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Robert Cashman, Munster, Ind.: Robert's happy with his **Deere 455** rear-wheel-steer lawn tractor. "I use it to mow 4 acres with a lot of buildings and trees on it. The rear wheel steering lets me get in and out of tight spots."

He's disappointed with his **Sub-Zero 550** refrigerator-freezer. "The thermostat on it has been replaced 4 times. The freezer is supposed to be frost-free but has never worked right. I had to spend money to add a drain heater and a heater for a refrigerator button (a factory modification). I thought I was buying the best, but instead I ended up with a poorly engineered lemon."

Dick Gallien, Winona, Minn.: "I like my 3-pt. mounted **Stryker 3403** log splitter (ph 800 248-4681; centralboiler.com). It features



a 2-way splitting action that splits wood in both the forward and reverse stroke. My model has both a 2-way and a 4-way blade and a hydraulic log lift/table that's rated at 550 lbs. The company offers self-contained and skid loader-powered models."

Mark Swihart, Mansfield, Ohio: "I bought my 2011 **Ford F-150 XL 4-WD** pickup used with about 4,300 miles on it. It's equipped with a 3.7-liter, V-6 engine and automatic transmission. This is a no-frills model, which I really like. It has a manual transfer case and roll-up windows, with no extra stuff to worry about or a dash full of knobs and switches to break. It gets 15 to 16 mpg in town and 23 to 24 mpg on the highway, which I think is great for a 4-WD pickup."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Rage II** Evolution chop saw equipped with a carbide-tipped blade instead of an abrasive wheel. "When I used it on 1/8-in. thick angle iron the blade only lasted for 12 to 15 cuts. I returned it and bought a new abrasive saw."

Bob Peter, Sedro-Woolley, Wash.: "Two years ago I bought a wireless indoor/outdoor thermometer from **The Weather Channel**, and it has worked well. It replaced an **Oregon Scientific** wireless indoor/outdoor thermometer that had problems."

Ken Gardner, Lebanon, Ct.: Ken's the satisfied owner of a 2013 **Kia Soul Plus** car equipped with a 2.0-liter, 4-cyl. engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. "I'm 79 years old and have had both hips and both knees replaced. I'm also 6 ft. 4 in. tall and weigh 240 lbs. What sold me on this car was the ease of getting in and out of it. It has enough headroom so I don't have to worry about bumping my head going in or out of the car, which is great. It gets more than 30 mpg, has plenty of power, rides great, and has an awesome sound system."

Andy Ehlinger, Wabeno, Wis.: "I bought my 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD** 4-WD pickup used in 2006 and have put more than 130,000 miles on it. It now has about 170,000 miles and has pulled a 5,000-lb. trailer during much of that time. A sensor went out, but otherwise this pickup has required only routine maintenance. The 6.0-liter gas engine on it has plenty of power."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Ridgid** 18-volt cordless tool set. "The drill broke

3 times and had to be sent in for repairs each time. The flashlight didn't work, and the sawzall broke. The only tool that didn't break was the circular saw, probably because I didn't use it as much."

Coy Woodall, Calvin, Okla.: Coy's disappointed with his 2012 **Branson 8050** 4-WD loader tractor. "At just 16 hrs. it started blowing fuel out the side of the injection pump, and it took the dealer 3 months to get parts to repair it. The front windows leak, and there's a bad rattle that I can't find. This tractor is a fuel hog and doesn't have nearly as much power as the dealer claimed. My old Ford 5000 will output it in 2-WD."

"The tractor has a nice, roomy cab, but there's no place to mount electronic equipment. It has a good air conditioner and the engine starts good in cold weather, but the front-end loader is bulky and hard to remove from the tractor."

Allen Kimball, Dover, Ark.: "I've already put about 6,000 miles on my 2013 **Ford Edge**, and my only problem is figuring out how to use the many computerized gadgets on it. It has plenty of power and is reasonably fuel efficient. My wife likes it, too."

