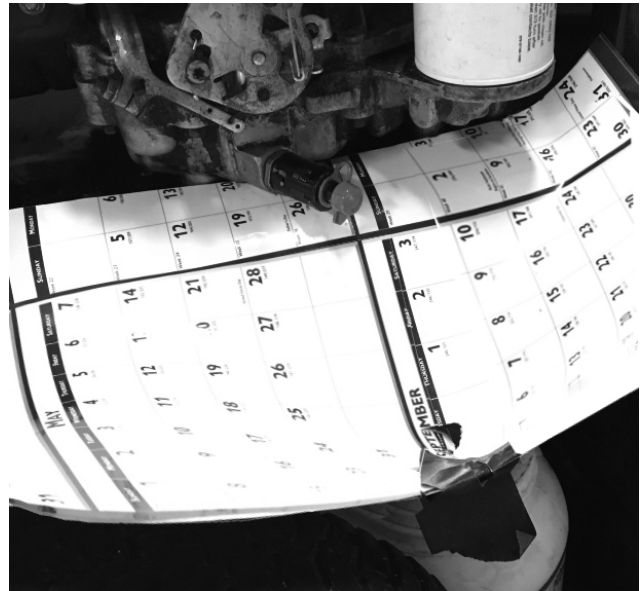


B-23 Reducing Oil Mess *By Bob Olbers*

I FIND large, laminated wall calendars very helpful for planning trips and events. And recently, I thought of another use for them after they expire; they can be cut up into very handy custom oil-drain “funnels.”

I first tried this out while changing the oil on a riding mower. It is often difficult to avoid oil spilling all over the frame, especially when removing the oil filter. I cut part of an old glossy calendar to fit nicely around the oil drain and filter and made a hole in the center to allow the oil to drain down into a catch container underneath. It worked great, and really helped keep the oil out of all those nooks and crannies that it otherwise would have found its way into. Afterwards, I simply discarded the soiled portion of the calendar along with the oil bottles and filter.

The same idea can be used for any number of tight-quarters fluid filling or draining operations such as we find in our cars. □



The funnel-shaped stiff paper tucks under the oil drain and diverts the flow downward. The calendar is taped to the edge of the receiving container a hole poked into to calendar sends it into the jug.