the ground slips into the fence roller and keeps it running straight.—C. S., South Dakota

We cemented a large steel pipe in the middle of our hog lot and chained an old tire from the post. This keeps the pigs occupied and prevents them from fighting.—K. I., Iowa

We carry old tires filled with concrete to add weight to our vehicles for better wintertime traction. A rod cemented in the center serves as a handle.—B. B., South Dakota



To cross a gate opening with our electric fence wire, we buried a length of 1-in. galvanized pipe under the driveway and ran insulated wire through the pipe.—B. I., Iowa.

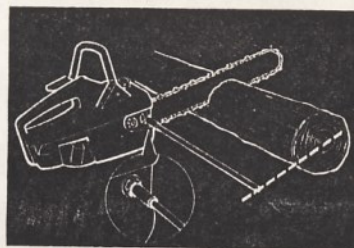
We bolted a large metal plate to the side of our hog feeder and welded the bars and pins necessary to adapt to a three-point hitch. Now, moving hog feeders out of the way to clean or from pen to pen is a one-man operation.—L. B., Iowa.

We cut the handles off old screwdrivers and keep the shafts and heads to mount in our electric drill. A variable speed, reversible drill really speeds up projects where a lot of screws need tightened.—T. J., Ohio.



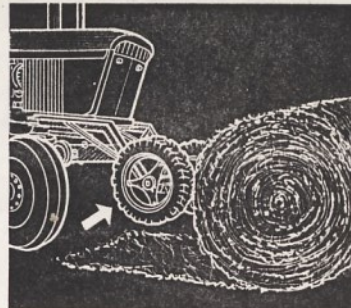
I mounted a spring-type broom holder on the side of our ladder to give me a place to hold extra tools and paintbrushes. Now when I'm at the top of the ladder, I don't have to worry about where to clip dirty brushes or extra tools.—F. G., Wisconsin.

A plastic jug makes a handy electric fence insulator in the area where we often have to lower the wire to drive across.—S. S., Kansas.



To cut firewood into uniform lengths, I welded a short piece of pipe and a rod to one of the chain bar mounting nuts on my chain saw.—J. K., Ohio.

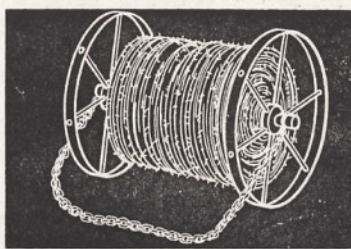
Unclogging augers is easier since I mounted an old truck steering wheel to the side of the auger pulley. The wheel gives better leverage and makes the auger easier to turn back and forth.—A. D., Indiana.



Big bales are easy to unroll with this unroller mounted on the front of our tractor. We built a bolt-on frame and mounted an axle and two tires at the end. As we drive into the bale, the small wheels turn the opposite direction of the tractor wheels.—I. C., Missouri.

We bolted a 12-in. strip of belting to the top edge of our dozer blade so that we can move more silage around while filling our pit.—J. T., Colorado.

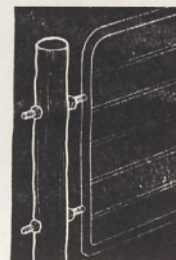
We unroll large round bales by shoving a shaft through the center of the bale then running a chain from each end to a hitch point on each tractor axle.—P. H., Nebraska.



Barbed wire is easy to unroll using this pull cart we built. The two wheels make the cart easy for one man to pull.—D. G., Nebraska.

We make cheap insulators for electric fences by running the wire through 2- to 4-in. pieces of split garden hose, then wiring the pieces to the posts.—T. L., California.

A small tricycle wheel on the end of our swinging gates makes them easy to open and close.—G. F., Iowa.



We welded long 3/4-in. threaded bolts to the brackets on our livestock gates to permit us to level sagging gates. Bolts run through the post and we level gates by turning nuts either in or out.—L. D., Montana.

A 2-ft. length of innertube protects the blade on our chain saw. Slip the blade in and the chain won't get bumped or dented.—D. G., Iowa.

A small can of oil fastened to the wall stud near where we hang scoop shovels and tools reminds us to brush on a little oil when storing equipment.

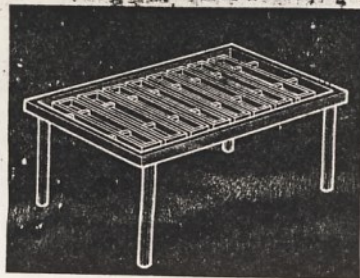
To unplug clogged spray paint cans, I slip the clogged nozzle on a can of spray penetrating oil. This unclogs the nozzle in a couple seconds.—D. C., Wisconsin.

To help keep new files sharp, slip them in a piece of old rubber hose for storage.—B. H., Indiana.

We hang hammers on U-bolts welded to the side of our welding table. This keeps hammers handy, but out of the way.—L. R., Texas.

We made a feed cart for our farrowing house by bolting three swivel wheels to the bottom of a 55-gal. drum. The swivel wheels and round shape of the barrel make the cart very easy to maneuver.—A. H., Pennsylvania.

Before painting farm machinery spread a thin coat of grease over the decals and trim. The paint won't dry on the grease and trim can be wiped clean.—H. F., Iowa



We built a welding table and used an old furnace grate for the top. The perforated top lets slag, weld and small metal pieces fall to the floor.—D. E., Illinois.

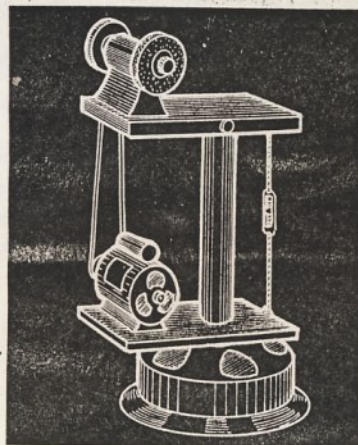
To keep hitch pins from jumping out we use a cross-section piece of an inner tube which becomes a heavy-duty rubber band. Fasten one end to the top of the hitch pin and pull the other end around the drawbar and slip it over the bottom end of the hitch pin.—J. M., Minnesota.

