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it at the time, not a month later. Every time these good American companies send their products out to China to be made, we have to suffer with inferior products.”

Gerald Lubitz, Perham, Minn.: “In 1982 I bought a 5-in. **Makita** angle grinder. For many years, it was my only grinder, and the way I weld, it got a workout. My welding hasn’t gotten any better, but I’m pleased to say that grinder is still going strong. With not one issue in 40 years, it’s definitely a ‘best buy’.”



Tyler Smith, Brimfield, Ill.: “One of the best tools I’ve purchased recently is a **Maxxeon Cyclops** work light. It’s small, compact and has a very bright light even on the lowest setting. I’ve used this light in a professional workshop setting and it’s very rugged and the magnet is extremely strong. It has three brightness settings. It fits into small spaces and holds on tight. I often tell people it’s an awesome magnet with a light attached to it.”

David Hobza, Edmond, Okla.: “My **Kubota L3200** tractor is hydrostatic drive and I love it with the loader. It’s easy and safe to operate and is just as good as my old Kubota L275, which was perfect. My old unit went to my grandson on his five acres. He is teaching his son to operate it and loves it.”



Hugh Cavallaro, Grass Valley, Calif.: “My **Olight** Array headlamp has been an excellent light (www.olightstore.com). I bought it new in 2020. It’s light, comfortable and plenty bright with four settings. It has a magnetic charger that uses a USB port. It takes 3 hrs. to charge from dead. It has a red backlight that would be good for bicyclists. It works well for hands-free use and the lowest setting is plenty for most household uses and reading.”

“My worst buy is a **China Leather Shoe Patcher (CLSP)** I bought on eBay for my wife. It’s a hand-cranked heavy-duty leather sewing machine. It’s complete garbage. It’s a cheap imitation of an old Singer machine from the early 1900’s. We spent weeks adjusting, smoothing rough areas, taking it apart and putting it back together. It never worked as advertised. It has very rough castings. We lost money on it and decided to get an old Japanese electric leather machine and it works like a dream.”

Curtis Murray, Zachary, La.: “My best buys are my various **Gravelly** two-wheel tractors. They’re simple, powerful, gear-drive machines with over 30 attachments that can go from bush hogging to finish mowing, opening a field to rototilling and cultivating gardens. They will chainsaw trees, grind

stumps, dig post holes, plow and blow snow. The only issue I have with them is they’re habit-forming. I started with one and now I have four running and several more waiting to be put back into service.”

Mark Neyens, Pleasant Hill, Iowa: “Our **Samsung** refrigerator has been nothing but a headache since day one. There have been many problems including the ice maker and a drawer that I can no longer control the temperature of because the wiring was destroyed by the casters that allow the drawer to be pulled out.”

Elbie Powers, Roseboro, N.C.: “I love my 2018 **Kubota M7040** with a premium cab. It’s amazing how long it lasts on a tank of fuel. We use it for everything on our 40-acre farm.”

“My 2018 **Deere 6130** has nothing but problems: A/C leaking, little oil leaks, and hoses being overheated and damaged by being close to the muffler/exhaust. The dealer is all talk but no action. So, I plan to buy a 200 hp. Cat challenger soon.”

Justin Herbel, Freeville, N.Y.: “My best buy is my **Echo** chainsaw with a 58-volt 4.0 Ah lithium-ion battery and 16-in. bar (Model CCS-58V4AH). It has a brushless motor that operates longer than I can. Though not cheap or much lighter than my 42cc gas chainsaw, I do not miss maintaining, starting, refueling and fixing a gas model. I just grab and go. I recently cut down, delimited and bucked a 20 to 24-in. cherry tree with the cordless in one charge. The battery will need to be replaced eventually, but even if that were to happen today, I’ve saved a significant amount of money on high-octane gas, 2-cycle oil, spark plugs and carburetor repair parts.”

“The **Little Giant Plastic Poultry Waterer** is my worst buy. This waterer works by using vacuum. The lid needs to be twisted on super tight to create enough vacuum. If not tight enough, you come out in the morning to a flooded coop. When you get it on tight enough to hold vacuum, it won’t unscrew without using the jaws of life. I switched to a **Harris Farms** plastic drinker that uses a float and is trouble-free. Definitely better than galvanized, which lose their ability to hold vacuum with any kind of dent or when they inevitably become rusty.”

Elias Wolf, Mancelona, Mich.: “I got my **DeWalt** 20-volt 1/2-in. lithium-ion drill for Christmas in 2014. Seven years later it still works fine. The chuck has a little bit of play in it, but the batteries are the originals. It’s helped build our sheds, do repair work on the house, and even helped dismantle a big camper with a couple thousand screws in it.”

