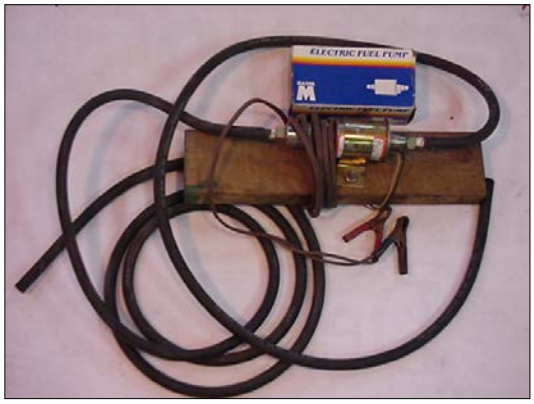

Fuel Transfer
By Wendell Smith

When I was a kid growing up, my Dad never bothered with gasoline containers when servicing small engines. Whenever the yard needed mowing, or a small quantity of fuel was needed for another purpose, he would just go out and siphon some fresh gas out of the car. Although I siphoned a lot of gas on my own, I was never able to perfect the skill to the point where I could avoid getting a mouth full of fuel.

A few years ago I rigged up a device for transferring fuel and light oils. I bought an inexpensive self-priming 12 volt in-line fuel pump at an automotive store. This is the type of pump that is typically used to pump fuel from the rear fuel tank to the engine in an automobile. I selected a pump with one of the higher volume outputs. I then attached the pump to a block of wood and connected about five feet of 5/16 inch rubber gas line hose to both the inlet and the outlet of the pump. I installed about 12 ft. of light weight lamp wire and put clips on the positive and negative ends to connect to a car battery. When pumping gasoline I also connect a ground wire between the pump, the unit from which I am pumping, and the container I am pumping into. This is a precaution to avoid static electricity. I have used the pump to move hydraulic oil, diesel, and gasoline. The pump will move five gallons of fluid in about three minutes. I am not sure Underwriters Laboratories would approve of my fluid transfer device, however I can assure you that it leaves a better taste in your mouth than the siphoning technique.