Our salt and mineral blocks stay out of the mud and snow now that we hang them from a tree or fence post. Tie the blocks up like packages and hang them just within the cattle's reach.—T. L., Minnesota.

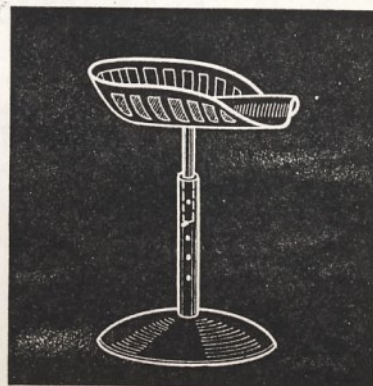
We talk into a tape recorder when disassembling complex machinery. This makes it easy to remember how to replace parts, and tapes can be filed for reference.—V. S., Michigan.

A worn plastic seed corn plate makes a good corner insulator on electric fences. Wire the plate to the pole and turn it parallel to the ground and tie both wires to the plate or turn it vertical and run the uncut wire through.—M. D., Nebraska.

We set up an old furnace or air conditioner blower fan to blow the chaff and fines out of our grain each time we handle it. Set the fan so the grain falls freely in front of the blast of air.—C. H., Michigan.



This movable grinder stand was built from an old truck rim and a piece of 5-in. pipe. The lower shelf holds the motor and is fastened solid but the top shelf, holding the grindstone, pivots in the center. This permits the belt to be tightened by way of the turnbuckle.—L. M., Illinois.

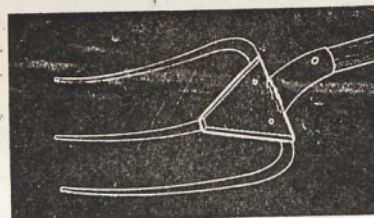


This handy shop stool was made from parts out of our scrap pile. A disk blade is used for the base and an old tractor seat for the seat. The seat height is adjustable as two pipes slip inside each other and can be pinned in place.—J. Z., Indiana

I color code my tools to keep them from getting mixed up between tractors and the shop.—D. M., Illinois

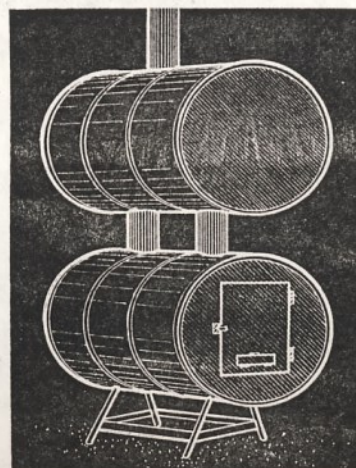
To drill a hole through a threaded bolt first run a nut down to the area where you want the hole, then drill through both the nut and the bolt. This makes it easier to drill a straight hole.—W. B., Wisconsin

We fastened two clothespins to the rear of our welding cabinet to make a place to hang welding gloves.—G. R., Pennsylvania



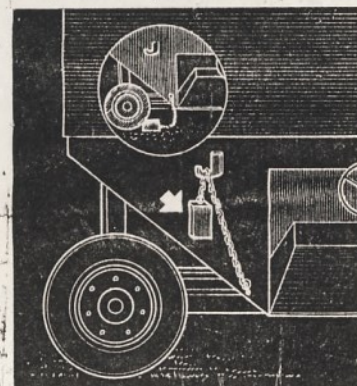
This sickle section welded on our pitchfork is a handy way to cut twine on hay and straw bales.—J. Y., Indiana

Our rubber boots are easier to slip off and on, particularly when they get wet, when we sprinkle baby powder inside each boot.—M. G., Ohio

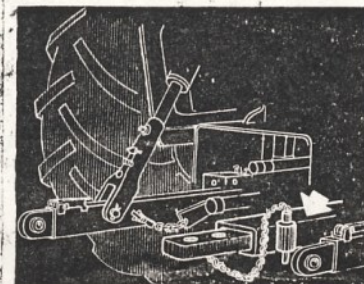


Get your shop ready for winter with this economical wood-burning stove. The stove is built from two used 55-gal. oil drums, stovepipe, an old furnace door and angle iron for the base. The top drum provides additional heating surface.—B. M., North Dakota.

We keep our wagons from rolling with this 2½-ft. chain and 4"x4" block of wood.—M. G., Missouri.



To fill flat tires in emergencies, we carry a length of air hose with tire chucks on both ends. The hose can be used to transfer enough air from nearby tires to get the vehicle back to the shop.—G. J., Wisconsin.

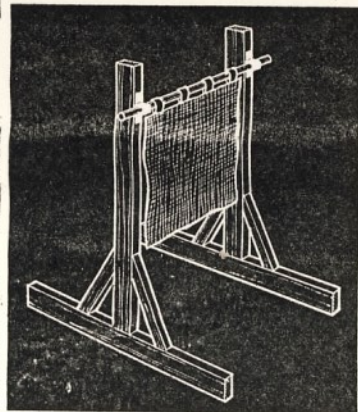


We avoid losing hitch pins by welding a short section of pipe to our tractor drawbar. Then we weld one end of a short length of chain to the hitch pin and weld the other end of the chain to the drawbar.—R. W., Wisconsin.

