

Steve Douglas, Bandera, Texas: "I purchased a new **Deere** 3025D and a 5-ft. **Frontier** mower in Oct. 2021. It's a wonderful little tractor. It doesn't work hard, just mowing 6 acres of Texas pasture. It's used much more for odd jobs like spreading gravel, lifting motors and a portable workbench when used with forks and a modified pallet. It'll lift a Dodge Cummins 6 cyl. but that's about all it can handle."



Donald Thomas, Athens, Texas: "The **Stay-Tuff** t-post clips and drill chuck make installing net wire on t-posts a breeze (www.staytuff.com).

"I have used **Crescent** fence pliers all my life and my dad used them as well. They have always been top quality compared to their cheaper Chinese-made counterparts. But now both the 193610CVSMNN-05 and 193410CVNN-05 are foreign-made - one in China and the other in India. Just another foreign product I used to count on every day. I try to buy American which is getting harder to do when these name brand companies have sold out."

Jerry Cleveland, Spring Valley, Minn.: "My best buy is a **Jonsered** chainsaw. It works as well now as when I got it 40 years ago. It starts well and cuts fast. It has cut many trees. About the only thing I've had to replace has been a new chain every few years.

"An electric **Lynxx** chainsaw has been a disappointment. It cuts fairly well but the battery runs down pretty fast. I plan to get another electric chainsaw, but it will be a different brand."

Don Wooley, Lawton, Okla.: "About 27 years ago I bought a **Kwikset** electronic dead bolt for our entry door. It easily replaced the original dead bolt. It works quickly and is much easier than fumbling with a key. Some 15 years later, the electric conductivity on the buttons in the keypad was worn out. **Kwikset** sent a new lock. While waiting for delivery, I discovered I could glue aluminum foil dots to the back of the buttons and it's still working today. **Kwikset's** replacement lock still waits



in the attic unused. **Kwikset** is great."

Dan Hansen, Kenai, Alaska: "I bought a scythe for my wife and grandkids (www.onescytherevolution.com). Using a scythe is a relaxing, quiet way to start the day due to it working better on damp grasses. Cuttings can be fed to livestock unlike grasses from a mower. Sharpening and swinging it does have a learning curve.

"The **Gränsfors Bruk** Small Forest Axe is sharp, well-balanced and quality-built. The problem is the handle is too short for most of my needs. I hate to put such a fine tool as a 'worst buy' but for the cost and my usage it doesn't make the grade."

Gerald Lee Sundberg, Duluth, Minn.: "My **Stihl** MS180C saw is the best yet. It's very easy to start and use.

"My first snowblower was a 1972 24-in. **Ariens**. After it wore out two engines, I bought a new 24-in. **Ariens Classic** in 2019 and it has been the best. It always starts even at -20 F and is easy on fuel."

Matt Wipf, Kimball, S. Dak.: "We used to struggle in the spring with soft conditions and in the fall with wet conditions. With our **Deere** quad track, we can now sit back and relax a little by doing field work with more ease."

Matt is less pleased with a **Deere** high-speed disc. "We are getting hardpans on our ground from running it, resulting in yield losses."

Joan Wilson, Buffalo, N.Y.: "Two years ago I bought a 2013 used **Dodge** Grand Caravan with 100,000 miles on it. Today it has 200,000 miles on it with only oil changes made every 3,000 miles. Best van I ever owned. This is probably why **Dodge** stopped producing them - they last too long.

"My **Maytag** washing machine stopped working after two years. The manufacturer says the warranty has expired and I should call a **Maytag** repairman. The repairman charges more to come out to my place and repair it than a new washing machine costs. I will never buy another **Maytag** product again."

Arthur Smith, Texarkana, Ark.: "I bought a 2005 **Montana** 3840 tractor in 2006. I have used it since then without any problem and it has always worked when needed. The hydraulic system seems to be stronger than other tractors my neighbors own with the same horsepower. I have, however, broken the 3-pt. lift arms when trying to lift too much. The battery lasted 11 years. I wish I could buy more batteries from the same company."

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Tom Wolsey, Fort St. John, B.C.: "I've had quite a few **Deere** tractors in my time, and they all seem to perform without a lot of breakdowns. I had to split one at the center one time to change an O-ring but that is the only major repair. I'm 85 so I've been farming awhile."

Ed Stahl, Drumheller, Alberta: Ed's best buy is a 2010 **Deere** 9630T tracked tractor. "All I've done to it is replace a fan hub drive and one set of tracks. It's approaching 11,000 hrs."

Ed isn't as happy with his 2011 **Deere** 6R 195. "I had nothing but overheating problems. The dealer did everything possible but just couldn't fix it. I had to get rid of it."

Ron Kraemer, Norfolk, Neb.: "My **Jonsered** 2255 chainsaw has been a good investment. It starts easily, is economical to use and cuts very well. The chain tightener takes a little getting used to but works okay."

