

Lou Cumings, Rosenberg, Texas: “Deere Gators are great machines, but the seats don’t hold up. I’ve had to replace three seats on the two Gators we use. Why they can’t make a seat that will stay attached to the main body is beyond me.”

Joseph E. Bruggeman, Taber, N.Y.: “My best buy is my 2012 Kubota RTV 900 that I bought used. It can haul a half cord of wood, no problem. I put a 6-ft. Boss poly power angle plow on it to plow my driveway and it handles it like a toy.”

“My worst buys are my two Husqvarna chainsaws (Model #353 and #562 XP with 24-in. bar). Neither of them has a trigger lock or a choke, just the push bulb. I will excuse them for doing that with the 353, my limbing saw, as it’s a ‘weekend warrior’ saw. But the 562 XP is a professional’s saw that loggers butter their bread with. I think that whoever came up with that push bulb idea for big saws and doing away with the trigger lock was sitting on their brain. I’ve owned Husky saws for over 40 years.”

“I’ve owned Husky saws for over 40 years.”

Timothy Shrock, LaGrange, Ind.: “My Stihl MS 362 C-M chainsaw has good power and, with a sharp chain, cuts through any wood. I bought it to replace our old Stihl 042 chainsaw that gave out after 30 plus years. The new one is a lot lighter.”

“I have purchased off-brand locking pliers that were not the Vise-Grip brand over the years, and none have compared to my real Vise-Grips. They hold up to heavy use and that’s all I’ll use from now on.”



Randal Hatcher, Beeson, W. Va.: “I like Marvel Mystery Oil. It can be used for so many different things. Old engine seized? Pour Mystery Oil into the cylinder, leave it for an hour or so, and presto. Add to the gas tank and it will clean the carb or injectors. Add to the crankcase to clean the inside of the engine.”

“I wasn’t happy with our Nutribullet blender. I tried to juice cherry tomatoes. The machine had to be started before adding them and then they had to be added one at a time. It makes a big mess and there isn’t enough torque.”

David Miller; kiotti455@gmail.com : “We bought a new Samsung refrigerator from a big box store for \$3,400. Two years later the compressor quit. I contacted the manufacturer and they set up a series of service appointments, but no one showed. I finally got someone on the phone, and she laughed and said they have a service agreement with Samsung, but they take care

of their own customers first. At this point, we were without a refrigerator for over two weeks and the lady at the service center said it would be at least another two weeks. The compressor had a ten-year warranty but that only covered the compressor, not the service call or labor. We threw out our two-year-old refrigerator and purchased a new one from a local dealer that has a service department.”



Mike Frantz, Seymour, Mo.: “I bought an International Harvester deep freezer at an auction about 20 years ago. It was manufactured in 1952 so it’s now 70 years old and still keeping things cold. A few years ago, it quit working. No one wanted to come and work on it, but I finally found a retired refrigeration man who brought a new capacitor. He wasn’t sure how to wire it as there were no markings on the old one, but he got it right and it’s worked fine since. They sure don’t make them like that anymore.”

Dave Temple, Norwood, N.Y.: “My White American 80 tractor is a good all-around tractor, it handles well, has good power and is operator-friendly.”

Dave isn’t as satisfied with his 2006 Kubota M9540. “It works every day but isn’t operator friendly. The clutch is jerky, it steers and shifts hard, you can’t turn it with one finger, and the shift lever has broken off twice.”

Daryn Kauffman, Rozet, Wyo.: “I like my 2021 Milwaukee FUEL finish nailer. It sinks nails as deep as an air nailer and you don’t have to drag a cord around. It’s especially nice when you just have a short project, and you don’t have to set up an air compressor and air hose.”

Michael Metcalf, Albion, N.Y.: “In the past few years I’ve purchased two rebuilt Patz 98B silo unloaders. The Patz unloaders perform flawlessly and clean the silo walls very well.”

“My JUG energy-free cattle waterer works very well and there is no ‘learning curve’ like with a ball waterer. I did need to retrofit it with a heater as the float valve would freeze at temperatures below 5 degrees F (www.jugwaterers.com).”

Marvin Troyer, La Jara, Colo.: “I bought a Honda EU6500 generator new in 2012 to run a water pump and home office until a solar system was set up. It was connected to a remote start that was kept in the kitchen. I ended up using it like this for over two years without any trouble. This unit now has 3,810 hrs. on it and I’m using it to run my Lincoln Power Mig 210 MP welder. It still runs very well. I’m on the second battery and ready for the third. At 10 yrs. old, this unit is still worth \$4,000.”