“My chickens had lice on them. I tried a bunch of stuff but didn’t get good results. Then I came across **Manna Pro’s Poultry Protector** (www.mannapro.com; 800-690-9908). I tried it and it worked. If you have a heavy infestation like I did you won’t get rid of them completely. It kills on contact, yet the ingredients are all safe and contain no chemicals.”

Lee Simpson, Midland, Mich.: A **Yanmar** tractor loader with backhoe is Lee’s “best buy.” “I use the backhoe to dig footings, trenches and dig out tree stumps. The backhoe comes off easily in a few minutes. Overall, I like the tractor and would purchase it again. A drawback is that the loader lift capacity could be higher. A full bucket of damp dirt maxes it out. I would also route the exhaust up as I hate smelling it all the time from the low outlet near the front.”

Glenn Rogers, Cameron, N.C.: “My 2014 **Kubota L3901** with front end loader and grapple has been so useful in many ways. I find the most uses for the grapple, even more than the forks and bucket. We have a farm



U-shape bucket design doesn’t allow rocks to get stuck.

Rock Master Bucket Best Buy

Richard Gall, Pierz, Minn.: “The **Kasper Rock Master** bucket has cut my rock picking time in half (www.kasperrockmaster.com; 320-630-2712). I purchased the Rock Master in 2013 and used it to break 40 acres of land. Not only is it great for picking rocks, but it’s also great for grubbing smaller stumps. The U-shape of the bucket allows the operator to focus on the task at hand rather than a 6-ft. skeleton bucket.”

“I’ve used many buckets in the past. The most frustrating thing was beating the rocks out all the time as they would get stuck and not allow the dirt to sift out. The design of the rock master doesn’t allow rocks to get stuck which saves time and leaves my soil in the field.”

“Our soils are a sandy clay loam, and our rocks are thick - basketball size and smaller are the most common, but we do run into 2

and 3-ft. rocks. The bucket really stands out when it comes to the big rocks because it can be used somewhat like a crowbar. Using the bucket and the leverage of hydraulics you can easily pop a 2-ft. rock that’s completely buried without damaging the bucket.”

“Another great thing about the Rock Master is the amount of rock it can hold. The deep design allows the operator to keep adding rocks without rocks falling out. Also, you can pick in wetter conditions if needed because your focus is on the rock and not a larger area like most other buckets, thus allowing you to pick rocks and not dirt.”

“I’ve been using this bucket for nearly ten years and have not yet had a crack to weld or any bent iron. It’s a solid rock picking bucket that I’m glad to have as a tool on our farm.”

with many oak trees that often drop their limbs because of wind. Also, our blueberry bushes need pruning, so I can pile the limbs up, then pick them up with my grapple.”



Gerald Rippas, San Antonio, Texas: “The **Yeswelder True Color** solar-powered auto-darkening welding helmet (model EH1002) is one of my ‘best buys’ (www.yeswelder.com). I purchased the cheapest Yeswelder hood as a spare in case my other hood acts up or I have to haul my welder somewhere else in the field. I realized I could see so much better with the True Color, especially in dark areas, that it’s now my favorite helmet. I have trouble now if I have to use my other dark tint hood.”

Sandra J. Kennedy, Elmore City, Okla.: “I use my **Kubota** side-by-side for everything from feeding cows to hauling garden supplies.”

“I love the **Ariat** Rebar women’s insulated overalls. I’m plus-sized and was having to wear men’s overalls before. But these fit me perfectly. They are a lifesaver when feeding cows in the winter and they have just enough stretch.”

Dan Douglas, Strathroy, Ontario: “I bought a **Milwaukee** 18-volt grease gun two years ago and am very pleased with it. It’s fast, has great pressure, and never has an

issue with air locking after a cartridge change. The long hose is nice for reaching remote fittings.”

Howard L. Uiterdyk, Belding, Mich.: A 2017 **Deere 2038R** Compact utility tractor with loader and Auto-Connect 60D mower deck is Howard’s “best buy.” “It’s easy and fun to operate. It has plenty of power and many features. It’s also easy on fuel.”

Mike Sentman, Crawfordville, Fla.: “My 2021 **G3 Sportsman 1710** is easy off and on the trailer and a great boat for fishing.”

“My 20-cu. ft. **Frigidaire** freezer never worked right and the only warranty repair in the area was the absolute worst. They were not reliable and never did fix it. The selling dealer finally swapped it out when Frigidaire would not make it work or replace it.”

Richard Brown, Paris, Ill.: “**Milwaukee** hand-held battery products have better battery life, more power and are the most dependable.”

Richard isn’t as pleased with the **Tracfone** Moto E cellphone he purchased at Walmart. “When the phone was two months old, I got the run around about which company would handle the warranty. After 3 hrs. on the phone, I gave up and threw it in the trash.”



Fred Bolton, Willow, Alaska: “In March of 2020 I purchased a **Smithy Granite** combination milling/metal lathe to assist with repairs and manufacturing of equipment. It was especially helpful in repowering my