Jim Corcoran, Sagle, Idaho: "Stihl chainsaws are a 'best buy.' I have several and all are excellent. I am a retired redwoods logger. I cut and split wood, along with others in a group, for people who need wood."

Ron Wilson, Fruitvale, B.C.: "In Nov. 2021 I purchased a **Kubota** LX2610 with front end loader, backhoe and a front-mounted snowblower. I really like it. It has more bucket lift capacity, and the backhoe works great along with the front snowblower. There's no more shifting with the hydrostatic drive.

"My **Magellan** dashcam is unreliable -

Dust Collector Pros, Cons

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "I bought a 2-hp. dust collector from **Harbor Freight**, put it together, and then later returned it for a full refund. Everything worked, but what looked like a good deal wasn't."

"While the collector, rated at 1,550 cfm, cost around \$200, I would have to spend several times that to get the dust control I wanted. The more research I did, the higher the costs rose.

"I needed a 4-in. flexible duct to connect it to my power tools and various reducers and add-ons to connect it to the tool's dust ports and to collect dust at blade and cutting tool edges. In addition, I learned how ineffective the 5-micron dust bag that came with it was. To capture and hold fine dust, I would need to spend close to \$300 for a 0.5-micron canister filter. To protect it, I would need to build or buy a cyclone-style separator, or the filter would quickly clog up.

"Perhaps most frustrating was to discover dust collection information from toolmakers was questionable at best, if not misleading and perhaps downright fraudulent. Dust ports on hobbyist woodworking tools capture and direct a tiny portion of the dust actually produced. Most of it is released directly into the air around the woodworker. While searching for DIY information, I ran across a reference to **Bill Pentz**.

"Pentz is a woodworker who found himself in the hospital as a result of fine dust inhalation. He has since made a study of dust collection, as well as designing and marketing several systems to remove fine dust from workshops. If you want to learn

the details of fine dust control, go to www.billpentz.com/woodworking/cyclone/index.php#index.php.

"Pentz explains why most dust collector systems don't do their job and how my 1,550-cfm rated collector was most likely 500-600 cfm if properly tested. Tricks include testing without filters in place and without ductwork. The site refers to engineering studies and applies industrial research to the home shop.

"Among his key points:

- Insurance data for large woodworking facilities that have good dust collection systems show fine dust causes 1 in 7 workers to take forced early medical retirement and lose about 1 percent of their respiratory capacity per year of work.
- OSHA testing shows most small shop workers who vent their dust collection systems inside get more fine dust exposure in a few hours of woodworking than large facility workers get in months of full-time work.
- Dust collectors like the one I bought with a shoulder-level dust bag are more harmful than no bag at all, as dust is spewed out of the bag at face level.

"For people like me, not ready to spend \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a dust collection system that works, Pentz advises using power tools (handheld and table-mounted) outside or at least with open doors and a strong fan creating good airflow. He also recommends wearing a NIOSH-approved respirator mask with dual HEPA quality cartridges."



Jim Deardorff saves time and money with his **AirVerter** spray gun.

Paint Gun Tops Best Buy List

Jim Deardorff, Chillicothe, Mo.: "I've saved myself and my customers thousands of dollars in paint with my **AirVerter** spray gun. I've been using it since 1994 and estimate that I've sprayed more than 2,500 gals. of paint with it.

"Before I got it, I used an airless sprayer. When I went with the **AirVerter**, I cut my paint volume in half.

"The **AirVerter** uses only 10 to 12 lbs. of air pressure and has precise application control. The control, which means practically no overspray, is why the **AirVerter** is used in the interior of Navy submarines. I like it because it means practically no masking needed, and it saves me a ton of clean-up thinner.

"Another great thing about the **AirVerter** is that it uses compression fittings. There are

no rubber or plastic gaskets that need to be replaced. Most spray guns on the market require a new packing kit every 100 gals. of paint. I have never put a new kit in this gun, and it still works fine."

"The **AirVerter** is an excellent option for farmers, as well as professionals like me who work with ag equipment. It doesn't lay down a glossy finish like you want on a car, truck or tractor, but it is ideal for maintaining equipment. I can cover a grain wagon or equipment trailer with just 2 gals. of paint with this gun.

"The company is coming out with a new model, and I'm going to try it out. If it is as good as my old one, it will be worth having." (www.airverter.com; ph 301-497-7600).

sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't."

Robert Sykes, Hale, Mo.: "My 2005 **Jeep** Liberty CRD has great fuel economy, is nimble, turns short, and has 4-WD.

"After running **BF Goodrich** all-terrain tires for years, the last two sets I bought only got about 30,000 miles wear. I used

to get 60,000 to 70,000 miles out of a set. The guy at the tire store said others are complaining about the poor wear also. I used to buy nothing but **BF Goodrich** tires - not anymore."

Norm Venturino, Hayden, Idaho: "My 'best buys' are the cordless line of