

“Wireless” Tachometer Ideal For Small Engine Maintenance

Troubleshooting and fine-tuning your small engines and older large engines is made a lot easier with the TA100 Smartach+. The wireless tachometer and engine analyzer provides rpm measurement and ignition peak voltage measurement using secondary ignition pickup. It also records minimum and maximum readings.

“It’s designed for distributorless, conventional, magneto and most spark ignition systems,” explains Berge Baronian, General Technologies Corp. (GTC). “Where it will be most useful is on old tractors and trucks, forklifts and small gas engines.”

The hand-held, battery-powered TA100 has a view screen with touchpad and keys for a number of cycles (2, 4, 6 and DIS), number of cylinders (1 to 12) and functions (peak kV or rpm). The secondary ignition pickup doesn’t require the unit to be part of an actual circuit. The attached, flexible antenna sensor provides readings simply by being held against spark plug/ignition coil wires or near the distributor, coil pack or closely gathered spark plug/ignition wires.

When GTC provided FARM SHOW with a unit to evaluate, we shared it with several professional mechanics. While all agreed that it had limited application in newer engines, especially those with on-board computer-controlled electronics, small engines were another story.

“This would have been great to have when I was setting up new mowers,” says Jerry McCabe, McCabe Repairs. “Each one had to be tuned to the recommended rpm’s to optimize mowing. With this, you wouldn’t have to hook anything up to get a reading.”

McCabe allowed that it would make it easier for his small engine mechanic to determine whether a problem was electric or fuel-related.

The TA100 can be used to identify individual cylinder rpm’s as well as overall engine rpm’s. The kV function displays the relative strength of the ignition pulses in spark plug wires. While variation in ignition peak voltage of 25 percent is normal, higher voltage readings can indicate a lean fuel mix-



Wireless tachometer and engine analyzer makes troubleshooting and fine-tuning small engines an easier job.

ture, too wide a spark plug gap, a damaged, loose or disconnected wire, or a broken core in the wire.

Readings that are abnormally low can indicate spark plug problems, a broken wire core, a short circuit or other partial or full disconnection, a rich fuel mixture or low cylinder compression pressure.

“If you have a 4-cylinder engine with one cylinder misfiring, you can find the problem cylinder quickly just by comparing the readings and looking for a variation on one,” says Baronian. “We have built a great following for the TA100.”

Baronian adds that a new model is being introduced in 2011. It’s the TA500. It will offer the same functions, but is designed for use with newer engine ignition systems as well as conventional older engines.

The TA100 has a suggested retail price of \$220. However, Baronian says it’s regularly discounted by retailers to around \$150. The TA500 is expected to have a suggested retail price of around \$500, but final costs are subject to component price increases.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, General Technologies Corp., #121 - 7350 72nd St., Delta, British Columbia, Canada V4G 1H9 (ph 604 952-6699; toll free 800 440-5582; info@gtc.ca; www.gtc.ca).

Tool Set Restores Farmall Grilles

If you’ve got a Farmall tractor with a damaged grille, you’ll like these new grille repair tools.

“They can take the dents out in just a few minutes,” says Dick Sundahl, Sundahl’s Restoration Tooling, Faribault, Minn.

Sundahl’s grille re-forming tools for Deere tractors have been featured before in FARM SHOW (Vol. 29, No. 4). “We’ve had a lot of requests for Farmall tractors,” says Sundahl.

His new 3-piece punch and die set is designed to fit the basic grilles produced for Farmall A, B and C models between 1939 and 1954. The tool set restores the horizontal bars of the grilles to original factory shape. The die also acts as a gauge for correct spacing between bars.

Sundahl has also introduced a grille re-forming tool set for Farmall M and W-6 tractors; for H and W4 Farmalls; and for 600-650 and W9 models made from 1940-1958. All these tool sets sell for \$59 plus \$6 S&H.

