

## “Corn Head Grease” Gun for Filling Lower Units

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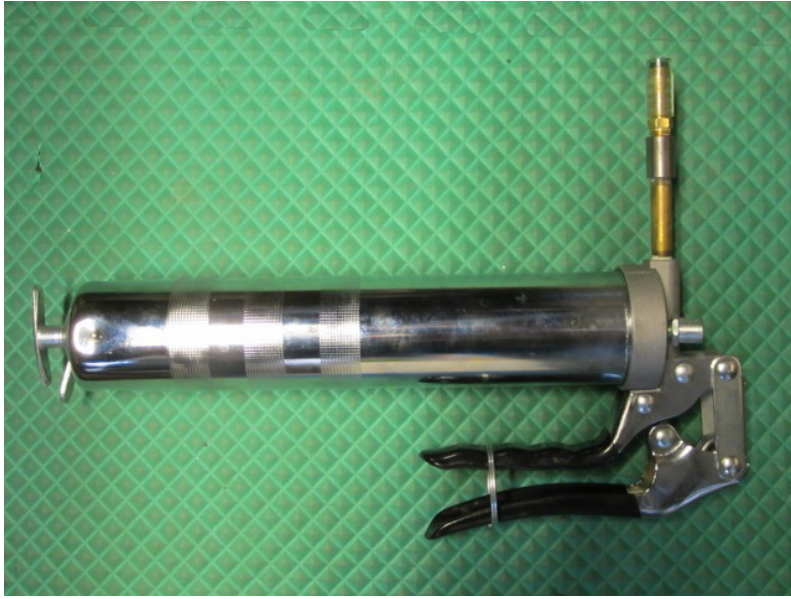
[Editors note: Really old outboards often didn't have ball bearings in them, they often had bronze bushings. In addition, these older motors often didn't have modern rubber seals on the shafts. Instead, they used "packing" to try and contain the oil in the lower unit.

Today, these older motors tend to leak oil rather badly. One solution to this is to replace your lower unit oil with something called "Corn Head Grease". This is a grease invented for corn harvesting machines. It's thick like grease at room temperatures, but liquefies when it gets hot. It's a superior lubricant for bronze bushings, and doesn't tend to leak out when the motor is idle. Is something you might want to consider for your really old, antique outboards!]

Ever since I read the article in the "Outboarder" about using "Corn Head Grease" for a replacement lubricant in lower units I started looking for a supplier. I didn't realize it but there is a Commercial John Deere dealer only a couple miles from my house.

The corn head grease comes in the standard 14 oz cartridge that fits most grease guns and is very reasonable price wise. The second thing I looked for was a grease gun to be able to pump it into the lower units. I had used my standard lever action gun a couple times but had to change cartridges every time I wanted to grease something different i.e. wheel bearings swivel pivots or a lower unit ! Being a true blue American, I was determined to find an American made grease gun, I looked at Lincoln (made in India) Alemite (made in China) Plews and several others all made over seas. Umeta I found was German made unit but didn't look any different from the Chinese made units and was much more costly compared to them. I finally settled on a pistol style model from O'Reilly Auto parts thinking it would work better with one hand to operate it and the other hand to hold the lower unit so I could hold pressure against the fill hole.

Most grease guns come with either a 1/8" pipe about 5" long and a zirk adapter on the end or a flex hose with the same. The gun I chose had the flex hose which wouldn't work for what I wanted to do, so I found a short 1/8" pipe nipple, a 1/8" coupling and a 1/4" barb fitting with an 1/8" NPT on it, assembled all the pieces screwed into the gun and added a short piece of plastic tubing to the barb fitting. It fits most of the standard fill holes in lower units, and the short piece of Tygon plastic hose makes a good seal to the gear housing.



I added a cartridge of the corn head grease to the gun and tried it out on my Nissan conversion motor with the Mercury Mark 5 lower unit. Works like a charm!



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