

He's disappointed with his **Performance Tool** transmission adapter that's designed for use with a floor jack. "The tilt action from side to side and front to back didn't work, and it was too tall to get a transmission out from under a 4-WD truck with 5 ft. of lift. To solve the problem I cut all the adjustment parts off and welded the base plate back on. For all that work, I could have made the unit all by myself."

Bill Kemp, Greene, N.Y.: "My **Stihl MS361** chainsaw is hard to start. I've taken it back to three different dealers and all of them have tried something different, but this saw just won't start. By the time I pull enough times to get it started I'm just about too tired to cut wood. My neighbor bet me he could get it to run, but after the 15th pull he gave up and went home."

Matt Sporre, Dakota, Minn.: Matt's pleased with his 1998 **Volkswagen Cabrio** convertible which he bought used. "I got tired of the promises made by new car dealers and didn't want to make big payments. Then I saw this vehicle in Iowa and fell in love with it. The price was right, and I purchased it from a family-operated dealer. It had low mileage and is immaculate, inside and out. It runs like new. I'd think twice before I bought a new vehicle again."

Roy Stucky, Springfield, Ore.: "It's absolutely the best mole and gopher trap I've ever seen," says Roy, impressed with **Cinch Mole Traps** (Cinch Trap Co., Hubbard, Oregon ph 800 841-5676). "I have five acres of pasture and neighbors who don't control their moles and gophers. Last year I used this trap to catch 25 moles and gophers. I can't remember how many I trapped the previous year, but it was a lot. So far this year I've trapped 14 moles and three gophers. I paid \$125 for five mole traps and five gopher traps and that included a 60-mile shipping charge."

Robert Litts, Eugene, Ore.: "My 2008 **Sears Craftsman** riding mower cuts great, even in tall grass. It has a comfortable ride and is easy to operate. Also, my wife really enjoys using it."

Ken Moore, Hudson, Mich.: "My **Neuton** battery-powered string trimmer is well made and perfectly balanced. I highly recommend it (Neuton Mowers, Vergennes, Vt. ph 800 798-2921; www.neutonpower.com)."

Paul Nehring, Wausau, Wis.: "I use an **Ipod Touch** as my personal digital assistant to keep farm records, which I back up on my personal computer. It's my best buy. The program I use is called **HarDbase** by DDH Software. They make it available to Palm and Windows-based mobile users as well. Its database is inexpensive, easy to use, and reliable. My total cost for the **Ipod Touch** software and desktop backup was \$30.

"I use the program to track my time, machinery rental hours, number of bales fed to cattle, mileage, cattle records, etc. It also helps me calculate rations, pasture allocation and yields, and seeding rates. My seeder is old and works in bushels, not pounds.

"To protect my **Ipod** I use an **Otterbox**, which keeps out dust and moisture while protecting the **Ipod** from damage if it ever gets dropped. It's easy to find the **Otterbox** on the internet (www.otterbox.com; ph 888 695-8820)."

Howard Krause, Zimmerman, Minn.: A 2005 **Kubota** off road diesel tractor rates as Howard's "best buy". "I use it for plowing snow and hauling wood. It requires little maintenance and is fuel efficient."

Fred Kiedaisch, Albron, Pa.: "My best buy is my **Chuck Wagon** utility vehicle made by **Bristers Design and Manufacturing**

(Roseland, La., ph 800 643-7332; www.am-sportworks.com). It's American-made and far more reasonably priced than foreign-made models. Both 2 and 4-WD models are available, and it has a locking differential so it'll go anywhere I want to go. An electric-powered model is also available."

Clarence Brenneman, Meyersdale, Penn.: Clarence is the satisfied owner of a **Crescent** 148-piece mechanic's tool set (Wholesale Tool, ph 800 521-3420). "It has all the basic tools needed for small to medium-size equipment including wrenches, sockets, hex keys, screwdrivers and bits — all in one handy storage case."

Harvey Johnson, Sugar Grove, Va.: Harvey's impressed with his 2006 **E-Z-Go** 350 utility vehicle. "It has plenty of power and a handy dump bed in which I haul all my firewood. It's easy to get around on the farm with this rig and it works great for doing chores.

"My **Deere** 2350 4-WD cab tractor I bought used leaks hydraulic oil from one end to the other. The seals in the 3-pt. lift

"My Deere 2350 4-WD tractor leaks hydraulic oil from one end to the other."

arms last only about six months before they start leaking again. I had to install a new heater and fan and replace all the air conditioning hoses and valves. It also needed a new water pump and hoses, a new starter, new hydraulic clutch cylinders, and a new engine oil cooler."

Wayne Lemke, Pembroke, Ontario: Wayne likes his **Ford** 1210 hydrostatic drive loader tractor. "It's an excellent tractor. It's just the right size to go to the woods to cut wood and can easily maneuver around trees. We put the sawed pieces of wood in the bucket and haul them to the trailer. This tractor is just the right size for a number of jobs on our farm.

"My **International** 633 4-WD tractor is my worst buy. We went to the woods to cut wood and on our return home we were driving at a slow speed when the transmission housing broke in half, causing the pinion gear shaft to break. It was an expensive repair."

D. Braswell, Laurens, S.C.: "I use my 2002 **Kubota** loader tractor to maintain 50 acres, including 20 acres of pasture. This tractor can move mountains. I use it to cut the 20-acre pasture once a month and my 4-acre yard every week. No problems.

"My **Troy Bilt** riding mower breaks down almost every time I use it. Luckily I have the **Kubota** tractor and a **Bush Hog** 72-in. finishing mower."

