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cruise control whenever you step on the brake. The green wire that plugs into the switch is hot at all times even when the pickup isn't running. There is supposed to be a fuse in the line but I can't find one. The pickup's brake light switch is a mechanical type under the dash. You can unplug the switch on the master cylinder, tape up the connector, and tie the wire back with some plastic tie wraps. This is what Ford dealers did until they could get replacement switches from the company.

"This problem only affects vehicles with cruise control. On my pickup I don't use the cruise control at all so I disconnected the switch and taped it. If you want to use the cruise control you can cut into the green wire and add an in-line fuse holder, then solder and tape the connection. Use a small fuse, 5 amps or smaller.

"I've checked my pickup for recalls but haven't found any. The offending switch was a small square unit made by Texas Instruments. The switch would catch fire and burned through the plastic brake fluid reservoir.

"If you search the internet you'll find more information on Ford pickups that have burned up."

**Leonard Stanek, Baring, Mo.:** "My worst buy is the steel building I bought from Pioneer Steel Mfg. Ltd., Mississauga, Ontario. The first clue that I made a mistake should have been when I had to pay a down payment before the company would even send me an information packet.

"I had the understanding that the building was to sit on a flat slab. However, when I received the instructions I learned it sets in a trough. When I questioned the sales person, I was told that if I wanted a base plate it would cost \$1,700 extra for a 24 by 40-ft. building such as mine.

"The plans weren't clear on some measurements. About 25 percent of the drawings are for a sliding door and track, which my building doesn't even have. Another problem is that the arch panels aren't bent to the right angles. The plans say the panels may 'grow' a little, but that two men could push them down. However, I couldn't find two men big enough to push that much since they were off 1 1/2 to 2 inches per panel.

"The company said that all panels were pre-drilled or punched, but they didn't say that 15 percent of them were punched at least half to over an entire hole off line. I had to take a punch and try to line the holes up and sometimes drill out holes to make the panels fit. The bolts and nuts were bad, they had nicks and burrs, no threads, just a bunch of reject trash. Buyer beware."

**Roger Brainard, Kennedy, N.Y.:** "My best buy is the hoop building I put up a year ago last November, using 50-year-old Unadilla arch rafters from a barn that was being taken down by the Amish. I bought the tarp and ratchets from Custom Canvas in Buffalo, N.Y., and am really happy with them. They had the tarp ready within 30 hours after I called."

**Wendell Newman, Carson City, Nevada:** Wendell likes an aerosol penetrating solution called "Deep Creep". "This product is sold at NAPA stores. I like it better than WD-40 or other penetrants because it puts a foam on whatever part you're trying to loosen, thus penetrating longer. It doesn't dry up as fast as other products I've used."

**Gene Gehlhausen, G & K Windmills, Inc., Huntingburg, Ind.:** "My best buy is the Koenders 20-ft. windmill aeration system I bought 1 1/2 years ago. It has a built-in air pump that pumps air through pond water.

It got rid of the algae and bad odor in our pond and also kept the pond from freezing completely. Now I've got the cleanest pond in our area, without using chemicals. I liked the results so well that I became a dealer."

**Robert L. Brown, Trenton, Neb.:** "My 2003 Ford F-150 crew cab pickup is my best buy. I use it to pull an 18-ft. trailer loaded with a 5,500-lb. load. We also use this pickup as our vacation vehicle. It'll burn any type of fuel including E-10 and E-85 ethanol blended fuel. It gets about 14 mpg when pulling a trailer and 19 mpg empty."

**Kim Brainard, Pittsburg, Kansas:** "I'm well pleased with my 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe which has more than 118,000 miles on it. It has required only routine maintenance."

**Marcus Yoder, Wellman, Iowa:** Marcus is disappointed with Sun Brite all purpose professional cleaner. "A salesman came out to show us how this product would clean our dairy equipment, parlor walls, and other miscellaneous items. However, whatever product he used must have been different than the product he left us. I called the company but never got a response. We're very upset with this product."

**Sam Poljansek, Mullinville, Kansas:** "My best buy is my 1998 Dodge 1500 extended cab pickup. It has about 165,000 miles and is on its third set of tires and the ring and pinion gear were rebuilt. That's it. I'm well pleased with its performance and ride.

"I bought a used 'gray market' Kubota 1501 17 hp tractor from Japan and it's a best buy. It had 936 hours on it when I bought it and now has almost 1,400 hours. The 2-cyl. diesel engine goes about five hours on one gallon of fuel."

**Elmer Pinkerton, Elmwood, Neb.:** Elmer traded his Deere 425 mower in for a Grasshopper front mount mower. He says he regrets that decision. "I hated the Deere because it took two hours of hard labor just to convert the machine from mowing to snowblowing, and I had to make the conversion twice a year. It took an 800-lb. box of sand on the machine's drawbar to keep the drive wheels from spinning on snow. And during the summer, every time I was done mowing I had to hang the mower deck vertically in a tree just so I could clean off the crud.

"I was fascinated with the Grasshopper machine because the deck can automatically be tilted vertically for cleaning. I took delivery the fall of 2004, right before we got our first snow.

## "The drive wheels were useless on slopes."

"The operator's manual said tire chains weren't needed. However, without them this machine drove like a hog on ice when blowing snow. And in order to make room for tire chains I had to throw away the rig's beautiful, expensive fenders. Another problem was that the machine's skid shoes hung up on uneven dirt and on low ground. The manual lift on the rig was hard to use. The factory rep came out and modified the skid shoes, which helped. He also brought an electric-operated lift and that worked well but cost \$750. The blower worked fine in dry snow, but in wet snow it often clogged up badly.