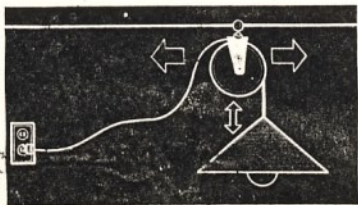
We keep aluminum foil in our tractor toolboxes since it comes in handy for many uses including keeping dirt off

We ran a small length of rod through the top of our hog feeder and welded it to a large plate inside the feeder. As the feed level goes down, the rod sinks and we know how much feed is in the feeder.—M. K., Indiana.

We hang dust bags in doorways or narrow gates of our barn. A piece of pipe inserted through the loops on the bag keeps it from getting tangled.—M. V., Colorado.



The water level in our stock watering tanks is easy to check since we started floating a white plastic jug on the surface. String a line across the tank to keep the jug from blowing out. Keep the line loose so the jug sinks with the water level.—M. L., Kansas.

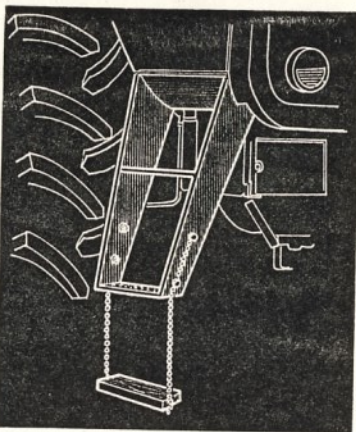


The light over our shop workbench moves back and forth on a pulley that runs on a wire running on top of the bench. We move the light by winding or unrolling cord from the spool and sliding the pulley down the wire.—T. M., Ohio.

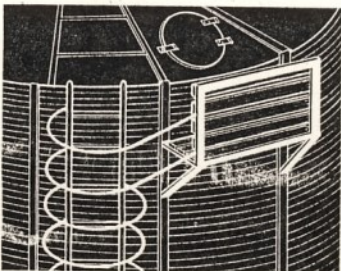
A 4-in. length of 2-in.-diameter pipe slips over the handle of our sledge hammer and is welded to the head. This prevents the handle from breaking or splintering.—M. G., Indiana.

Two flat pieces of metal bolted to the blade and base of our log splitter make it a good chemical can crusher.—K. D., Ohio.

When our grain drying fans are not in use, we keep dirt and moisture out of the motor by covering them with plastic. An old bicycle tube snaps around the fan housing to keep the cover in place.—B. B., Iowa.

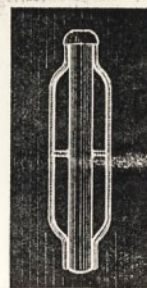


This additional step makes it easier to climb into our tractor cab. It's best to hang the step with two pieces of roller chain so it swings in and out but not back and forth thus avoiding the tire.—E. C., Indiana.



This safety platform built below the roof vent of our grain bin makes it easier to work on stirration equipment and is a handy platform to take grain samples from. We also used small tubing to make a safety cage around the ladder on the bin. The top two rungs extend to the platform so the area is entirely enclosed.—D. B., Iowa.

We made handles for our fence post driver from reinforcing rods. This makes the awkward driver easier to use while driving posts and easier to carry along the fence line between posts.—G. K., Minnesota.

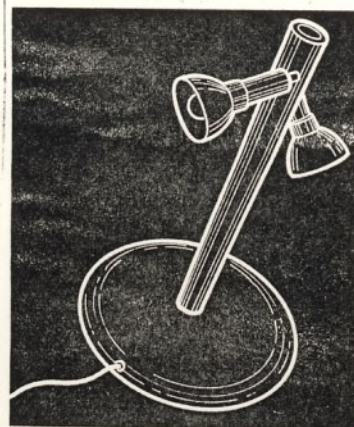


A plastic drinking straw slipped over the spout of our oil squirt can guides oil to hard-to-get places.—J. K., Ohio.

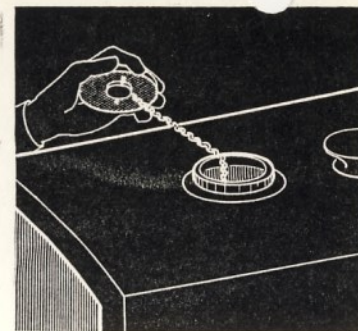
Two hitch pins with a 3-ft. section of rod welded to them make it easy for one man to hook up heavy trailers. Just slip one pin in the pickup hitch, another in the trailer tongue and line the two rods up.—J. K., Ohio.

We cut the top out of a 2-gal. plastic chemical jug and slip it over our tractor radio whenever we must leave it outside. This protects the radio from dirt and moisture and keeps it running longer.—D. S., Iowa.

We made this shop light by welding a length of pipe to a disk blade and bolting a pair of swivel lights to the pipe.—J. F., Iowa.

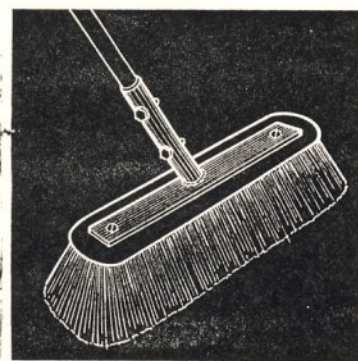


Leftover paint will not dry if cans are upside down.—J. R., Minnesota.



This piece of light chain prevents us from losing the fuel and radiator caps from our tractors.—J. S., South Dakota.

We carry old rolling coulter blades in our trucks. They come in handy in the field as a base for hydraulic jacks.—J. Z., Indiana.



Our shop broom handles don't break anymore since we reinforce them with a piece of sheet metal and length of pipe. Insert the wooden handle through a hole in the sheet metal and then weld the pipe on the handle to the sheet metal.—D. B., Indiana.

We mounted old tire rims on the pipe stand of our water hydrants to make a handy place to coil hoses.—J. J., South Dakota.

