

Bob Ruehling, New Prague, Minn.: “I bought a new **Sears Craftsman LT2500** riding mower after my old Craftsman LT2000 caught fire and the wiring burned up. Nothing happened when I started up the new mower because someone had forgot to put the drive belt on. As we cut grass the mower deck swings from side to side as if there’s a part missing. So last winter I rewired the old mower and am now using it again, while the new one sits in a corner of my garage.”

Danny White, Sharon Grove, Ky.: “I use my 2013 **Predator 6 1/2 hp OHV** gas engine on my garden rototiller during summer, then put it on my old 3-wheeler ATV in winter. It always starts on the first pull and has a lot of power. I bought the engine at Harbor Freight for \$99.99, which I think was a great price.”

Charles Harger, Paris, Ark.: “My 2015 **Hustler 52-in. zero-turn riding mower** is easy to operate and built to last. It has reduced my mowing time considerably.”

Edmund Drittler, Lamar, Ark.: “Our 1990 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter engine has more than 216,000 miles on it but still runs perfect. It doesn’t use any oil, either.”

Tom Haynes, Square Tow, Inc., Macksville, Kan.: Tom came up with the new **Jerk Rope**, a patent pending, shock absorbing link designed to be used with a chain or cable in order to pull out stuck vehicles (ph 620 546-1767; thaynes@gbta.net). You can see how it works on YouTube by typing “jerk rope”.

“The rope is made out of braided industrial strength nylon webbing, which makes it super



strong and very lightweight,” says Tom. “It’s woven back and forth and glued together in such a way that if the chain breaks, the rope just falls without snapping back and causing damage or hurting someone. The design takes the shock out of the chain without producing a recoil effect. It tightens rather slowly so you won’t feel a hard jerk as the chain tightens.”

“Another advantage is that you don’t have to ease out until the chain is tight before you try to pull. Instead, you can get some momentum going before the chain tightens which gives you extra pulling power. It returns to its original length when you’re done using it, so it’s easy to carry around and doesn’t take up much room.”

Ozie Prier, Fredericktown, Mo.: “I’m well pleased with my new **BadBoy 42-in. riding mower** equipped with a Kohler engine.

“My wife and I bought a 2007 **Ford Explorer Sport Truck** equipped with a 4.6-liter V-8 engine. This year it reached 100,000 miles and the owner’s manual said it was time for new spark plugs. We called the dealer and were told installing new plugs would cost \$800. When I asked why, they said the plugs in this engine were known to break when extracted, so they have to use a special extraction tool to remove the plugs and that’s why it costs so much.

“I called the company to complain, but they told me that’s just the way it is and that they had corrected the problem on newer engine

models. I asked if there had ever been a recall on my truck, and they said no. So anyone who owns a 2007 Ford equipped with a 4.6-liter engine will have to pay the price. We traded ours in.”

Eddie Braden, Frankewing, Tenn.: “It’s pretty easy to offer a lifetime warranty on anything if you’re not going to honor it,” says Eddie, disappointed with his **Ridgid 18-volt cordless drill**. “I used this drill in my wood working shop. The drill and batteries are supposed to have a lifetime warranty, but the batteries failed within a year. When I contacted the company they said I had sent them the wrong serial numbers on the drills so they wouldn’t honor the warranty. How could I make up numbers?”

“My 2012 **Polaris Ranger** is a handy machine and starts great in all weather. The dump bed on it works good, and the engine has a lot of torque. It’s also easy on fuel. I just fill the gas tank in the spring and check on it the following fall.”

Roger McDaniel, Thomaston, Ga.: “I bought an early 1970’s **Kubota L.210** tractor used about 10 years ago with 700 hrs. on it. I use this tractor every year with a 5-ft. finishing mower to cut 2 acres of grass. It always starts, and I’ve never had a single problem. I change the oil and grease the machine regularly and always check the fluid levels. It now has about 930 hrs. on it.”

Al Brown, Wyanet, Ill.: “In the spring of 2014 I bought a repower kit from **Small Engine Warehouse** (www.smallenginewarehouse.com; ph 800 321-6725) for my **Mighty Mac** skid loader. The do-it-yourself conversion kit included a Briggs Vanguard engine and all mounting brackets and bushings needed to bolt the engine in. The instructions were very clear. The kit is actually designed for a Gehl 2500 skid loader, which is a twin to the **Mighty Mac**. The company was extremely helpful when I called before purchase to make sure the new engine would fit. It’s lighter than the original engine, so I bolted a tractor weight on back of the skid loader. Now with the new engine, it’s like I have a new skid loader. It was money well spent.”

Brad Phillips, Buckhannon, W. Va.: “I’ve had 2 big problems with my **Deere LT140** garden tractor. First there was an electrical problem that was tracked down to a bad solenoid switch, and now there’s a problem with the hydrostatic transmission. Once the tractor gets warm, it will no longer climb the slightest incline and makes a loud grinding sound. I did some research and found it’s a common problem on this transmission. Unfortunately, it’s a non serviceable component.”

Jimmy Cobb, Andalusia, Ala.: “Overall, my **Deere 4500** is a good tractor. However, I’ve had to spend more than \$1,000 on it to replace plastic parts. I had another Deere garden tractor with the same problem so I trashed it. I called the company to complain about both tractors but got no help. I always kept these tractors inside a shed, but they just crumbled apart.”

Arthur Perrea, Burke, N.Y.: “My 1983 **Ford 1710 4-WD** loader tractor works great on our 23-acre farm. I bought a 48-in. **King Kutter** tiller and a **Tractor Supply Co.** post hole digger to go with it. I use the 12-in. post hole digger to punch holes 30 to 40 in. deep to plant trees.”

