

both of which I bought at Harbor Freight. All these tools are outperforming the Ryobi tools I used in the past.”

Jerry Dunn, Wickliffe, Ky.: “I’m well satisfied with my 2016 **Ford F-350 4-WD** dually pickup equipped with a diesel engine. I work in the construction business and use this pickup every day to pull trailers. No problems.”

Sam Lambert, Pontiac, Ill.: “We like our 2015 **Ford Fusion** equipped with a 2-liter turbocharged engine. This is our third Fusion. Recently our grandson’s vehicle was in the shop so we loaned him our car, and he liked it so much that when he got his vehicle back he traded it for a Fusion.”

Larry Bearbower, Vinton, Iowa: “Our 1990 **Echo 750 EVL** chainsaw still works as good as our newer 310, 400, and 440 models. It has required only routine maintenance.”

Ed Clough, Lisbon, N.H.: “My 2004 **Toyota Tacoma** pickup has 221,281 miles on it but all I’ve had to replace is one ball joint and the gas tank. It still has the original rear brakes. It’s starting to rust around the rear fenders but that isn’t a big problem. I’m happy with this pickup and wouldn’t hesitate to buy another one.

“Our 1996 **Long 2460** tractor was a piece of junk. No parts for it were available, so a simple O-ring failure could shut the tractor down for a week or longer. The same day that I mailed my last payment in I had a new 1999 **Deere 5210** sitting in my yard, and 6,700 hrs. later it’s still going strong. Most of those hours have been spent hauling logs out of the woods.”

Everett Wood, Sedalia, Mo.: “The bolts holding the blades on my **Grasshopper** riding mower equipped with a 72-in. deck broke with little or no resistance. Unfortunately the company wouldn’t stand behind its product.”

Leon Swan, Plymouth, Mich.: Leon owns a 2016 **Ford F-150 Lariat** pickup equipped with a 5.0-liter, V-8 engine and a towing package with 3.55 gears. “This pickup gets 17.6 mpg in town and 25.9 mpg on the highway. It rides and handles great and is a big improvement over the 2008 F-150 that it replaced.”

John Quimby, Prince Edward Island: He likes his **Boaz** mini combine for harvesting small plots of grain. He bought the machine for just under \$9,000 with assistance from a government agricultural grant for organic farmers. In the past he harvested his small plots by hand.

Quimby says when he purchased the Boaz it came with very good assembly instructions, a basic tool kit, and a link to a You Tube video that showed how to operate it.



The Boaz weighs just over 900 lbs. and has 3 speeds forward plus reverse. It’s powered by a 13 hp. gas engine and measures 11 ft. long, 5 1/2 ft. wide and just over 4 ft. tall. The cutting platform is 30 in. wide. The operator rides on a seat over the rear dolly wheel operating controls similar to those on a 2-wheeled walk-behind tractor.

“Learning to drive and operate the machine was like a first ride on a rodeo steer,” says Quimby with a laugh. “It took some time to learn the intricacies of steering and handling,

and I made sure I did that away from where the neighbors could see me.”

Quimby says the mini combine moves through a field at a snail’s pace, depositing threshed grain in a bag near the operator station. In the summer of 2016 he used it to harvest 1-acre plots of oats and barley. “I found out real quick that going slow is the key. It doesn’t have a lot of capacity, and overloading it caused vibration that loosened nuts. Fortunately, only a few wrenches are needed to tighten every nut and bolt on the machine, so it’s easy to maintain. I had a problem with a fan blade that a local repairman was able to fix very easily. If there’s ever a problem with chains or losing bolts and nuts, they’re easy to locate. I did replace some of the lock washers and standard nuts with nylon locking nuts, and that was helpful.”

Quimby learned after finishing his own harvest that the Boaz could also be used for harvesting pinto beans. He and a neighbor processed about 300 lbs. of pinto beans with the Boaz operating as a stationary thresher. Quimby says he hopes to further that use in the future by trailering the combine to other farm locations and harvest their certified organic grains. He says the small machine should also be able to harvest buckwheat, peas and wheat.

William N. Albert, Smithboro, Ill.: “My **Kubota ZD326** zero-turn riding mower will mow as fast as it can go. It does a neat job.”

Lloyd DeVries, Shannon, Ill.: “My **Farmall 80GD** tractor has about 15,000 hrs. on it, yet the engine has never been overhauled. This tractor is always ready to go.”

Fred Blankenship, Cecilia, Ky.: “I own a 2000 **DR 15** hp. power unit with a 42-in. finish mower attachment, and a **DR 17** hp. power unit with a 30-in. brush mower. Anything the brush mower can push down, it can chop up. Both machines work great.”

Dan Day, Earlham, Iowa: “I’m happy with the **New Holland L250** compact, 18 hp. skid loader I bought used. It has a great cab entry for such a small loader, and the operator station is much more comfortable than the one on the Bobcat I used to own. It can do a surprising amount of work and is really handy for cleaning stables.

“My **WORX Aerocart 8-in-1** wheelbarrow/yard cart/dolly looked great when I saw it advertised on TV, but it doesn’t hold much cargo. Also, the handles are too short which limits its usefulness as a furniture dolly.”

Mike Myers, Fredonia, Kansas: “We work our 2016 **Deere 930M** zero-turn riding mower hard, sometimes using it like a brush cutter in places that don’t get mowed very often. We’ve driven it over pipes, hedge posts, large rocks and so forth, yet have never broken a spindle. We’ve bent the blades on it but there have been no expensive breakdowns. All we do is change the oil and filters and grease it up, then get on it and go. This is one tough mower.”