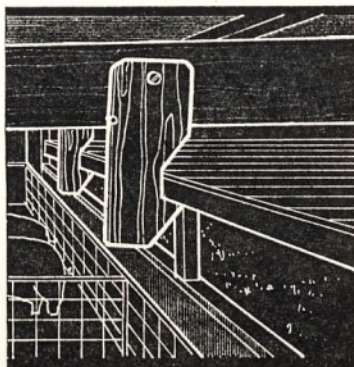
An old windshield-wiper blade works well to spread an even coat of glue over a large area.—W. B., Wisconsin.



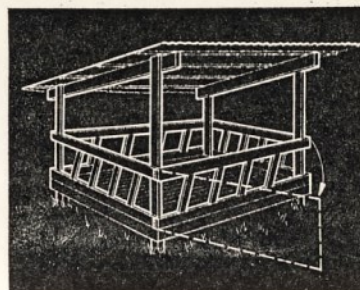
Improve pickup traction by cutting inert tubes, filling them with sand and tying the ends. Mounted over the wheel wells, these weights leave the bed free and provide sand which can be spread on ice for traction when stuck.—M. C., Colorado.

A quart of antifreeze poured in the bottom track of our machine shed door helps keep it clear of winter ice.—G. H., Kansas.

Idea of the month



Free both hands for lifting modified open-front hog-house panels with these latches made from $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. plywood or 2x6-in. lumber. When raising panel, it hits lower incline, latch swings open, then locks into place. When closing panel, a quick push against upper incline swings latch open; door can then drop past latch. A large, removable nail in drilled hole holds latch in place when panel is up.—E. S., Nebraska.



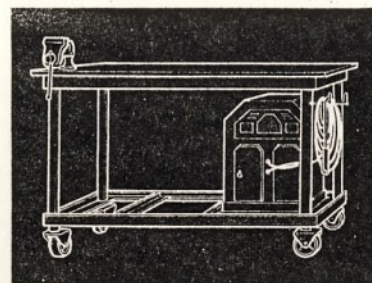
We built this wooden round bale feeder to keep hay dry. It is 7 ft. square with the floor 2 ft. off the ground and the roof 8 ft. high. One end swings open to fill the feeder.—C. M., Missouri.

We mounted mud flaps to our pickup by using hinges. The hinges permit the flaps to swing backward or forward to prevent them from getting torn off.—G. M., Nebraska.

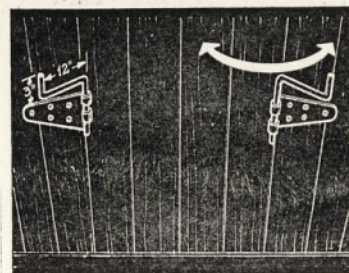
We slit the side of a 5-gal. plastic bucket lengthwise. This allows it to stretch apart and be slipped over electric motors of bin augers and fans that must sit outside.—G. H., Ohio.

Idea of the month

Caster wheels on our welding table make it easy to move around the shop. A shelf underneath holds our welder so that it can be moved to welding jobs around the shop or even across the yard.—D. M., Nebraska.



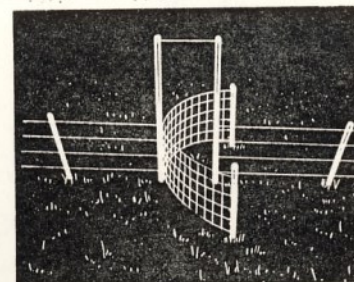
We mounted a mirror on the front of our livestock trailer to make it easier to back up to the ball hitch with our pickup.—M. S., North Dakota.



We store the stock racks from our pickup on these hangers made from old door hinges and $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. steel rod. The hangers fold up against the wall when not in use.—J. C., Ohio.

Keep battery terminals clean to ease cold-weather starting by pouring a teaspoon of soda in $\frac{3}{4}$ quart of hot water over the terminals each month.—H. R., Minnesota.

To help gates swing clear of winter snow and still keep in little pigs in the summer, we added a second, higher set of lag bolt gate hangers. Use the lower set in summer and higher set after a snow.—A. Y., Missouri.

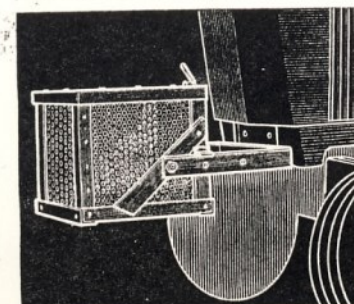


We made a simple, effective entrance to our cattle pasture by bending a 10-ft. heavy wire panel in a semicircle around a 2-ft.-wide opening in the fence. Make the bend sharp enough that cattle can't make the turn.—M. Z., Nebraska.

Hanging electrical cord from a thread spool nailed into the shop wall will help keep the cord from breaking or cracking.—L. S., Wisconsin.

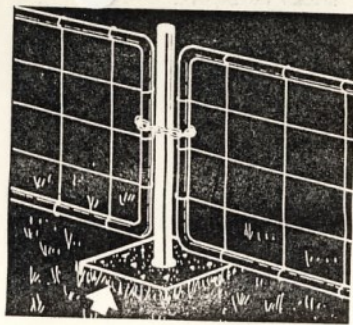


By placing a 12-in. section of pipe filled with sand in the ground around a water hydrant, we reduce the possibility of breaking the hydrant in accidental collisions.—W. S., Kansas.