Jeff King, Harwood, Md.: "The 14-ft. sq. steel **Tambor** door I bought from **Farm-Tek** is my best buy. I had put up a 5,000-sq. ft. building entirely out of salvage material and didn't want a troublesome door or an expensive one. The **Farm Tek** door is designed to be installed in wood or steel openings, not masonry openings like on my building. Even so, it was easy to install and the instructions were complete. Overall, it turned out even better than I expected."

Jeff Fox, Dacula, Ga.: Jeff's impressed with his 2007 **Stihl KombiMotor** multi-task tool (www.stihlusa.com). "This tool comes with a single powerhead that can be used with many different attachments, including a mini-cultivator, blower, curved or straight lawn edger, curved shaft trimmer, line head trimmer, brush cutter with 4-tooth grass

"One-Handed" Firewood Gripper

William Steines, Wausau, Wis., recently sent photos of his "best buy" **Lockhart Firewood Gripper** that he uses to handle firewood.

The one-handed firewood gripper is available in three sizes to fit all standard firewood — small for logs 15 to 18 in. long; medium for logs 18 to 21 in. long; and long for logs 21 to 24 in. long.

Each unit has two hooks with a handle in between. The handle consists of a reinforced hydraulic hose inside a rubber hose, which provides a soft, bendable grip. The hooks tightly grab the end of a log as you lift.

"I bought my first gripper about two years ago. At first I was quite skeptical as to its usefulness, but now I own three Grippers — two medium and one long," says Steines. "I use the long one primarily for lifting one end of an 8-ft. log onto my homemade log skidder.

"I find I no longer have a stiff and sore back after a day spent cutting firewood. That's because I no longer have to stoop to pick up heavy firewood blocks onto the splitter or trailer, etc. Several of my friends have also purchased grippers after using mine for just one day. It's definitely my best buy."

According to inventor **Sam Lockhart**, your hands never touch the log so you never get them wet or dirty.

"People are amazed at how well it works. It also eliminates splinters and bruised knuckles, and the need to stoop to lift heavy logs. The biggest model is guaranteed to lift at least 150 lbs., but I've used it to lift 300 lbs. The handle is soft but strong — one time I hooked the gripper between a truck



One-handed firewood gripper has two hooks with a handle in between.



Rubber handle provides a soft, bendable grip.

and 4-wheeler and then tried to drive the 4-wheeler forward. The 4-wheeler started spinning its wheels and almost pulled the truck backward, but the gripper never came apart."

Prices for the firewood gripper, small to large, are \$17.95, \$18.95, and \$19.95 plus \$5.95 S&H.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Lockhart's Firewood Gripper, LLC, E11721 Hwy. Z, Wausau, Wis. 54403 (ph 715 842-0207; samuellockhart@aol.com).

blade, adjustable power scythe, hedge trimmer, pole pruner, power sweep, and bristle brush. A 37-in. shaft extension is also available. The motor has a lot of power, and the attachments can be quickly and easily changed. I use this tool both at my timber farm in Alabama and at my house in Georgia.

"I've had problems with the fold-up windshield on my 2008 **Kawasaki** Mule 4010 Trans 4 by 4 utility vehicle. The windshield has to be all the way up before I can access the front end of the trunk. Also, there are vertical cracks going up about 1/2 to 2 in. along the bottom of the window. I fear these cracks will continue to go all the way up. I haven't driven my Mule roughly, either."

Joe Bisinger, Monmouth, Iowa: "My **Polaris** Ranger XP 700 utility vehicle, which I bought used, is my best buy. It's a great chore helper, cow checker and errand runner."

Wayne Hamel, Hopwood, Penn.: "I like my 2006 **Kubota** BX 2350 tractor equipped with a 60-in. mower and 48-in. loader bucket. I responded to a company survey and expressed some discomfort with the seat. My dealer called a week later and told me I could come and get a new, more comfortable seat for free. That's great customer service."

Glen Revis, Weaverville, N.C.: "I like my 2007 **Cub Cadet** zero turn riding mower. I have bad knees so I couldn't push in the clutch on my previous riding mower. The **Cub Cadet** is easy to operate and there's no clutch to push. It also works extremely fast and has reduced my mowing time by two thirds.

"The hammer drill I bought from **Harbor Freight** is my worst buy. The second time I used it the plastic handle on it broke and cut my hand."

Allen R. Colombo, Bogalusa, La.: "My **Kubota** L355 4-WD loader tractor operates flawlessly and is easy on fuel. I use numerous attachments with it. No complaints."

Don McCart, Coushatta, La.: "My **Deere** MX 7 rotary mower cuts perfect and discharges out the center. That way I don't have to go in only one direction through the field.

"My 2007 **Troy-Bilt** Bronco rototiller works good but is equipped with a **Tecumseh** engine. I'm having difficulty getting parts for a machine that's only two years old."

A.C. Horne, Lorris, S.C.: "I use **Red Tek** 12, a freon replacement and **Pro Seal**, for sealing leaks, in my vehicle. Both products have worked without fail so far (ph 970 587-2249). **Red Tek** charges the air conditioner system for about 50 percent of the cost of other Freon replacements.

"My **Kubota** 7040 tractor operates perfectly. It drives like a car, starts right up, and is easy on fuel.

"From day one I've had problems with the air conditioner on my **Massey Ferguson** 4225 tractor. I've had to replace the tractor's front and rear wiring harness twice. The tractor has a weak clutch and pressure plate, both of which had to be replaced. Also, the starter wore out twice in just 1,000 hours. This tractor is absolutely dependable. I look forward to replacing it with a **Kubota**."

Bob Draginis, Navarre, Fla.: "In the past 10 years I've owned three different tractors made in China. My advice is, don't buy Chinese-made tractors. Mine have been nothing but trouble and are built very crude. The last one I bought needed a throw-out bearing after only 50 hours of use, and it wasn't covered by a warranty."

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