

like **Shark Bite** plumbing connectors (ph 800 518-5388; www.sharkbiteplumbing.com). I used them when I had to replace a shower valve in a spot where it would have been difficult to resolder the copper piping.



These couplers just slip on the ends of the pipe to connect, and that's it. Once pushed to the proper depth, you're done; no extra parts, soldering or tools are required. These connectors are kind of expensive, but the time and trouble you save is well worth it in emergency situations.

"My 2005 **Ford F-150 4-WD** pickup is my worst buy. At only about 20,000 miles the reverse gear went out, but the 3-year warranty had expired. I'm pretty sure the service manager spewed coffee on his computer screen when I suggested that Ford help with the repair. I live in a remote area of Alaska where the closest dealer is 400 air miles away. I ended up paying for the repair."

Henry Cole, Cliff, New Mexico: Henry's satisfied with his **Kubota L2800 4-WD** loader tractor equipped with a diesel engine. "I use this tractor with a **Land Pride 60-in.** rototiller and a 60-in. **Land Pride** bush hog. I only have 50 hours on the tractor, but no problems so far."

James A. Mueller, Pacific, Mo.: James likes his 2008 **Mahindra 2615 4-WD** loader tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine. "I've wanted to purchase a 4-WD compact loader tractor for a long time. I do my homework before buying anything, taking into consideration the price, performance, warranty, durability, comfort and ease of operation. This tractor has come out on top. I'm 100 percent satisfied with it."

Stan Bennett, St. Joseph, Mich.: "My 1998 **Deere F1145** front-mount mower has about 4,100 hours on it but still starts and runs great. I use it to mow a little more than 5 acres on 2 gal. of diesel fuel. It's equipped with a front-mount 72-in., 3-blade mower deck. I bought the machine used with about 3,600 hours on it. It's powered by a 3-cyl. Yanmar diesel engine, which always starts and runs great. I made a bucket loader for the tractor, and also reworked and installed a 60-in. Lofness 2-stage snowblower on it. The machine's heated cab makes it a pleasure to work with in any winter weather."

Lyle Wallace, Hillsboro, Wis.: A 2010 **TroyBilt** weedeater rates as Lyle's "best buy." "It starts quick and easy and has plenty of power, and I can use it with attachments such as a brush cutter, pole saw, tiller or leaf blower. The machine has a 4-cycle engine, which eliminates the need to mix gas and oil. And it runs smooth."

Roger Redlin, Pulaski, Wis.: "It starts easy and will run at idle for extended periods of time. Also, it's very reliable," says Roger, pleased with his **Husqvarna 455 Farm Boss** chainsaw.

"My worst buy is my 2004 **Husqvarna** riding mower. The deck has to be cleaned after every mowing job. Also, the deck shows a lot of wear at the suspension joints -- all the bolt and pin holes are elongated. It's not a mower you want to use on large lawns."

Les Homeister, Plainfield, Iowa: Les likes his 2004 **Kubota 900 RTV**. "It's built rugged. I use it like a dump truck to move dirt on our acreage, filling the box with 3 backhoe buckets full of dirt. Even when the box is heaped up with dirt, the hydraulic cylinder dumps it with ease. Works great for moving

topsoil and distributing it over a new lawn."

Wayne Manthey, Big Bend, Wis.: "After reading about **Kuchar Combine Performance** parts in FARM SHOW, I decided to try them. In 2001 I installed a set of Kuchar cylinder filler plates in my Deere 7720 Titan II combine, with excellent results. Cylinder vibration was eliminated and, when harvesting soybeans, there was less dust at the feederhouse.

"In 2009 I installed a new concave in the same combine. But before installation I consulted George Kuchar about modifying the concave for better performance. After doing what he recommended, the results again were excellent. The combine threshes better with less power and grain loss. From now on, any Deere combine I own will be

"Cylinder vibration was eliminated and, when harvesting soybeans, there was less dust at the feederhouse."

equipped with parts from Kuchar Combine Performance.