He has also introduced 5-piece sets to reform the vertical and horizontal grille bars on Farmall 300-350 and 400-450 models (\$100 plus \$6 S&H); and he has introduced 2-piece sets for 1955 and newer Farmall Cub models and for 100 - 230 Farmall Cub models made



Sundahl’s grille repair tools help re-form Farmall tractor grille’s to their original shape.

from 1954 to 1958 (\$40 plus S&H).

Instructions and tips are included with the purchase of any grille tool set. Additional grille tool sets are also available for Oliver, Ford, Case and Minneapolis Moline tractors.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sundahl’s Restoration Tooling, 1703 Greenwood Place, Faribault, Minn. 55021 (ph 507 334-8966; info@sundahltooling.com; www.sundahltooling.com).



Chris Westfall operates a business selling used Cub Cadet tractors and parts. Past customers and acquaintances help him find tractors to add to his parts list or to resell.

He Runs Cub Parts Business In His Spare Time

If you need a part for a Cub Cadet, Chris Westfall might have it. Westfall got into the used parts business when he went looking for a lawn mower and got hooked on Cub Cadets. Hundreds of tractors and 10 years later, he sells used Cub Cadet tractors and parts as a business.

“A friend had an old Cub Cadet in a barn. I found a mower, then a snow plow, followed by a tiller, and it just went from there,” says Westfall. “Today I have a 28-ft. trailer filled with parts that I take to tractor shows. I try to keep from 50 to 100 tractors on site for parts. I also sell new Cub Cadet parts, as well as Kohler motor parts. It’s my second full-time job.”

Westfall often has 10 to 12 Cub Cadet tractors for sale. Where he once did restoration work as well, today he sells “as is”.

“I used to have three and do pulling with them, but now I’m down to one,” he says. “I held on to a Cub 122, 12-hp model with a Hawk Bilt trencher that’s called a ground saw. It’s quite rare.”

When he finishes restoring the 122, it will

serve as an eye-catcher at shows he attends. He also maintains a website.

“I’ve sold parts to collectors in Sweden and South Africa, as well as all over the U.S. and Canada. I also get a lot of business from word of mouth.”

Westfall uses past customers and acquaintances to find tractors to add to his parts list or to resell. He says he is always looking and maintains a list of models that customers want.

“Prices depend on condition and model and can vary from \$200 to \$800 for gas or \$1,400 for diesel,” he says. “Some, like older models with fenders and headlights and creeper gear options, are very sought after. Other models are very plain Jane.”

Westfall operates the business evenings and weekends. He suggests calling after 4 p.m. Eastern time or contacting him by email.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chris Westfall, 3350 Hamburg Rd. S.W., Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (ph 740 808-4119 or 740 687-1067; breeze43130@yahoo.com; www.cubclassics.com).

Bosch Power Box Brings Quality Sound To The Field

Enjoy “surround sound” out in the field or on any jobsite with Bosch’s tough new Power Box 360 radio. Five speakers and an integrated subwoofer deliver quality sound in every direction.

Bosch’s familiar weatherproof, roll-cage design is the same as older models but the audio capabilities are a definite upgrade. The sound is more powerful, with twice the sound output in the Power Box 360S and up to five times the sound power output in the Power Box 360D. The system has four preset equalizer settings and a weather-sealed media bay for an iPod or other device. Or, plug in a media card, USB drive, CD player or SIRIUS satellite radio device.

The Power Box 360 can run on Bosch 14.4V or 18V lithium-ion power tool batteries and will also charge those batteries when plugged in. The USB port doubles as a charger for cell phones and other devices. The Power Box also has four GFCI outlets to power or charge tools or electronic devices, and a 12V DC (car charger) outlet.



Bosch’s rugged Power Box 360 radio brings “surround sound” to the field or jobsite.

The LCD display angles upward for easy viewing. The 360D model has a backlight front control panel for viewing in the dark and a remote control with onboard storage that works up to 40 ft. away.

The 360S model sells for around \$215, and the 360D model sells for around \$270. They are available through many dealers found on Bosch’s website.

Contact: Robert Bosch LLC, 38000 Hills Tech Dr., Farmington Hills, Mich. 48331 (ph 877 267 2499; www.boschtools.com).