

variety of industrial supplies.

"For more common fasteners such as bolts, nuts, etc., I use **The Nutty Company** based out of Milford, Conn. (www.nutty.com; ph 800-468-8891).

"Unfortunately, I do have a worst buy as well. Although I enjoy its size, capability, excellent cold weather starting, and fuel economy, my **Deere 4300** medium frame compact with a 430 loader equipped with the 12 by 12 mechanical reversing transmission has had many issues with the transmission/clutch design. I thought that a gear drive machine would be better for occasional field use such as raking or tedding, but it hasn't worked out that way. The ratios of the transmission have too much overlap and no matter which of the three ranges you select, there is often no gear available to provide a suitable speed. Although the mechanical reverser may work well in design, we've had a dealer do major clutch adjustments twice (which requires splitting the tractor and is extremely difficult to do) which did not last. A third disassembly in our shop revealed a failing reverse shaft bearing which caused excessive end-play in the transmission shaft which affected clutch adjustment. Next time, I'll try the hydrostatic version of this size machine. I like the extremely strong 430 loader and the fact that most of our loader attachments can be shared with a smaller 4110 tractor and a larger 5425 tractor but there has been too much downtime."

Roy Weaver, Richmond, Va.: "My 2022 **Dodge Ram 2500** with Cummins diesel engine is very quiet for a diesel and rides well for a 3/4-ton truck. I'm getting 21 to 22 mpg and it has plenty of power for pulling a trailer. It's a very good truck."

Barry D. Foti, Meadows of Dan, Va.: "I can't recommend getting a **CarShield** repair insurance policy. The company wouldn't pay for a transmission replacement because the damage was caused by a bad clutch. This exception wasn't noted until the damage was found."

Ron M. Kreger, Ponca City, Okla.: "In 1975, I purchased a 1953 **Ford Golden Jubilee** tractor. I had a valve job done on it when I first got it. Since then, I've had no major mechanical issues. All my kids learned to drive and use it. I still use it almost daily."

Tiny Simpson, Kernersville, N.C.: "I've only replaced one belt and three batteries in 13 years on my **Bobcat** zero-turn 52-in. cut mower. I mow 2 1/2 acres. The ride is much smoother than others I've worked on. It won't slide on a slope as others do."

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Bob Henrich, New Buffalo, Mich.: "I bought a **Honda 420** quad new in 2007. With regular maintenance, I haven't had one breakdown and it never fails. It even still has the original battery."

"I didn't have the same luck with a **Milwaukee** right-angle grinder. I replaced the switch twice in the first 2 years. Then the gearhead went out. I put it in its proper place - the trash pile."

Steve Alley, Lebanon, Ore.: "My 2021 **NorthStar 26-gal.** boomless spot sprayer has been a disappointment. It has no pressure and many leaks. After lots of calls to Northern Tool, I finally gave up. I've bought many other products from Northern that worked fine."

Warren Zimmerman, Meadville, Mo.: "I purchased a new **Spartan RZ-HD** zero-turn lawn mower in 2020. I'm very pleased with

the performance. It's not their top-of-the-line model, but it's still built heavy compared to most other mowers. The biggest plus is the HD Parker hydrostat pump and motors. Most other mowers in this category use a light-duty hydro-gear hydrostat unit with a smaller motor and just gear it down for power."

Jerry Misek, Elizabeth, Ill.: "I like my **Hitachi 10-in.** miter saw. These saws come with a 5-year warranty. Even though I use this saw a lot, it has lasted beyond 5 years. Also, the motor brushes are very easy to install, and the blade doesn't seem to get dull."

Ernest A. Hall, Aiken, S.C.: "I serviced a **Deere 260** riding mower for a friend for 28 years. I've used it to pull mowers into my shop. I've only changed the oil, filters, etc. Now it's 38 years old and still going strong."

"I've serviced or repaired hundreds of **Craftsman** riders over the years. Sad to say, they were the most often in need of repairs or were junked."

Mike Mason, Webster City, Iowa: "I've had my **Gravely 272** zero-turn mower for at least 15 years. It's given me very little trouble. I've only done general maintenance (oil changes, blades and occasional belts). I use it to mow several building sites and even pastures. It's a mean machine."

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Bruce Porkka, Atlantic Mine, Mich.: "I've logged for years. For a long time, my favorite chainsaws were from Husqvarna and Stihl. Recently, however, **Echo** chainsaws have become my favorite by far. They have lower prices, good service, an excellent warranty (5 years), a smart design (ex. adjustable oilers), and they are durable."

"I've been disappointed by several hydraulic jacks from various brands. They don't last longer than a year or two. I haven't had the time to try to rebuild any of them. It would be nice to buy a hydraulic jack that would last 5 years or more."

Andrew Cacka, Molalla, Ore.: "My **DeWalt Atomic** compact 3/8-in. impact wrench has great torque and never gives up. It's really compact for the ratio of size to torque. I like the 3-mode lights and the 4-mode speed with a mode for wood lag bolts."