"I also installed a poly-slatted feederhouse chain, along with a poly louvered chaffer and sieve, from **Harvest Services Ltd.** (ph 800 667-2601; www.harvestservicesltd.com). They're great products. The feederhouse chain uses no. 557 links instead of number 550, but because of the slat design it weighs only half as much. The slats don't bend, and it drives much easier.

"I definitely feel that between Kuchar Combine Performance and Harvest Services Ltd., I've greatly extended the life of my combine."

Thomas George, Mercer, Mo.: "I use my 2004 **Deere 585 4-WD** garden tractor to mow and to clear snow. No problems. It has a lot of power and, when equipped with chains in the winter, it's nearly unstoppable."

Kurt Meyer, Washington Island, Wis.: "My best buy is my 1948 **Ferguson** tractor -- it still runs well and has required only routine maintenance.

"My 1997 **Honda Civic** has about 260,000 miles on it but still runs great. It's reliable and gets 40 mpg. It's the best car I've ever owned. No problems."

Thomas Thompson, Franklin, Ind.: "My 1990 **Grasshopper** zero turn mower is my best buy. I use it to mow my 1 1/2-acre lawn. It has required only routine maintenance."

Myron Peterson, Oshkosh, Neb.: "I use my 2007 **Kubota RTV 900** tractor all year long with no problems.

"My **New Holland TV140** tractor has had problems from the start. The wheel studs keep breaking, and I've had problems with electrical shorts and leaking hydraulic hoses. Now at 2,900 hours the engine has to be replaced."

Scott Meador, Mulberry, Ind.: Scott's impressed with his 2004 **Dixie Chopper Silver Eagle** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck. "I put 50 hours a year on this mower, and my wife and daughters love to use it, too. I'd definitely buy another one, but I don't think this one will ever wear out.

"My 2008 **Mantis** rototiller is hard to start and won't stay running. I've adjusted the carburetor according to the operator's manual and the DVD, but it only runs for about 5 seconds and then dies."

E.L. Phillips, Union, Mo.: "In 2009 I received an 18-volt **DeWalt** compact drill/driver, impact wrench, and heavy-duty reciprocating saw as a Christmas gift. I've

Quick Way To Sharpen Chainsaws

By Scott Hendershot

I was skeptical about the new PowerSharp chainsaw sharpening system, by Blount Inc. I cut a lot of firewood and I've been a chainsaw carver for many years, so I am pretty fast at sharpening chains. But, after trying this sharpener out for FARM SHOW, I have to admit I am impressed.

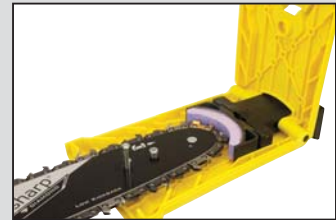
PowerSharp comes as a package with a bar, chain and the sharpener. The top-cutting chain is very sharp and great for cutting firewood. I cut frozen oak, poplar and basswood blocks on a 10-degree day. I compared it to a standard chain on my MS 210 Stihl, and cutting time was comparable. The PowerSharp chain is aggressive. I noticed that it really grabbed hard in brush and twigs, so it's important to hang on tight.

The sharpener is easy to use. Just clamp it on the end of the bar. Start the saw. Press the foot of the sharpener against something solid, run the saw for 3 to 5 sec., and the chain is as sharp as when it was new.

PowerSharp has a diamond-coated dresser link (gold in color) to resurface the sharpening stone for perfect contact every time the sharpener is used. The chain and stone are designed to wear out at the same time.

The PowerSharp kit sells for \$79, including the bar, chain and sharpener. Replacement chains and stones run about \$35. Depending how you use it and what you are cutting, the chain can be sharpened 5 to 15 times, according to PowerSharp, so that's a good deal for people who pay as much as \$10 to have chains sharpened.