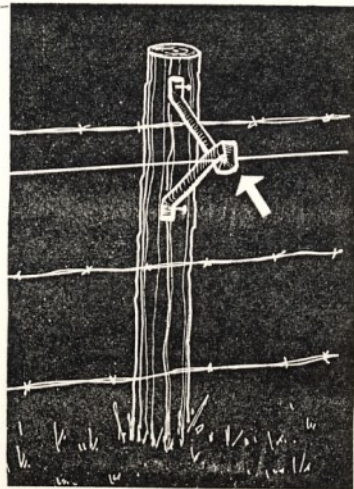


We made this gravity-dump rock box from scrap metal at a cost of only \$11. Frame is heavy angle iron, sides are hammer-mill screen, bottom is old plow shares.—J. E., Wisconsin.

Prevent setscrews from vibrating loose by dropping a lead BB shot into hole, then tightening setscrew down on top of it. Shot compresses and holds setscrew securely.—B. S., North Dakota.

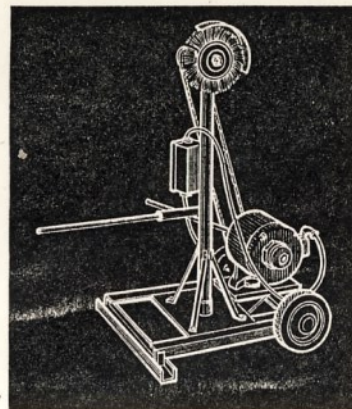


Our swinging gate sagged on one end when we used it across a wide opening so we decided to use two shorter gates and join them at a post in the center. A cement footing with a large diameter pipe in the center is poured at ground level. The smaller pipe, which serves as the gate support, is set in the larger pipe and can then be removed to let vehicles through the gate.—*D. E. Illinois.*



We make electric fence insulators from sections of plastic pipe bent around the wire and nailed into wooden fence posts. It's inexpensive and works to keep the fence from grounding out.—*S. K., Minnesota.*

To free a car stuck on ice, I place roofing shingles, rough side down, in front of and behind each rear wheel.—*G. C., Missouri.*

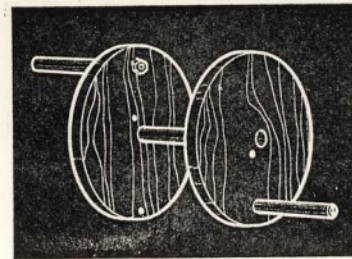


This portable wire brush wheel lets us move messy cleaning jobs outside, which helps keep the shop neat.—*H. J., Pennsylvania.*

We mounted two swivel vices at opposite ends of the welding table to firmly hold large, awkward welding jobs.—*J. D., Missouri.*

To keep track of bolts and small parts during a big repair job, I store them in glass jars, then identify where the part belongs with labeled masking tape on the jars.—*L. A., Minnesota.*

We built this stand for our anvil by welding three automobile rims to a fourth rim with the tire intact. Two pieces of angle iron welded across the top rim serve as the frame to hold the anvil.—*B. C., Florida.*

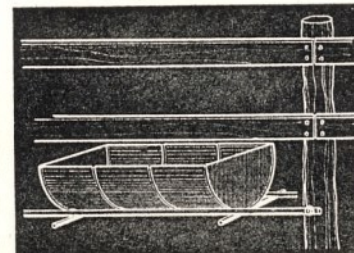


We wind wire easily with this spool made of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. plywood and steel pipe. A small hole drilled in each side near the center helps start the wire.—*L. G., Pennsylvania.*

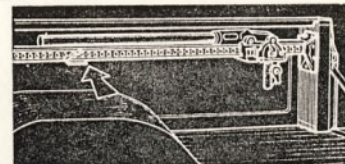
I keep ice from forming overnight on the rear-view mirrors of my truck by slipping a plastic shower cap over them each evening.—*B. K., Iowa.*

To keep sliding shed doors operating freely all winter, I mounted electrical heat tape in each door's trench.—*J. K., Ohio.*

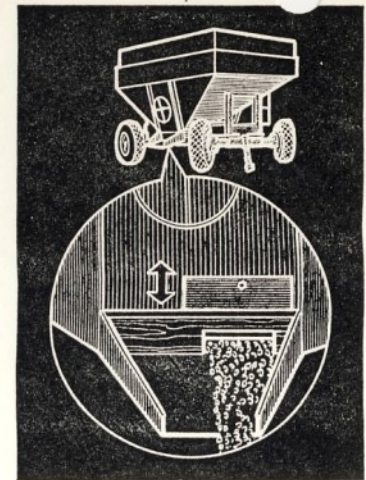
A vice mounted on the back of our pickup helps speed field repairs.—*B. R., California.*



A barrel cut lengthwise makes a solid, economical fence-line feeder. After thoroughly washing the barrel, weld it to steel pipe and bolt the pipe to the fence posts.—*C. C., Wisconsin.*

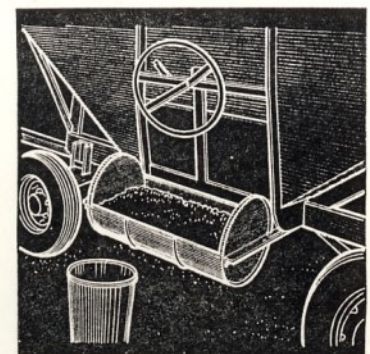


Our jack, mounted in the bed of the pickup, stays free from dirt and is easy to remove by loosening one wing nut. The base is slipped over a bolt secured to the bed.—*G. S., Kansas.*



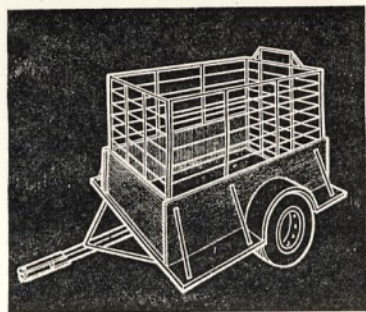
To easily dump grain into a 5-gal. bucket for filling planter boxes from our gravity-bed wagon, we cut a 2x6 to fit snugly into the dump tray. We cut a section out of one corner of the board to let the grain flow out. Any small, thin sheet of metal will work as a gate to shut off the grain flow.—*J. B., Illinois.*

