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wearing them. The \$49.99 I paid for them was money well spent.

"Last fall I bought new front tires for my restored Wheel Horse garden tractor at **Tractor Supply Company**. However, after 3 mos. the tires kept slowly going flat. I checked and found the sidewalls were badly cracked and leaking air. The company told me they only warrant these tires for 30 days. I ended up putting tubes in them. I paid \$38 apiece for the tires, and the tubes cost \$22 each.

"Last summer I bought a **Ryobi** 14-in., 40-volt cordless chainsaw to cut up fallen trees and to do yard work. The saw has a 3/8-in., low kickback pitch chain that's easy to adjust or change, and the battery will last up to an hour before it has to be recharged. Cutting wood for one hour at my age is plenty, and the recharging time - about an hour - gives me time to clean up the wood I've already cut."

Richard Fryzek, Loveland, Colo.: "My worst buy is **Behr** DeckOver coating. It's supposed to bring new life to old wood and concrete surfaces, but the first time I applied it

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the product peeled off. The company replaced the material, but the second time I had even worse results. Now I'll have to replace the entire deck."

Dennis Hurley, Boonville, Ind.: "In 2004 I bought a used 2002 **Scag** mower. I've used it every summer to cut 6 to 8 acres of grass and have replaced only the blade clutch. These mowers are pricey but work great.

"My 2006 **Jimma** tractor equipped with a 35 hp., 4-cyl. diesel engine is my worst buy. The first day I tried to use it one of the tie rods fell off. The tractor leaks oil everywhere and runs hot when bush hogging. Now I can't find parts for it, as the dealer I bought it from went out of business."

Joe Brooks, Mankato, Minn.: "Kraill" penetrating oil is the best penetrating oil I've ever used. (www.kanolabs.com). It worked for me when several other brands didn't.

"My **Milwaukee** 28-volt lithium ion, 1/2-in. impact wrench was very expensive, and after 1 1/2 years the battery wouldn't even take a charge. A new battery would cost \$165. No more 28-volt Milwaukee impact wrenches for me."

Steven Molnau, Lafayette, Minn.: "I like my **LockNLube** grease gun coupler (www.locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). It fits onto most standard grease guns and comes with a sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. Four spring-steel jaws lock onto the grease zerk, creating a leak-proof seal. Activating the trigger releases the coupler from the zerk. I like that this coupler works on my metric fittings and zerks, which I had trouble getting grease into."

Chris Rieber, Glen, Mont.: Chris is impressed with his **Kubota** M9960 tractor equipped with an LA 1353 front-end loader. "This great little tractor is small enough to maneuver easily, yet strong enough to do many jobs around our ranch. The loader has a capacity of 2,000 lbs., and with the skid loader-style quick-tach plates I can use many different attachments with it. The only limitation is the tractor's small fuel tank."

Carol Ann McNeese, Eddyville, Iowa: "Our **Honda** 2000 generator always starts on the first pull, runs quiet, and will go for a long time on a tank of gas. We like it so much that we bought another one.

"We've found that **Sears Craftsman** 19.2-volt batteries last less than a year before they die and can't be recharged. The company won't replace them."

Donald A. Katum, Monticello, Iowa: "I own a 1998 **Dodge Dakota** 4-WD pickup equipped with a V-8 engine and automatic transmission. It has about 317,000 miles on it but still doesn't use any oil. I tightened the valve covers once and replaced a U-joint twice. I change the engine oil and filter every 3,000 miles and the transmission oil and filter every 75,000 miles. This pickup has some rust but still runs fine. I've pulled many single and tandem axle 3-ton trailers with it.

"There's not a better product made than **Fluid Film** when it comes to rust and corrosion protection (www.fluid-film.com; ph 888 387-3522). I've been using it successfully for 53 years."

Fay Roach, Columbus, Ind.: "The battery pack on our new **Black & Decker** cordless string trimmer lasted for only about 10 min. each time we used it, and after a year the trimmer itself quit working. I returned it to Menards but the manager offered no help at all. She told me she had the same model and that hers still worked good. I bought a **Black & Decker** cordless leaf blower at the same time and it doesn't work, either."

Robert Burns, Center Point, Iowa: "It cuts faster and better than anything I've ever owned," says Robert about his 2016 **Scag** Freedom zero-turn riding mower (www.scag.com). "This mower goes up hillsides where other mowers would just slip or stall, and it has heavy-duty blades so it can cut through taller grass, too. We have locust trees on our property so I put foam-filled tires on the mower to prevent flats."

Tim VanZandt, Lowville, N.Y.: Tim's impressed with his **No-Spill** 1 1/2-gal. gas can (www.nospill.com; ph 913 888-9200).



be just another expensive, over engineered, leaky gas can. But I'm surprised at how well it works. I just invert the can and press a button to release the fuel. Letting go of the button cuts off the fuel supply without any dripping. It's made in the U.S."

Ken Goodman, Alexander, N.Y.: "I bought my **Dolmar** 350 chainsaw because it's lightweight and starts easy (www.dolmarpowerproducts.com; ph 888 673-7278). Once I get this saw running it never stalls."

