

the hook gap. The closed loops are smooth and fast because, with the extra-long laces, I tie a small knot on the very end of the laces so that they do not pull through the top loop when I remove my boots. When I put my boots back on, I just pull the smooth-sliding laces tight and tie them, no lacing. I had an issue with one once and customer service was top-notch. And, best of all, they are made in the USA. When I first install new shoelaces, I find the middle of the shoelace length, tie a small knot and then put the knot between the bottom two eyelets. My laces are forever the same length."



Daniel Alderfer, Carbondale, Colo.: "My WEN 44 7/8-in. handheld corded band saw is dependable and built strong (www.wenproducts.com; ph 847-429-9263). It cuts any kind of steel, plastic or aluminum. The variable speed control and small LED light are also very handy."

Henry Witt, Altamont, N.Y.: "I love both my Black & Decker 40V battery-operated string trimmer and chainsaw. They have operated just like advertised and the batteries last as long as I do. I can cut through surprisingly large branches with the chainsaw."



Robert A. Knickel, Camden, S.C.: "After reading about SealLube for years, I finally tried it. It's one of the best products I've ever used. It fixed a seal in a 40-year-old jack, a power steering seal on a tractor, and the lift cylinder on my loader. I would tell anyone that has a leaking seal to try it."

Kevin Sheehy, Algoma, Wis.: "My 2004 Deere GT245 is my best buy. I've been cutting grass with the 48-in. deck and blowing snow with the 42-in. snowblower for 18 years and haven't had one serious issue. I've only done regular maintenance."

"I haven't had the same experience with my Yard-Man 2-cycle weedeater. It's impossible to start. After one summer, I tossed it in the dumpster."

Gene Bontrager, Kalona, Iowa: "My best buy is my Grasshopper 623T lawn mower. Between my three sons and myself, we put around 150 hrs. per year on it. It's low maintenance and I've had excellent dealer service. The deck lift actuator went out and was promptly replaced by the dealer under warranty."

"I haven't been pleased with Goodyear automotive tires. I purchased a new car with a 60,000-mile warranty on tires. At around 15,000 miles all four tires were almost bald so I contacted the local dealer.

He communicated with Goodyear who told him they would not warrant replacement or adjustment on tires. No more Goodyear tires on anything I own."



Gerald D. Peterson, Jewell, Iowa: "Titebond III Ultimate Wood Glue (www.titebond.com; ph 800-877-4583) is a best buy. I've used this glue for many years on my projects. It works best on bare wood and can't be pulled apart."

"I don't like Gorilla Glue for wood. It acts more like foam insulation."

Glenn Allen, Mt. Vernon, Ohio: "My 2020 JCB 270T telehandler is a best buy. With the one-arm boom, you can raise something up to work on and get out of the cab. Dealer support has been good. One thing I would have them change is the cab height – it could be 2 to 3-in. lower."

"Deere's tech policy is a real problem as is their one dealer per region. There's no competition. How much market share do they have to lose before they change? I put an ACU on my tractor and they had to program it. It was bad and they put four on before they got one that worked. I got charged for programming them because I had put the first one on myself. They also put numerous other parts on that weren't needed because they could. Guess who paid for them? My next tractor won't be a Deere."

Dennis Hegg, Mitchell, S.D.: "My worst buy was a 2015 Kia Sorento. It took Kia 2 mos. to fix the tailgate so it would open. I had to replace about a dozen headlamps at about \$50 each because they kept burning out. I didn't like driving it at night because the high beams just weren't high enough. We complained but the dealer quit answering the phone. The door to the gas cap didn't work most of the time. I traded that junker off."



Gary Swensen, Yankton, S.D.: "I finally found a great spare tire carrier for trailers from PJ Trailers (www.pjtrailers.com; ph 903-785-6879). It was about \$50 and fits into a stake pocket and holds the spare tire off to the side of the trailer so it doesn't take up cargo space."