"The air-powered zip saw I bought from **Harbor Freight** quit working soon after I bought it. I bought another one but it quit working, too. I've generally had good results with Harbor Freight products, but this one is a loser."

Ed Goff, Campbellville, Ky.: "I've been using my 1948 **Deere B** tractor for 54 years, and it's the only tractor on my 40-acre hobby farm. I started using it in 1959 on my grandfather's farm. Over the years we've owned many other tractors and even operated a Massey Ferguson dealership, but it's the old Deere B that we kept."

"We bought a 3-pt. hitch for it, which is an excellent value, and a **Pertronix** kit to convert the point-style breaker distributor to electronic ignition (ph 909 599-5955; www.pertronix.com). Be sure to buy the recommended coil because your existing coil may not work with this kit. I've used this kit on everything from my Deere B tractor to cars from the 50's, 60's and 70's."

Larry Shepler, Reynoldsville, Penn.: "We traded our New Holland 1411 discbine for a 2013 **New Holland 7230**. The 1411 was a great machine with few problems, but it had covered a lot of acres. The 7230 just completed a full season with no problems except for a torn clip on the curtains."

"My **Vicon 423T** rotary hay rake does an excellent job of raking dry hay, but it won't pick up green hay that has been run over. And if I adjust the rake to get it down to that hay, it picks up too many rocks. Another problem is the tine bars only have one bolt holding them on, and they cracked. The company made us buy an upgrade kit to solve the problem. The machine's height adjustment keeps locking up, and the hitch pins break too easily. This discbine wasn't built in the Vicon tradition."

C. Keith Kerr, Postville, Iowa: "My **Work Sharp** knife sharpener works great on paring knives, pocket knives and hunting knives, and it can also be used to sharpen hoes and spades (ph 800 547-0222; www.worksharptools.com). It also works good to sand wood and can even be used to polish metal."

Red Miller, Indiantown, Fla.: "I like my 1999 **Ford F-250 Super Duty** pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter Power Stroke diesel engine. I also like my 2006 **Scion XA** hatchback car. Both vehicles have at least 200,000 miles on them but are still going strong. The pickup can do about anything and is strong enough to pull Texas across the country. The Scion XA gets 30 mpg and still

"Best Buy" Alo Loader

Clarence Herlick, Stratford, Ont.: "My **Alo Quicke 520** loader was the first one sold in North America, and it's still in great shape after 5,000 hrs. of use. I've replaced one manure bucket, but that has been it."

A neighbor bought the loader with a new tractor in 1990. A few years later, he traded it in on a larger tractor and loader, and Herlick bought it.

He knows his loader is in great shape because the company recently went over it with a fine-tooth comb. Even the paint job was in good shape. "They found only one bushing that needed to be replaced. They also replaced a couple of hydraulic hoses, but said they were actually still in pretty good shape," says Herlick.

The reason for the overhaul by the company was to put it on display at the recent National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., and the New York State Farm Show in Syracuse, N.Y. Don Carver, Alo North America, said the company has sold 250,000 of the Swedish-built loaders in the U.S. and Canada since Herlick's.

"They offered to give me a new loader in exchange for this one, but I said I've already got one as good as new. I told them the only way you'll get this one is to give me a new loader and a tractor to go with it."

Herlick agreed to loan his loader to the company for display at the farm shows. He



Clarence Herlick's Alo Quicke 520 front-end loader was the first one sold in North America, and it's still going strong after 5,000 hrs. of use.

and his son Wayne attended the farm show in Louisville and met with Alo's CEO and the company's North American president.

"The CEO pointed out 2 little weld marks on the side of the loader. He said they were the signature marks of the men who built it."

Herlick and his son plan to keep the loader for another 25 years. "Maybe they'll give us a new loader and a tractor for it then."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alo North America, Montrose Business Park, 8485 Montrose Rd., Niagara Falls, Ont. Canada L2H 3L7 (ph 905 354-4200; toll free 800 361-7563; www.alo.ca).

rides as good as new."