Edward E. Sullivan, Kirksville, Mo.: “The 12-ft. jumper cables I bought from **Snap-On Tools** back in 1962 are still pliable, even when it’s 20 degrees below zero. When I bought them I thought these cables were very expensive. But more than 50 years later they still work as good as new, and they’re worth every dime I paid for them.”

Daniel Beal, Hudson, Mich.: “My **Harbor Freight** hydraulic ATV/lawn mower lift is easy to operate and returns to the floor gently. It really works nice.”

Larry Dickinson, LaGrange, Ind.: “I like my **Milwaukee Fuel 18-volt** high torque cordless impact wrench. It has a lot of power and runs on a single lithium-ion battery that



Back in 1965 **Raoul Bourgeois** put together a row crop cultivator for his **Allis Chalmers B** tractor, at a time when no one was selling a belly-mounted cultivator for it. His son **Allan** still uses it today.

Allis “B” Still Going Strong

“Back in 1965 my dad, Raoul, put together a row crop cultivator for his small Allis Chalmers B tractor using Allis Chalmers and Deere parts. We still use it today to control weeds between rows of trees in our shelterbelt and to make furrows for planting our garden. Works great,” says Allan Bourgeois, Gravelbourg, Sask.

He says his dad bought the tractor in 1957 at a time when no one was selling a belly-mounted cultivator for it. “He used the tractor for field work for a few years until he bought a bigger tractor, and then he built the cultivator. He added a live hydraulic pump off an old Versatile swather on front of the tractor for raising and lowering the cultivator shanks.

“It has been a great little tractor and has a lot of hours on it. We’ve overhauled the engine a couple of times, and we still have no problems getting parts. The big advantage to a belly-mounted cultivator is that it turns shorter than a pull-type cultivator, which makes it a lot easier to maneuver around the trees in our shelterbelt.”

Raoul built the cultivator out of an older Deere field cultivator equipped with spring trips. He cut up the frame and mounted 4 shanks and shovels on front, and 3 on back that dig up the tractor’s wheel tracks.



Raoul built the lift mechanism that raises and lowers the cultivator. The front and back halves of cultivator lift together.

The cultivator is raised and lowered by a single hydraulic cylinder that operates a lift mechanism attached to both sides of the tractor.

The tractor originally came equipped with a semi circular hitch on back for hooking up to various implements. Raoul removed the hitch, leaving a pair of 3-ft. square steel plates that bolt onto the tractor’s rear wheel housing. Holes in the plates are used to hook up to the cultivator.

The back part of the cultivator is connected to the front part by a pair of hinged metal arms and raises and lowers in sequence. “The front part raises first and then the back part follows,” says Allan.

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lasts a long time.

“I’ve put more than 1,000 hrs. on my 2004 **Grasshopper 727** zero-turn riding mower. I had to replace the pto clutch, but otherwise this mower has required only routine maintenance.”

Doug Jackson, Lafayette, Ind.: “Last year I bought a new **Deere Z445** zero-turn riding mower. It’s my second model, because I liked the first one very much. I used the new mower 6 or 7 times and then wanted to clean the deck and sharpen the blades. I used a chain hoist in my pole barn to raise the mower high enough to do the work.

“I did this many times on my old model with no problems. But this time when I lowered the mower and tried to start it, the engine kicked like a mule and started leaking oil out the exhaust. I let the machine sit a little while and tried to start it again. It kicked and tried to start, but wouldn’t. It almost seemed like the engine was out of timing.

“I called the dealer to pick it up and see if they could find out what was wrong, hoping that it might be covered under warranty. Their best guess was that I had bent something on the engine. We were in the middle of the mowing season and short on time so I resigned to having them install a new engine, which wasn’t covered under the warranty.

“I kept the bad engine and, as I have some engine knowledge, started to tear into it after I got it home. I was at the point where I needed to turn the engine over by hand. I had already removed the flywheel, so I needed to put it back on. I noticed the flywheel bore was

smooth, and then I looked at the crankshaft and it was smooth, too. But they shouldn’t have been! I got my punch and hammer and popped out the halves of the flywheel key. That was the entire problem! I put everything back together and it fired right up.

“The dealer couldn’t do anything but apologize, and the company wouldn’t cover any of it under warranty. Now I have a perfectly good 25 hp Kawasaki engine with only 61 hrs. on it. Anyone want this engine? Call me at 765 491-2833.”

Jack Fick, Moravia, N.Y.: A **Greenworks** 24-volt cordless chainsaw rates as Jack’s “best buy” (www.cpgreenworks.com; ph 855 579-3704). “This saw is lightweight and easy to use, and it runs slower than a regular chainsaw so if the chain hits a stone it doesn’t damage as many teeth because the chain stops sooner. This saw does kick more than a regular saw, but after I wait for a few minutes it starts up again so much easier.

“My **Rapco Industries** carbide-tipped chainsaw chain is supposed to keep on cutting whenever it hits small stones, but it doesn’t. It didn’t last even one day. We did everything according to the instructions, but got no help when all the chain teeth came off.”

Calvin D. Beechy, Kenton, Ohio: “I’ve used my 1996 **Wood-Mizer** sawmill to cut thousands of board feet of lumber. It’s a dependable sawmill and has required very few repairs, and I like the SilverTip bandsaw blade on it. I use a **Rhel** board edger with the mill to trim bark off the edges of boards up to 24 in. wide and 2 1/2 in. thick.”