Allan Von Werder, Morgan City, La.: Allan bought two Predator generators in 2021 from Harbor Freight – one a 3500-watt and the other 9500-watt. "These generators are whisper-quiet and run for half a day or

Best Buy 3D Printer

Earl Pancoast, Salem, N.J.: "My Creality Ender 3 v2 3D printer and Autodesk Fusion 360 software are real best buys. I've used the printer to make parts that I can't find elsewhere, and the software lets me design them for 3D printing and for custom metal work I can't do myself."

"This spring I used the software to design seed stop covers to create different row spacing so I can use my older IH drill to plant soybeans. Seed stop covers are available for other drills, and I know farmers who get by with duct tape. The covers weren't available for my drill, and I wanted a fix that would last, unlike duct tape."

"There's a free version of the software, but I've purchased the upgrade as I use it for both farm equipment and my combat robot building hobby."

"Once I had the files ready (it exports either OBJ or STL file formats read by most 3D printing software), I used the Ender 3 to print them in IH red."

"Seed stop covers for other older drills are available online for around \$2 each. That's about what it cost me for the plastic for each of mine."

"I've used the Autodesk Fusion 360 to draw up files that I can send out for laser cutting of steel and aluminum parts. I send them to either OSH Cut in Orem, Utah, or SendCutSend in Reno, Nev. They each provide instant quotes and usually a 3-day



Pancoast uses a 3D printer to make seed stop covers for his drill.

turnaround.

"When I first tried 3D printing, I borrowed printers from friends. However, my dad always said, 'If you have to borrow a tool three times, you better buy it.' I bought the Ender 3 for around \$259. It was ready to go with everything I needed."

Best Buy Sawmill And Sharpener

Sidney Stubbs, Beaver Lodge, Alta.: "I've used my Norwood bandsaw blade sharpener and tooth setter for more than 20 years. The sharpening stone on it is superior to other bandsaw blade sharpeners that I've seen. It's much gentler."

"When I sharpen my blades, the stone barely touches the blade tooth, giving off a tiny spark. That's important, so it doesn't heat the blade. My blades last me 19 1/2 hrs. on average."

"I watch others being used, and they have big stones, and the sparks just fly. It's no wonder they have to change blades so often. They'll tell me theirs last only a 1 1/2 to 2 hrs."

"My Norwood sawmill is also a best buy. It's one of the smaller ones with only a 20-in. throat. It uses a 140-in. blade. I can sharpen one side in about 3 min. and set the teeth in 15 min. Then I flip it inside out and do the other side."

"The sharpener and tooth setter cost me around \$1,100 in 2001 when I bought it. It's paid for itself at least five times over. It's easy on the blades and stone. I ordered half a dozen stones when I bought it, and I still have two or three left. They last a long time, and I've sawn a lot of lumber."

"The company suggests the maximum size log it will saw out is 24 in. with its 20-in. throat. However, I figured out how to cut up



Norwood bandsaw blade sharpener.

a tree as big as 3 ft. in diameter with it.

"Instead of a square cant, I cut a hexagonal cant. I can cut 20-in. boards on each side, rotating the cant and reducing the diameter as I go. It takes a little wiggling, but it works."

more on a tank of gas. They've got electric start and are easy to maintain."

Ed Doucette, Fort Ripley, Minn.: "My 2008 Yamaha XT250 motorcycle has never given me an ounce of grief. I bought it with 500 miles on it in 2008 from a friend who was hot to buy a Gold Wing. I now have almost 8,000 miles and get from 65 to 80 mpg. It'll go 65 to 80 mph but likes 50 to 55 mph better."

Gary Sampson, Freedom, N.Y.: "About 10 years ago my car was rear-ended and ever since I can't have anything tight around my waist while sitting. It was embarrassing



to always have to loosen my belt before sitting down, especially when we were in a restaurant. Then I came across an ad for a ratchet belt. Instead of a pin that you have to get into the right hole, it has a ratchet-style

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