A piece of tape across one side of a wrench head will hold nuts long enough to get them started on hard-to-reach bolts.—*B. C., Minnesota.*



This hopper we built for our gravity bed wagon is handy for unloading seed beans and bulk fertilizer in the field. Made from a used 55-gal. barrel, the hopper is attached to the wagon with bolts and angle iron braces.—*B. J., Minnesota.*

We weld used plowshares to the front of our tractor-mounted manure bucket and blade to replace the worn edges.—K. K., Pennsylvania

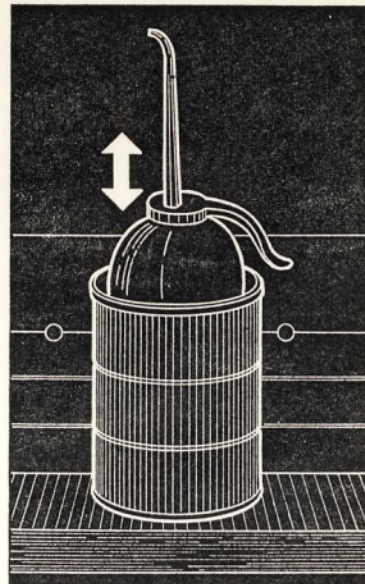
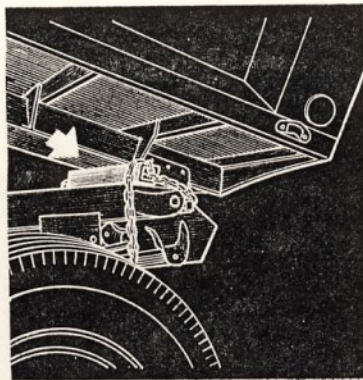


We built this two-wheeled stock trailer from the old box of a pickup truck. Just cut the frame off and weld a hitch to the front of the box. It's a handy way to move livestock from farm to farm.—D. R., North Dakota

We use two rows of big round bales for a snow fence to keep our yard clear. Stagger the bales about 10 ft. apart and place the rows about 100 ft. upwind from the yard. This gives the snow a place to build up before it gets to the yard.—J. L., Illinois

Idea of the month

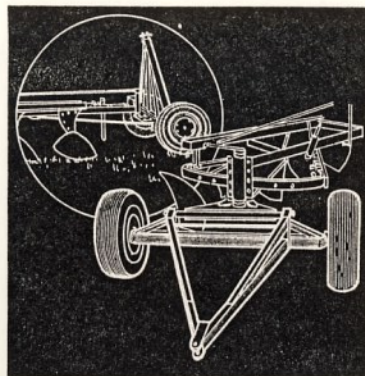
This length of heavy channel iron or tubing serves as a safety lock to hold our truck bed in the up position when we're working around it. The block is chained to the truck frame to keep it from slipping.—H. M., Pennsylvania



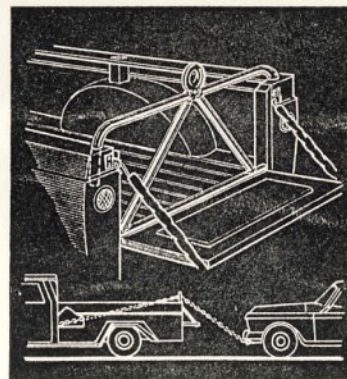
A tin can bolted to the floor or fender of our equipment makes a good place to store oil cans. Can won't roll around and spill and is always handy when needed.—B. W., South Dakota.

Idea of the month

We built this two-wheeled hitch to move our semi-mounted plow without having to hook to the tractor. This comes in handy for moving the plow to the field behind our pickup truck.—T. K., Oklahoma.



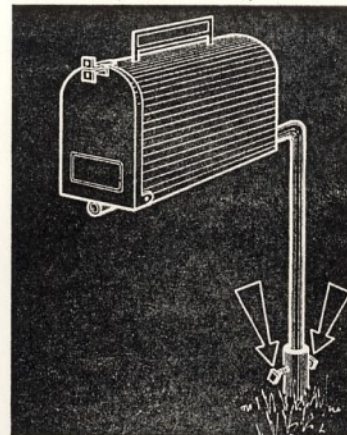
I built extra torque into a screwdriver by welding a nut on the shank about 3 in. from the end. This allows me to turn the screwdriver with a wrench.—H. R., Minnesota.



We improved the towing traction of our 2-WD pickup with this frame of welded tubular steel. It raises the tow line, putting more force down into the wheels.—S. C., Florida.

Idea of the month

This breakaway mailbox post is held in place by a light bolt at the base. The bolt will break on impact, allowing the mailbox to swivel, so we only have to replace the bolt, not the mailbox.—C. W., Iowa.



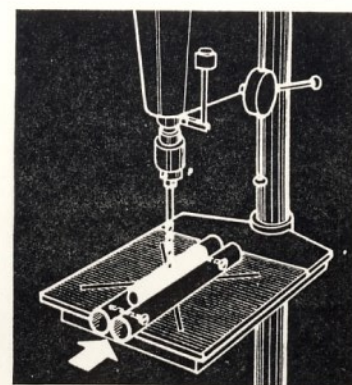
I made some heavy-duty sawhorses out of 1-in. steel pipe. The top is made of two 5-ft. sections welded together. The braces are used pipe hammered flat at the ends.—T. B., Wisconsin.