This system is perfect for occasional chainsaw users, and even though I can



Sharpener snaps onto end of chainsaw bar. To activate, start saw and press "foot" against a hard surface (below).



sharpen my own, I like the convenience and speed of using the sharpener. Right now, PowerSharp is only available for 14 to 18-in. bars but may be available for larger saws in the future.

I also tried carving with the PowerSharp chain. The cuts weren't as smooth as a standard chain, but the rough detail marks it left didn't look half bad. Plus, it's nice to know that if I do hit sand, dirt or a foreign object in a block of wood, I can sharpen my saw in seconds and get right back to work.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Blount, Inc., P.O. Box 22127, Portland, Ore. 97269 (ph 800 223-5168; www.powersharp.com).

used these tools to build many different projects. They're great tools.

"I use my 1989 **Long 38** hp tractor for putting up hay and bush hogging. The tractor has only about 900 hours on it, but the engine has already had two complete overhauls, and the block heater has been replaced twice. It was built in Romania."

Robert Huffman, Harrisonburg, Va.: "I bought my **Massey Ferguson 165** tractor used 40 years ago at an auction. I'm not sure when this tractor was made, but it's a best buy. All I've ever done is to replace some steering parts. Now I'm going to have the tractor painted."

Andy Fiehler, Lawrenceburg, Ky.: "In 2006 I bought an **Arctic Cat 400 TBX** ATV. When we bought our farm a few years ago I thought about buying both a tractor and an ATV. But when I found a tow-behind, self-powered bush hog mower, I decided to spend the money on just an ATV and not on a tractor. And when I found the Arctic Cat TBX I knew I'd found the right ATV.

"While the TBX has handlebars like an ATV, it has a dump bed like a utility vehicle. It has plenty of power to tow the bush hog or a trailer full of gravel, hay or firewood, or even a deer. And, I can go 4-wheeling when I get my chores done. It's a great machine for both work and fun. With the machine's storage compartments, I always have the tools I need, and with the big 6-gal. fuel tank I never run out of gas."

Charles Neuman, Pattison, Texas: Charles is the satisfied owner of a 1995 **Massey Ferguson 261** tractor equipped with a 4-cyl. Perkins diesel engine. "This tractor was made in Poland. I bought it used with low hours. It's a versatile machine that always starts well and runs great. It has a lot of power and is easy to maintain and repair, even though repairs are rarely needed. The transmission is a simple high and low range

4-speed so there's really nothing to break or go out on it."

Larry Shepler, Reynoldsville, Penn.: Larry likes his 2008 **Woods 1800 15-ft.** batwing mower. "It's built super heavy, with a smooth deck so trash doesn't build up on it as badly as on some other models. The blade speed is higher than most other brands and it mulches better, too. Also, I like the optional wheel package -- it doubles the number of wheels and they pivot, which results in very little scalping.

"My 2005 **Vicon 423T** rotary rake does a super job of raking dry hay and makes a nice windrow, but when I try to rake green hay it has no lifting action. As a result, it won't pick up any hay that has been run over. Also, I've had trouble with the tine arms coming loose and cracking. The company made an update to fix the problem, but they made us pay for it. It's the worst piece of Vicon machinery we've owned."

James P. Walsh, Merrimac, Mass.: "In a previous issue I complained about the bad experience I had with my 2004 **GMC Sierra** pickup equipped with dual wheels and a diesel engine. The engine turbocharger had to be replaced at about 4,000 miles and the pickup was towed in 4 or 5 times due to fuel problems. However, since then things have gotten better. The dealer repaired everything at no cost, and it has turned out to be the best truck I ever owned. I use it to pull a 24-ft. gooseneck livestock trailer."

Ethel Paulhamus, Jersey Shore, Penn.: "I saw an ad for a lake weed and algae control product called **Biological Natures Way**. It's supposed to be **motherly safe**, using live bacteria to dissolve plant nutrients in order to control aquatic vegetation. The man I talked to said it would clean up my pond for 3 to 5 years at a cost of \$150 per year. So I sent him a check for \$895 on August 14, 2008. We

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