Matthew Martin, El Dorado Springs, Mo.: “I like my 2019 Deere 2025R Compact Tractor with hydrostatic drive. It’s handy to use on the farm every day. It has a loader that’s very snappy and operates well.”

Orville Meyer, Anamosa, Iowa: “I’m the proud third owner of a Snapper zero-turn mower with a 48-in. deck. It’s going on 32 years old and runs great. It uses hardly any oil and I think the tires are the original ones. The mower has just one joystick for turning and is fun to operate.”

Thomas Heeter, Shade Gap, Penn.: “My best buy is a 2007 Ford Fusion. I bought it used with about 80,000 miles. I haven’t had

“Best Buy” Makita Inflator

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “The DMP 18-volt cordless inflator from Makita is a compact design and handy to use.”

“The inflator weighs only 6 lbs. with a 5 aH battery and costs \$159 for the bare tool. It uses the older 18-volt battery system, eliminating the need to buy a charger and battery if you already have an 18-volt Makita tool.”

“I really like the easy-to-read dial, front and center on the tool’s top side. It displays the current pressure of the item being inflated as well as the target pressure. Up and down arrow buttons below the dial let you change the target pressure. Press the M button between them to switch between psi, bar or kPa units. Press and hold it for 3 sec. and the dial switches from Ball mode (5 to 16 psi) to Low Speed and High Speed modes (5 to 161 psi).”

“I’ve used it on car, truck and tractor tires. It’s hard not to get frustrated with the time it takes with any inflator or small compressor, but the DMP 181 isn’t bad. In one case, I deflated a 75R 16 truck tire to 15 psi and timed inflation. It took 3 min. to increase by 20 psi.”

“While the inflator does stop automatically, it’s always at about 1 1/2 lbs. over the preset pressure. I queried Makita as to why but got no answer. However, the Schrader valve adapter screws onto the tire valve. Unscrewing it releases a small amount of air. I checked the reinflated truck tire with my pressure gauge, and it was at the preset 35 psi.”

“I don’t care for the screw-on Schrader



“I deflated a 75R 16 truck tire to 15 psi and timed inflation. It took 3 min. to increase by 20 psi,” says Ruen.

adapter for inflating tires, but it is the standard on the DMP 181. It makes it easy to attach the Presta valve adapter, a ball valve needle and a tapered adapter (floating tubes). I do like the tapered adapter for blowing sawdust away from shop tools.

“The pressure release valve on the side of the inflator is a nice touch, should a person overinflate. Restraints on the other side hold the 18-in. air hose out of the way when not in use.”

“With its 11 in. length, 3 1/2 in. width and 9 in. height, the DMP 181 is a handy size to keep in the garage for checking air pressure before a trip or to toss in the car or truck for camping.”

“Best Buy” Pickup At 315K

Lawrence Krantz, Moran, Mich.: “My 2010 Ford F-150 with 315,000 miles is the best pickup I’ve ever owned. I change the oil every 4,000 miles and the oil that comes out of the engine is almost as clean as that going in. I put on most of the miles pulling a 16 ft. flatbed trailer hauling a vehicle, a small tractor, or some piece of equipment. The most I’ve hauled is 10,000 lbs. The truck gets 15 mpg with a loaded trailer and 18 mpg when it’s empty. I’ve never had transmission problems. I’ve changed the transmission oil every 50,000 miles and never had a speck of metal on the magnet. The only parts I’ve replaced are wheel bearings and

to do any major repairs – just tires and oil changes. It now has 240,000 miles.

“My 1949 Farmall H just keeps on running.”

Brian Donnelly, Newark, N.Y.: “The GSI Bulk Feed Grain Hopper Tank has terrible assembly instructions. I made the mistake of trying to assemble the 2-ring, 9-ft. bin with the help of another person. We couldn’t get it done. The dealer advised against assembling it myself, but there is an assembly manual that comes with the kit. How hard can it be, right? Well, don’t do it. The assembly manual has poor documentation, blurry pictures, and misleading instructions that refer to things that aren’t in the manual. For example, there is a picture of the bin being assembled upright, but the manual says to lay it on its side. The manual covers all types and sizes of bins so there are exceptions all over the place that are confusing. We had the ladder on and off two times and still couldn’t figure out how to do it. It’s written from the point of view of someone who does this assembly for a living. Called the dealer and hauled it partially assembled back to them and they made it right for a small charge.”



Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: “After using a Flux Core welder for several years, I finally decided to upgrade. After some research, including reviews and YouTube videos, I purchased the Millermatic 141 MIG Welder. I’m really impressed and totally satisfied with this welder. I made a wooden frame to hold gas bottles in place and straps to hold it secure.”