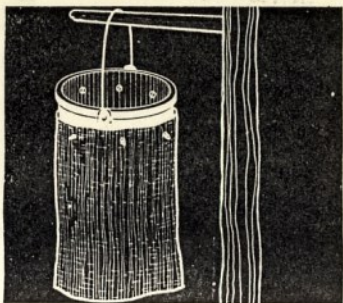
To save on electricity used by the block heater on our tractor, we hooked the heater to an electrical timer we bought at the hardware store. We set the timer to start the heater about two hours before chore time in the morning.—M. H., Illinois.

To keep moisture out of the nozzle of our gas pump, we use a short piece of plastic pipe, just slightly larger in diameter than the nozzle and plugged at one end. This stays on through any windstorm.—C. R., Nebraska.

Idea of the month



To drill pipe or irregularly shaped objects, I made a V-block out of two pieces of large-diameter pipe bolted together and clamped onto the drill press.—G. R., Illinois.



We cut the bottom out of a 5-gal. bucket to make it easier to fill feed sacks. Sack filling becomes a one-man job by hanging the bucket on a post or bar and hooking the sack on a row of screws protruding along the bottom of the bucket.—*T. L., Minnesota.*

When changing oil in tractors and vehicles I slip a plastic bread wrapper over my hand. This keeps me from getting oil on my hands and clothes when removing the drain plug or handling the filter.—*O. K., Missouri.*

A brightly colored strip on the inside of our pickup tailgate just above the hitch gives the truck driver a guide when backing up to trailers and implements.—*S. G., North Dakota.*

A hex-headed bolt can be made into an extension for your socket wrench. Just grind the threaded end of the bolt square to a size that will fit into the socket. The hex end fits into the socket at the wrench. Several bolts can be trained together for a very long extension.—*F. G., Wisconsin.*

Easily cut sandpaper to fit sanders by mounting a fine-toothed hacksaw blade to a bench top. Slide the sandpaper under the blade, hold down firmly and get a clean cut every time.—*G. S., Minnesota.*

When building feed floors for our hog houses, we pour the concrete around empty 3-lb. coffee cans placed upside down and spaced 8 ft. apart. Then we can drive steel posts through the cans, and wire panels to them for temporary fences.—*R. M., Iowa.*

When nailing finish wood we slip a leather square with a hole punched in the center over the nail we're driving. This prevents hammer marks in the wood. From the depth of the leather the nail can be driven with a nail set.—*D. R., South Dakota.*

When we want to mix paint we replace the can lid with a lid that we've drilled a hole through. We bent a rod to act as a stirring device and, after this is stuck through the hole, the lid is sealed on the can. Now we can mix paint without a mess.—*W. O., Illinois.*



To keep cans of paint from slipping off stepladders, we bolt a shallow tin can to the top step. Pick can size so that the paint can slips into the shallower can.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*

Idea of the month



We built a removable light for our tractor by mounting a headlamp on a small piece of pipe that slips into a larger pipe that is bolted to the tractor fender. Extra electrical wiring running to the light makes it portable for nighttime repairs on the tractor or equipment.—*G. T., New Jersey.*

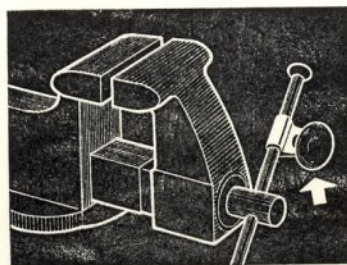
To soften jerks when we're pulling our pickups or cars we hook an old tire between two chains. The chain from the pulling vehicle loops through the tire and then doubles back to the vehicle while another chain on the vehicle being pulled does the same.—*G. M., North Dakota.*



To keep the big doors on our building from blowing open we cemented a pipe in the ground just below ground level so we can drive over it. When the door is closed we drop a smaller pipe into the large one to block the door shut.—*C. K., Maryland.*

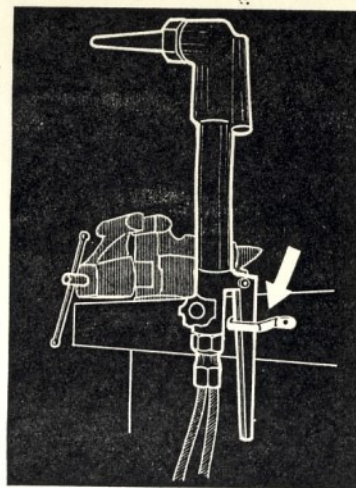
We tied a burlap bag to the step on our tractor. We keep the cab clean by wiping our feet before getting in.—*D. S., Pennsylvania.*

I keep a list of all commonly used parts and serial numbers in my wallet so I'm sure to pick up the right parts at the dealer's.—*Z. W., Ohio.*



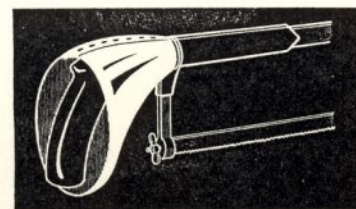
We've always had problems running our vise in and out, especially when it was mounted so the handle ran close to the edge of the bench. To solve the problem we clamped a steering wheel spinner on the handle. Now we can run the vise in with one hand and not nick our fingers.—*R. L., Nebraska.*

Our cutting torch no longer gets in the way when we're using it around the shop bench since we built these hangers. These also keep torch tip from being damaged.—*M. G., Ohio*



We mount a small light on the end of our combine unloading auger and shine it where the grain will fall in the wagon. This lets us know when wagons are full at night.—*T. D., Iowa*

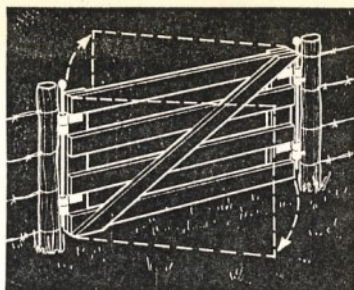
An old fishing tackle box works good to take a variety of nuts and bolts to the field. The smaller screws fit in the top trays and larger bolts in the bottom.—*C. M., Iowa*



