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“Our **Stihl** MS251C and MS362C chainsaws worked good until the warranty expired, and then they needed repairs. We couldn’t find a dealer or mechanic who knew what he was doing but still got charged for their time. These saws have too much electronic junk. I just bought another MS362C saw and if it doesn’t work any better it will be my last Stihl. I think the company should have stayed with its 048 and 029 models. But I thought I would upgrade and sold those two models, which I’ve regretted many times. I don’t understand why they don’t keep a good thing going instead of coming out with this newfangled junk. If I could get my hands on an 029 again, I’d buy it regardless what shape it’s in. At least it would be fixable.”

“I don’t understand why they don’t keep a good thing going instead of coming out with this newfangled junk.”

Bill Morrison, Athens, Texas: “It has good hydraulics and is very reliable,” says Bill about his 2019 **Mahindra** 4540 4-WD loader tractor.”

Jim Ellinger, Hanna, Ind.: Jim likes the 1998 **Deere** 4100 4-WD, 19 hp. HST tractor he bought used. “It’s a great little workhorse. I wish I would have bought it new back in 1998.”

Peg and Ron Postow, Catawba, S.C.: They like their **Cub Cadet** walk-behind, wheeled string trimmer. “It cuts grass, weeds and small brush with ease, and always starts on the first or second pull.”



Terry L. Holder, Clinton, Ky.: Terry’s the satisfied owner of a 2020 **Tarter** 5-ft. landscape rake (www.tarterusa.com; ph 800 733-4283). “I used it to move about 10 tons of white rock into a new shed, and it worked really well.”

Ronald Wright, Greenfield, Mass.: **Milwaukee** M18 Fuel cordless chainsaw works fast and is easy to operate. It’s great not having to mix gas and oil.

“My 2019 **Chevrolet** Colorado pickup is fuel efficient and easy to drive.”

Charles R. Moore, Louisiana, Mo.: “My 2018 **Dolmar** PS6100 chainsaw starts easy and has a lot of power. It’ll cut half again as much wood on a tank of fuel as **Stihl** and **Husky** saws. There was a problem with the coil, but the dealer quickly fixed it at no charge.”

Kurt Uhlenhake, Ossian, Iowa: Kurt says a fertilizer made from food waste worked so well on his farm that he became a dealer. “I use the **Wiserganic** 3-2-2 concentrate product in conjunction with **AgriGro’s** Ultra product as a starter and foliar feed for corn, soybeans and alfalfa (https://wiserg.com).

“**Wiserganic** 3-2-2 is made from food waste and has concentrated bioactive compounds

and trace micronutrients that produce better on my farm than fish-based products, molasses and other nutrients that I’ve tried. The manufacturer has data that shows corn treated with **Wiserganic** 3-2-2 has 70 percent improved shoot growth and 21 percent improved root growth over using just 10-34-0. Using the combination of **Wiserganic** 3-2-2



AgriGrow’s Ultra and **AgriCal** has changed my soils and production over the past 4 years.

“**Wiserganic** raises the brix in the growing plants so bugs don’t bother them. The product has low salt, no acid, and it’s non-corrosive, so it’s very easy to handle and doesn’t corrode equipment. It’s high carbon N source stays in the soil, stimulating the microbes that make soil nutrients more available to growing plants. I’m an organic farmer and it works great on my crops. I sell it to conventional and organic farmers and even a few vegetable growers who are using it in greenhouse drip systems. A dairy farmer customer of mine uses it on all of his hay fields and says the forage from that land improved his butterfat numbers and cows are eating less because the feed quality is better.”

Darrell Avery, Coldwater, Mich.: “In 1987 I bought a **Cub Cadet** 1872 large frame garden tractor equipped with power steering and a 50-in. deck. I serviced the tractor myself until the last few years. Now that I’m 92 years old, the same dealer who sold me the tractor does the service work. It now has almost 1,900 hrs. and uses a little oil. I’m well-pleased with it.

“I don’t have any purchases to complain about. My advice is to study the product carefully before buying, find a reliable dealer with an excellent reputation, and give the product the best care possible. If you do those things you will likely be satisfied with your purchase.”

Devon Leightey, Upper Sandusky, Ohio: He’s the owner of a 2002 **Deere** 4300 32 hp. 4-WD tractor equipped with a hydrostat transmission and a 485 backhoe. “We’re very impressed with it. The previous owner put it in a pond with a load of stone in the loader bucket. Insurance totaled it. A local dealer rebuilt the tractor and we bought it. We use it with a 60-in. rototiller to put in food plots and loader forks to cut firewood. It’s an awesome machine.”

Donald Smith, Blountsville, Ala.: “I purchased a new **Delco** alternator, starter, and battery at my local auto parts dealer for my 1972 ‘old faithful’ **Deere** 4020 tractor. The savings were great. For example, a **Deere** alternator sells for \$489; a **Delco** alternator for \$249.”