Terry Riegler, Sparta, Mo.: "My **Massey Ferguson 180** diesel has about 7,600 hours on it and is my favorite tractor of all time. I bought it used in 1976. It had been overhauled that spring, and in 1977 it got a new hydraulic pump. Since then it has gone through two new clutches and the diesel pump and injectors have been cleaned once. It has also gone through 3 sets of tires and now needs a new hydraulic pump again. I test drove a new 180 in 1966 but didn't buy one. It took me 10 years to get one and I'll never let go of it."

Marvin Eberly, Mt. Pleasant Mills, Penn.: "My 2012 **Sears Craftsman 21-in.** push mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine starts right up with just one or two pulls. This mower is easy to operate and seldom plugs up since I enlarged the discharge hole in the deck."

"I work on **Freightliner** trucks regularly and find that they're poorly designed, with key components located in hard-to-reach areas. I've driven and repaired other truck brands and consider Freightliner one of the worst. Their frame rails seem to be spaced closer together, which makes anything located around the lower half of the engine difficult to access."

Bob Muller, Delanson, N.Y.: "We have very hard water that comes from a hillside spring. It's so hard we couldn't even keep an automatic dishwasher in our house. Then we installed a **Scaltronic SC 100** water treatment unit (ph 678 990-0858; www.scaltronic.com). It did such a great job that we became a dealer."

Katherine Vojtko, Monongahela, Penn.: "My husband and I find the navigation system on our 2012 **Ford F-150** pickup to be useless. On our first trip with the vehicle we wanted to drive from Pittsburgh, Penn. to Plymouth, Mass. The navigation system instructed us to drive through the state of Maryland, but Maryland is south of Pittsburgh and clearly not in the northeasterly direction that we had to go. We never use the navigation system now, relying instead on our iPhones. Also, if we want to change our route with the Ford navigation system, we have to stop the

vehicle."

Pete Dickinson, Park Rapids, Minn.: "My 2013 **Central Boiler** outdoor wood-fired boiler works great and is highly efficient (ph 800 248-4681; www.centralboiler.com)."

Paul Reinders, Brookfield, Wis.: "I had a problem with the brakes on my **New Holland Boomer** tractor with cab. The tractor wouldn't stop right away when the brakes were applied. I had to start braking 10 ft. or so before I needed to stop. The company couldn't help and even their engineers had the same problem. I finally traded for a Kioti."

Leo Bottoms, Gould, Ark.: "No problems with my 2012 **Deere Z445** zero turn riding mower."

Perry Hathaway, Claypool, Ind.: "I'm disappointed with the 20-lb. **Mantis** rototiller I bought to till my wife's raised garden beds. When going forward the tiller jumps like a rabbit. I called the company and they said to run the engine at half throttle and till pulling backward. However, the advertisements and the salesman didn't say to till backward. Another problem is that 5-in. tall weeds wrap around the tines and build up to the point where they eventually kill the motor."

"My **New Holland TN75** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a Quickie front-end loader starts poor in cold weather and has poor visibility. The controls aren't very handy either."

"My 1984 **White 2-55** front wheel assist loader tractor has more than 11,000 hrs. on it. I use it to feed cattle, handle bales, plow snow and do other loader work. It starts good in cold weather."

Anthony Borrelli, Northford, Ct.: "The pump seals on my Deere 4250 tractor leaked badly, so 2 years ago I tried using **Seal Leuk** seal expander. It solved the problem."

Rich Furmanick, Sterling, Mass.: "My 1999 **Poulan Pro 330** is the best chainsaw I've owned in the past 15 years. Works great for cutting cordwood."

"I've had problems with my **DeWalt 735** 12-in. wood planer. Whenever I use it to plane 8-in. pine, the drive gear keeps tearing out the drive key."

Rommie B. Smith, Shelbyville, Ky.: "I