We fit a piece of inner tube on the handle of our hacksaw to protect our knuckles from being scraped. Cut the tube into a strip, sew it together in the right place and trim off the excess.—*B. M., Illinois*

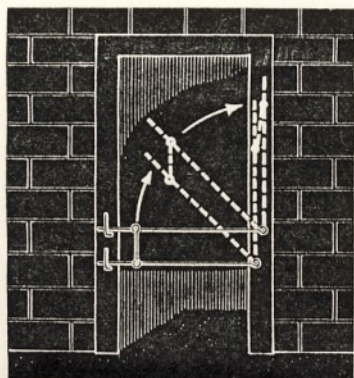
We fastened a quart jar to the frame of our fuel barrel stand so the delivery man has a place to leave our tickets.—*C. R., Missouri.*

We built the gate into our barnlot so that it swings either way. The hinges for the posts are made by welding a pipe on the end of a bolt, then turning it into the post. Gate hinges are made by welding pipe to a piece of flat iron which is bolted to the gate. A long rod slips through all four pipes at each end of the gate. Removing either one of these rods lets the gate swing open.—*M. C., Nebraska.*



Planting point rows was a problem with our Cyclo air planter until I discovered that by wrapping a piece of tape around the drum and sealing the holes, we could cut off the seed to overlapping rows.—*N. W., Iowa.*

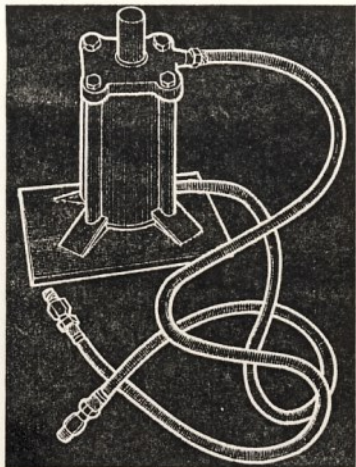
This cattle stop allows air to flow freely through our barn. Cross members, fastened to the door with lag screws, are 3/4-in. pipe. Vertical piece is 1-in. strap iron.—*G. K., Minnesota.*



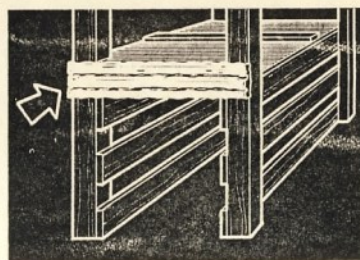
A light chain and "S" hook helps line up PTO drive shaft for hookup and keeps it off the ground for storage. Chain wraps securely around upper frame, away from rotating shafts, when equipment is in use.—*J. F., Oregon.*

Idea of the month

We made this heavy-duty jack by welding an old 4-in hydraulic cylinder to a metal base plate. Hooked up to tractor, it lifts heavy loads easily and quickly.—*E. C., Arkansas.*



I mark different corn varieties at planting time by tying an old license plate on the fence where I switch seed. Just record the tag number along with the variety and they'll be easy to keep straight all season.—*R. K., Iowa.*

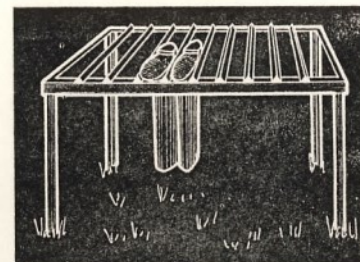


We split an old tire in half and nailed it around the edge of our livestock loading ramp. This acts as a cushion when backing up to the chute and also keeps livestock from getting feet caught between the truck bed and the chute.—*T. S., Colorado.*

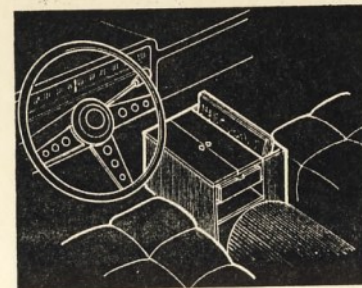
When disconnecting electrical wiring we label each wire by sticking a small tab of masking tape on the wire. By numbering the pieces of tape you can keep wires in order when reconnected.—*W. B., Wisconsin.*

We carry an old pair of socks in our tractor toolbox to cover the ends of hydraulic hoses when not in use.—*D. D., Wisconsin.*

Idea of the month

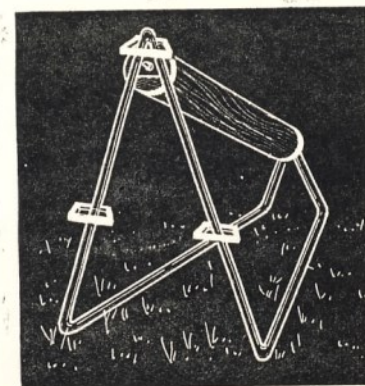


This boot rack helps keep overshoes clean and dry. We made it out of narrow angle iron and keep it just outside the barn.—*B. H., Iowa.*



This center console keeps things from building up on the dash of my pickup truck. We built it with a slide-out drawer for small pieces, a slot to hold magazines and a lower shelf for larger items.—*K. M., Illinois.*

We welded these "stirrups" to a specially built frame for our cattle oiler. We now move it using the quick-attach hitch on the tractor lift.—*L. B., Iowa.*



To keep the valve stem from slipping back into the rim when mounting a tire, slip a flat washer over the stem and secure it with the cap.—*J. V., North Dakota.*

To keep spark plug wires matched with the correct cylinder when cleaning or changing plugs, I attach numbered clothespins to each wire before removing them.—*G. E., Iowa.*

A thin coat of oil prevents these tools from rusting.—*F. L., Ohio.*