Donald L. McWitney, Ridgeland, Wis.: “It still runs good after 365,000 miles,” says Donald about his 2000 **Chevrolet 1500** extended cab pickup.

Jack Baird, Red Oak, Iowa: “I use my **Express Hitch 12-volt, remote-controlled** pickup winch to hook up anhydrous ammonia

Filter Cleaner Pays For Itself

“The 2015 harvest season was one of the driest and dustiest ever,” says contributing editor Lorn Manthey, who raises corn, soybeans and alfalfa on his Minnesota farm. “The combine engine and cab filters would fill up with dust in 3 to 4 hours, so we were really glad to have a Filter Blaster to clean them out.”

Manthey has used the device for 3 seasons and says it’s one of the handiest preventive maintenance tools on the farm. “We can blow out the 2 engine filters and the cab filters in about 10 min. A typical clean-out will leave a 1/2-in. high pile of dust around each filter.”

The **Filter Blaster** (www.airfilterblaster.com; ph 855 341-4677) is a patented device that requires a strong source of compressed air. The air supply hose connects to the adaptor on the top end of an aluminum shaft, above the on/off valve. When the valve is opened, air moves through the metal shaft and out the tiny rotor head on the bottom. Air pressure activates the rotor so it rotates rapidly and sends tiny streams of air through the inside of the filter, forcing dust out. As the shaft is raised up and down through the plastic cover, the filter is thoroughly cleaned.

“It’s amazing how much dust is forced out the first time you raise the cleaning head,” says Manthey. “Raising and lowering it 2 or 3 times completely cleans the filters. The 6-in. rotor head is used for the biggest filters.



Lorn Manthey says his Filter Blaster worked great to clean out the engine and cab filters on his combine last fall.

There’s a smaller head for other filters.”

He says using the Filter Blaster every day and sometimes twice a day reduces fuel consumption and keeps the inside of the cab cleaner. Another benefit of using the Filter Blaster is that high pressure air isn’t concentrated in one area like it is through a wand, which can rip or damage filter membranes. “We’ve never seen ripped filter membranes in 3 years using 140 psi air pressure, and we’ve probably used the Filter Blaster 30 to 40 times on each filter,” says Flom.

Filter Blasters are available from dealers or online and typically sell for \$349 with one rotor head. Rotor heads from 3 to 9 in. dia. are available for about \$65 each.

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tanks and other heavy trailers. I bought the winch 2 years ago after surgery made it impossible for me to pick up the heavy tongues on trailers. It works great with no problems. I just unwind the cable, put a pin in the tongue, and use the remote to pull the tank up to the pickup. Then I put the pin in the hitch and go.

“About 4 years ago I bought a **Dixon zero-turn riding mower** equipped with a 60-in. deck, and now it has more than 500 hrs. on it (www.dixon-ztr.com). It always starts right up.”

Albert Leckie, Harrison, Tenn.: Albert is the satisfied owner of a **Work Sharp** knife and tool sharpener (www.worksharptools.com; ph 800 597-6170). “It used to take me up to 2 hrs. to sharpen all our kitchen knives, especially the stainless steel ones. Now I can sharpen 10 knives in only 10 min. It’s the best \$70 I ever spent.”

Charles Myers, Zanesville, Ohio: “The original hour meter on our 1970 **Deere 4020** diesel tractor recorded 24,274 hrs. before it quit working. The tractor now has more than 32,000 hrs. on it, but after the original meter quit working we’ve had to install 3 different ones. The most recent meter lasted only 1,900 hrs. The original meter was made in the U.S.; the replacements were made in other countries.”

Russ Zortman, Woodland, Penn.: “I bought my **Northern Tool 12-volt D.C. sprayer pump** last April but by July it had

“It isn’t the right shape to make a decent boat anchor, so I can’t imagine any possible use for it.”

stopped working although the motor still ran. When I called the company a rep asked if I could handle swapping out the pump head by myself and I told him I could, so he sent a new pump head and told me to throw the

old one away. There was no charge at all, and I had my part in 3 days. This company is a pleasure to deal with.

“I made the mistake of buying a **Buffalo Tools 7,000-watt diesel generator**. My local Tractor Supply Co. store was selling them for about \$1,600, which seemed cheap for a diesel generator. I soon found out why. After a few hours of use it broke down. From then on it was almost always breaking down. The company was willing to send me parts so I could make a couple of repairs myself. However, when I had to replace the rotor, stator, and control panel, they said I would have to pay \$700 for parts. “I told them the generator was less than 6 mo. old, but they said these problems were somehow my fault and therefore weren’t covered by the warranty. It isn’t the right shape to make a decent boat anchor, so I can’t imagine any possible use for it”.

Paul Duncan, Crestline, Kan.: “I like my **Mahindra 3016 28 hp** diesel tractor equipped with a shuttle shift transmission and front-end loader. I have a small place, and this tractor is just right for me. I can pull, lift and do whatever I need to do with it. It always starts right up in winter. The loader has plenty of power, but the tractor does need some counterweights on back to keep the rear end from losing traction.”

Buz Heuchan, Crystal River, Fla.: “I work the heck out of my **Yanmar 2310** tractor but it just keeps on going. It’s a great small utility tractor.”

Dick Clevenger, Letts, Iowa: Dick has had problems with his 2012 **Country Clipper Jazee Pro zero-turn riding mower** equipped with a 52-in. deck. “At about 25 hrs. the deck belt got jammed in an idler. Unfortunately, belts aren’t covered by the warranty so I had to pay \$100 for a new belt. Then at 46 hrs. the same problem happened again. I noticed the idler system was misaligned and showed the dealer, but he said it was okay. I knew it wasn’t, so I removed the idler system, straightened it out, and then bought a belt

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