"The following spring was a wet one and on flat land, the mower's drive wheels spun badly and destroyed our sod. The drive wheels were useless on slopes and made so many ruts that my small acreage look like a plowed field. I welded metal boxes over the

## "No Flat" Bicycle Inner Tube

"I put them into every bike we get. I've never had a problem. It's just a great product," says Jim Yeager, Eden, Utah, about the "no flat" bike tubes he buys from Cyclo Mfg. Co.

The puncture-proof, solid rubber inner tube is guaranteed to never go flat, blow out or lose air.

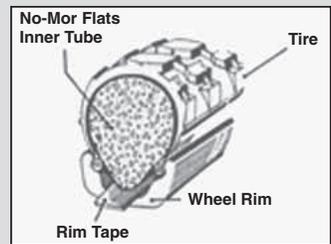
The "No-Mor Flats" inner tube is made of variable density, air cushioned lightweight polymers. It contains no foam or gel sealants and fits into an existing tire, just like you would install an air-filled tube. You just remove the original tube and slip in the No-Mor Flats tube.

The solid tube weighs only about 14 oz. more than a normal thorn-proof inner tube (depending on tube size).

"It increases tire life in two ways," says Ray Gherardini, company representative. "First, since the tire is under constant air pressure and is never over or under inflated, it will last longer. Second, due to its unique properties, it will support a bicycle tire casing that has been cut, gouged or weathered, whereas a conventional inner tube would get pinched and eventually go flat.

"It provides the same ride as a properly-inflated conventional inner tube. In fact, most people can't tell the difference between a tire equipped with No-Mor Flats and one with a conventional bicycle inner tube."

No-Mor Flats tubes cost more than conventional inner tubes, "but the extra cost is



"No-Mor Flats" inner tube is made of variable density, air cushioned lightweight polymers. It fits into an existing tire, just like you would install an air-filled tube.

worth it if you don't want to spend a lot of time fixing flats," says Gherardini.

The No-Mor Flats tube isn't new - it has been on the market for several years. "The reason more people aren't familiar with this product is that we don't advertise but instead rely only on word of mouth," says Gherardini.

No-Mor Flats is available for virtually every bicycle sizes. Prices for a single tube range from \$16.95 to \$21.95 depending on tube size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cyclo Mfg. Co., 1438 S. Cherokee St., Denver, Colo. 80223 (ph 800 525-0701 or 303 744-8043; fax 303 777-2733; cyclo.mfg@worldnet.att.net; www.nomorflats.com).

drive wheels and put 600 lbs. of sand in each box, which solved the problem. The machine now weighs about 2,400 lbs. with me on the seat.

"This machine is fun to drive, but it has a two-lever steering system that takes getting used to.

"It took me 80 years to learn that if you're going to spend \$14,000 on a mower and snow blower, you should first ask for a demonstration model and test it out for a week on your home turf to be sure your eyes aren't bigger than your brain. I wish I had my Deere machine back again."

**Greg Neymeyer, Northfield, Minn.:** On Thanksgiving Day of 2004 Greg bought a new Sears Kenmore stainless steel oven range for \$1,500. He says it's his "worst buy". "A couple of weeks after we bought the oven my wife noticed that a couple of stainless steel trim pieces on the control panel were bent.

"New panels arrived, but they were dented because there was no packing inside the box. We ordered more panels but the same thing happened again. Finally, on the third shipping attempt the parts were usable. After inspecting the new ones the technician told me the entire oven had been welded together twisted and that making an adjustment was impossible. When a new oven arrived, the door and warming drawer were bent and had to be swapped with the same parts off a display model. Everything went well for a few weeks until one of the touch pads on top of the unit quit working.

"I called the company, and they sent a new panel and made arrangements to send a technician. When he arrived, he inspected the panel and observed a damaged 'ribbon' cable. Upon installation, the new panel didn't work either so another one was ordered. It came with a damaged cable, too, so another one was ordered but it had a damaged cable, too. Another order was made, and when it arrived the entire panel was completely shattered! All the parts were shipped in an over-sized box with no packing, so all the parts were flopping around inside.

"When I saw the shattered panel, I again called on my local retailer for a complete replacement oven, which he said was more than appropriate due to all the problems I'd been having. But when the new oven arrived, again the door and drawer were dented and they had to be swapped, this time with the door and drawer from the oven I already had.

"Following this comedy of errors, I contacted Sears and requested a free 60-month warranty, since it was obvious this appliance was a problem child. However, the company did everything it could to put me off and ignore me.

"I've owned Sears products all my life and have a washer/dryer pair that has worked great for more than 20 years, but no Sears Kenmore product will ever cross my door sill again."

**Edward DuBois, Monticello, N.Y.:** "My 1987 Yanmar diesel garden tractor is my best buy. I used it commercially for several years with very few problems and still use it today. I bought a 48-in. mower deck for the tractor but found that it scalped my lawn at times. To solve the problem, I bought a 48-in. long rod with rollers from a mower repair shop and bolted them on back of the deck. Now it works great.

"My 2004 Billy Goat 33 self-propelled walk-behind lawn mower isn't my all-time worst buy, but it ranks right up there. It has a three-chambered deck that clogs up. I have to use a hose and stiff broom after each mowing to clean it out. I installed an in-line fuel shut-off, which allows me to tip the mower all the way up, front to back after using up all the gas in the carburetor. I built a 6-in. high ramp to back the mower up onto. I also built a tag-a-long, ride-on vacuum system and attached it to the machine. It works well."

**Jim Wicks, Sr., Lewiston, Idaho:** A Bosch 5-in. angle grinder rates as Jim's "best buy". "It has good balance and a lot of power for its size. I like the way it feels in my hands, and I also like the type of switch it has. When you turn the switch on the tool stays on, and when you turn it off it goes off.

"The Coleman cordless drill I bought at