Rob Williams, Pinconning, Mich.: "I have a list of best buy products that I call my 'wish I had bought two of them. It includes my 2001 **Honda** Foreman 4-wheeler, 2003 **Deere** 4310 tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission, 2005 **Dodge** Ram diesel pickup, 2006 **Central Boiler** outdoor furnace, and 2006 **Jonsered** 2150 chainsaw. All of these products get used hard but have required only routine maintenance."

"Best Buy" Cordless Circular Saw

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

Earlier this year Makita introduced a new battery-powered 7 1/4-in. circular saw. We decided to buy one and try it out in the hope that it would work better than other cordless saws on the market.

I'm happy to report that Makita's new XSR01 is definitely top-notch. It's not cheap at about \$360, but in my opinion, it's worth the money. And I'm not the only one who likes it. Pro Tool Reviews, an online tool-testing outfit (www.protoolreviews.com), ranked the Makita first out of 16 new cordless circular saws after conducting a variety of tests.

I used the saw to cut the ends off 25 oak 2 by 8's rescued from a century-old pole shed. They were a full 2 in. thick and very hard, but the saw never hesitated. I also sliced up some 3/4-in. OSB, ripped 2 by 4's, and sliced up some other old lumber before running the batteries down after more than an hour of steady, hard use. Under normal circumstances, where you make a cut and then put the saw down to measure before making another cut, the saw would last 3 to 4 hrs.

The twin 18-volt, 5 Ah batteries give it plenty of juice. They have indicators on them that tell how much juice is left.

When the batteries do run down, the dual-port charger that comes with the saw will pump them back up in about 45 min.

At about 12 lbs., the saw is no lightweight. However, it handles well. Controlling the cut with one hand was no problem when the saw was resting on the work piece. With a sharp blade it practically pulled itself along the cut.

The in-line, left side blade takes a little getting used to if you've only cut with right side blades. Once you get used to it, though, the saw makes it easy to shave a sliver from a board because of the better visibility.

A computer chip controls the brushless motor, running in high-speed mode when starting and making easy cuts. As the cutting load increases, it switches to high torque mode. An indicator lights up when the saw goes into high torque.

I sliced through one 3/4-in. rain-soaked OSB without a problem. Three layers of OSB caused the torque light to go on but it still cut through all 3 sheets easily, if slower. The smartness of the saw extends to



FARM SHOW writer Jim Ruen is impressed with Makita's new XSR01 cordless circular saw.

overload. Should the operator push it too hard and the motor start to overheat, it shuts down. That happened when I pushed the saw too hard into wet boards.

A blinking battery indicator light tells you to let it cool before using again. If operated with excessive load, the mode indicator blinks in green until the operator reduces the load.

The 7 1/4-in. blade cuts up to 2 9/16 in. deep on a straight cut and 1 3/4 in. on a 45-degree bevel. Adjusting depth of cut and angle of cut is straightforward with easy-to-grab levers. A positive stopper lets you quickly adjust bevels from 22.5 degrees to 45 or 53 degrees. That was a handy feature as I switched from straight to bevel and back.

The depth adjustment was surprisingly accurate. I dropped it to roughly the 1 1/2-in. mark and ripped a 2 by 2 from a 2 by 6. The teeth barely scratched the OSB board beneath.

From a safety standpoint, the Makita features a saw brake that stops the blade fast when you take your finger off the trigger.

Looking for additional input, I showed the new saw to a finish carpenter who, like most, started out framing houses. He approved of the weight, ease of handling and suggested framers would find it really handy. I also shared it with my young son-in-law who uses his circle saw for nearly every type of woodwork. He, too, found it easy to work with.

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Len Mallas, Fond du Lac, Wis.: Len's the satisfied owner of a **Gravely** Pro 260 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki FX 850 V-twin engine and a 60-in. deck. "I use this commercial mower on my 3-acre lawn, and to clear miles of ATV trails in our woods. It can handle almost anything because the frame is made of heavy gauge steel and the deck is made from steel plates with welded seams. There's no flimsy stamped

"It's comfortable to operate and built like a tank. I don't expect to ever wear it out."

sheet metal anywhere on the machine.

"This mower has hydraulic steering with 'soft touch' controls for effortless maneuvering at speeds up to 10 mph. Yet even at high-speeds, it does an excellent job

because of the high speed blade rotation. The only limitation is that it can get stuck in soft, wet ground, but that's true with any zero-turn mower. Otherwise, it's comfortable to operate and built like a tank. I don't expect to ever wear it out.

"More than 26 years ago I bought a used 3-pt. mounted, 5-ft. **Bush Hog** mower. I pull it behind my IH 544 Hydro tractor and use it to clear land and make trails through the woods. As long as the deck on the mower can tip the vegetation over, it'll chew it up. This mower has hit stones the size of my head and run over tires and dirt piles that lugged the tractor down to a stop. One time it even ran over a gravel shovel that my son had left lying in the weeds. It chewed up the handle and cut the blade into three pieces. Yet with all that abuse it has had only one broken blade. This is a tough, awesome machine."

Tom Duncan, Bear Lake, Mich.: "I don't know how I ever got along without my **Rockwell** Sonicrafter multi-purpose oscillating tool (www.rockwelltools.com; ph 866 955-4175). The company offers