"I haven't been happy with my **Ryobi** driver bits. They were marked as impact rated, but the ends are just falling apart under impact, like Chinese bits. But I do like **Milwaukee** bits. I've had some I've used for 5 years, and they are still like new."



Elias Wolf, Mancelona, Mich.: "When I bought my **Irwin** quick grip bar clamp, I had no idea how many uses I'd find for it. It has 300 lbs. of clamping force."

"I also like the **Pocket-Net EZ Fence** from **Volm Companies**. I'm on my third year and it's still in good shape. It's a very tough fence."

"I was disappointed in the **EasyCare** exterior porch and floor paint that I bought at True Value. It was \$40 a gallon. I put it on the floor of my shed and 2 mos. later it



Voss uses a battery and magnet to mount and charge his system.

Add-On Camera System Best Buy

Lar Voss, Johnstown, Colo.: "A **Douxury** camera system has been a good investment for me. The \$220 package includes two wireless, 12-volt cameras and a split-screen monitor. I adapted one of the cameras for battery power so I can place it remotely on my big square baler. I mounted the second camera and the split-screen monitor in my tractor cab."

"The system I assembled could easily be used on combines, manure application rigs, trucks, hay rakes and other equipment. I knew it would have limited use on the baler, but if one camera was battery-powered, I could move it to other equipment."

"A \$25 **DeWalt** USB attachment and a **DeWalt 9-amp** hour battery provide the 12 volts the camera needs. The battery sits inside a \$15 waterproof ammo carrier. A 60-lb. magnet and a 90-lb. magnet attached to the carrier let me mount it close to the camera, which also has a 90-lb. magnet on it. I attached another 90-lb. magnet to the second camera that I mounted inside the cab. The four magnets cost me \$60 and are probably stronger than I needed."

"I mounted the split screen monitor permanently in the tractor cab. The second camera with its magnet is mounted near the back window to monitor the rear of the tractor and the front of any implements."



Remote camera can be mounted to show if equipment is working properly.

"Mounting it inside the cab has presented no visibility problems from light reflection on the glass, except at night. The remote camera mounted to the rear of the baler is accurate enough that I can see the knots on the bale as it exits the bale chamber. I've also used it on a small baler to monitor for string problems."

"The entire package cost \$320, and it's worked well. The operator manual is minimal, but the company encourages customers to call if there are issues with the equipment, installation or operation."

was chipping off. I thought I did something wrong, so I wire brushed it all off and repainted. The same thing happened."

Ralph Decker, Delton, Mich.: "I've been very impressed with **Milwaukee** Fuel 18-volt and 12-volt tools. I have 25 M18 and 15 M12 Fuel tools. They're excellent tools and the batteries have a great life. I have batteries from 2014 that are still working."

Clifton L. Martin, Port Trevorton, Penn.: "I bought a new **Mascot** silent cut 21-in. deluxe reel mower in 2020. It performs so well that I wouldn't want anything else. It doesn't use gas and you don't have to remember to charge it up. It also does a nice job of cutting grass."

"I'm not happy with my **Fastenal** Rock River headlamp. It only lasts 11 hrs. on low with three AAA batteries. The price wasn't cheap either. I thought if you pay more you get more. Not this time."

Mark & Brenda Larkins, Vale, N.C.: "Our 2016 **Subaru** Forester PZEV has been an excellent used vehicle purchase for us. The all-wheel drive takes us wherever we want to go. It gets wonderful gas mileage (40+ mpg) and has many safety features."

"We've been frustrated with our experience trying to purchase a holster from **Rocky Top Holsters**. The product was ordered through one company and Rocky Top Holsters ended up getting the money according to the credit

card records. Multiple attempts to contact the company via email and phone delivered zero replies. Long story short, they got the money, and we didn't get a product."

Billie R. Moore, Galatia, Ill.: "My 2002 **Deere 4100** with 410 loader is great. I've only changed the oil and filter, nothing else. It still has the original battery."

"My 2002 **Grasshopper 740K** mower has only had oil and filter changes plus a new battery."

"My worst buy was a **Craftsman** battery-operated drill."

William Nelson, Glasgow, Ky.: "In 2009, I bought a used 2005 **Hyundai** Elantra GT sedan with 38,000 miles. It now has 187,400 miles. This vehicle has been virtually trouble-free. I've only replaced the alternator and one wheel cylinder. The is my daily driver and has been in woods, fields, and creeks. It gets between 32 and 36 mpg."

Delbert Bauersachs, Pinckneyville, Ill.: "My son and I used **DeWalt** tools for 10 years or more until we started using **Milwaukee** tools. Now when a **DeWalt** quits, we just throw it in the trash. The red batteries will last four to five times longer. If we use a **DeWalt** tool, we have to take at least one extra battery along. We probably have at least 25 **Milwaukee** tools now and keep adding more. The chainsaw is handy and the 1/2 and 3/4-in. impacts really have some power."