Cliff Crumrine, New Bavaria, Ohio: “Back in 1981 I bought a **Main Line** Ladybug rototiller made in Italy. It has an **Acme** motor on it. To this day, I have yet to do any maintenance on it. That’s 38 years plus, and I use the rototiller every spring. When spring arrives, I prime the carburetor, set the choke and hardly ever have to pull the rope more than twice. It’s by far the best starting motor I’ve ever had, and I’ve had a lot of them over my 85 years.”



Ruen likes the power and options on the new hammer driver drill (top) and impact driver.

Makita 40-Volt Tools Stand Up

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “The new 40-volt impact driver and 40-volt hammer driver drill from **Makita** have more functions and control options than I know what to do with. They should. They are designed for professional builders and mechanics.

“They are compact and loaded with power. The 2.5 Ah battery pack offers 90 watt hours, and it does so with about the same weight as an 18-volt 5 Ah battery, but more than twice the power. This is important, with the impact driver and battery weighing 3.7 lbs. The hammer driver drill and battery weigh 5.3 lbs. Every ounce counts when the arm is stretched out or contorted around obstacles.

Jesse Downs, Readstown, Wis.: “I’m a fan of **US-2** 2-cycle engine oil available at Walmart. It burns cleaner and you can use one mix in all 2-cycle engines regardless of ratio. It’s price competitive with other oils.



“I like **L.C. King** work wear (lcking.com; ph 800 826-2510). This is a family owned company and their products are 100 percent made in the U.S. down to the cloth and thread. Some of their products include coats, jackets, pants, jeans, overalls, shirts, vests, shop aprons, boots, caps, and small leather goods. Their clothes aren’t cheap but they’re high quality and your money stays in the U.S.

“I bought a **Cub Cadet** SC300 push mower but after only a couple months the grass chute broke. A couple years later the bolts holding the engine got loose so the machine rattles a lot. It does start on the second pull, however. Also, the front wheel drive doesn’t do the job. My advice is to buy a rear wheel drive mower.”

“Their clothes aren’t cheap but they’re high quality and your money stays in the U.S.”

Fred Imdieke, Melrose, Minn.: “I put about 300,000 miles on my 1988 **Buick** Park Avenue and had very few problems with it. It rode nice and was fuel efficient.

“My 1989 **Deutz** Allis 612 Hydro lawn tractor still runs great. I use it to mow a good-sized lawn. My only expense was for a new belt and some work on the deck.

“When I bought a **Trane** furnace and

“The impact driver has many modes for all types of work so it’s extremely versatile.

“Active feedback technology in the hammer driver drill is great and a real wrist saver when the bit binds and the drill twists.

“While I like most of the features, especially light placement and the overall designs of the 2 tools, one drawback is that the side grip on the hammer driver drill has a tendency to loosen.

“What is certain is that the 40/80 configuration will open the door to larger, cordless tools that need the extra power. The impact driver and hammer driver drill sell for \$449 with 2 batteries.”

heat pump, they installed the heat pump improperly and it didn’t work. I called the company many times, but they wouldn’t come out until the pump quit working completely. Then they said all they could do was to install a new heat pump. They said that would cost me \$5,000, but they offered to knock \$300 off the cost. I’ll never buy from Trane again.”

Fredrick Elling, Rudyard, Mont.: “My 2019 **Ford** F-150 is the 17th Ford pickup I’ve owned over the years. Some were bought used. I’ve also owned some Ford cars. All my Fords ran good.”

Simon Summy, Smithshire, Ill.: “I like the **Hercules** 4 1/2-in. paddle switch angle grinder I bought at Harbor Freight. The 11-amp motor has more power and runs at higher rpm’s than most grinders, and it has a lot of torque. I use it in my welding shop. Very durable.

“My **DeWalt** 20-volt compact angle grinder equipped with a brushless motor has good power, but it only runs at 8,000 rpm’s compared to 11,000 rpm’s for the **Hercules**.

“The motor quit working on my **Chicago** 4 1/2-in. electric angle grinder so Harbor Freight gave me a new one. However, after having to make 4 or 5 such trade-ins, I finally upgraded to the **Hercules**.”

Moses Nelson, Brighton, Colo.: My **Yanmar** YT359C loader tractor has the power to move big round bales, and is easier and safer to drive than my old Ford 841D. I especially like the transmission and cab.”

Norman L. Dathe, Rapid City, S. Dak.: Norman’s the satisfied owner of a 2008 **Ford** F-250 diesel pickup he bought used. “It has required only routine maintenance and just keeps on going. I use it often to pull a camper and boat. It’s not very fuel efficient, though.

“My **Ryobi** 410R rototiller starts only after many pulls, and even then it starts hesitantly.”

Doran Gast, Hudson, Fla.: “My 1981 **Makita** 120V AC 4-in. angle grinder just came back from its second trip to the factory repair center. The first time was for a clean-up and lube, and this time involved a cut power cord. The company provided free labor and