

Larry Hoiland, Plainview, Minn.: “My best buy is a 1988 **Deere** 265 lawn tractor that I’ve had for over 15 years.

“All of my **Milwaukee** power tools (including impact wrenches and drills) are dependable and easy to use.

“My **Cannon** gun safe is my worst buy. The safe itself is okay, but their customer service is the pits. We had trouble opening it, so we called Cannon. They said to send a picture plus \$50. They also needed a certified and notarized letter and then they would send a new code. I did that but have never been contacted by them. I had to go to a private locksmith to open it.”



Gary Schomburg, Aledo, Ill.: “I like my **Tera Pump** (model TRFA01) battery-operated fuel transfer pump (www.terapump.net; ph 877-251-2288). With the pump, there’s no more lifting and pouring or spilling and wasting fuel. The slickest feature is the auto-stop just like at the gas station. I’ve used it for over 3 years and have only changed the AA batteries twice. I give it an A+.

“I’ve also been happy with my **Hustler** zero-turn mower. I’ve used it for about 9 years. It’s just about bulletproof and made in the USA.”

Bill Rice, Chelsea Beach, Md.: “I have switched from using DeWalt 60-volt tools to **Kobalt** 24-volt tools. They are stronger, more durable and the batteries last longer.”



Michael Mooney, Philo, Ill.: “The best gadget I’ve purchased is a **Verizon** LVP2 cellular replacement for landline phones that allowed me to keep my current landline phone number. With so many businesses connected to my landline phone number, I didn’t want the hassle of notifying all of them of my cell number. I now have the cell receiver on my desk with my landline phone connected to it instead of the landline phone jack. I still retain my current cell phones, unchanged and, in my case, I save over \$100 a month versus my old landline service.”

Charlie Derrenbacher, Williamson, N.Y.: “I’m a fan of **Kubota**. I like my three tractors (L4300, BX1800, BX25D), my ZD323 zero-turn mower, and my RTV900 4-wheeler. The only problem I’ve had is one leaky front seal which was fixed under warranty.”

Robin Burkey, Kingsland, Texas: “My experience is both a best and worst. I was very pleased with the performance of my **Titan** wire feed welder from Harbor Freight until it quit after about four spools of wire. Always count the cost of their extended warranty and buy it for their electronic tools because then they will replace it. Otherwise, you’re just out.”

Wayne Polsean, Dubuque, Iowa: “I’ve had three new **Dodge** Ram 1500 trucks over the past 7 years, and they get better and better.

I love the Hemi power for pulling my trailer and they ride like a Lincoln.”

Jim Reid, Colfax, Calif.: “My best buy is a 2025 model **LS Tractor** with loader bucket and a 3-pt. rotary pull mower that I purchased new a few years ago. I purchased a set of clamp-on forks for the bucket which works great for picking up and piling tree limbs, etc. I’m 90 years old and wouldn’t be able to do the things I do without it.”

Paul McCormack, Fulton, Mo.: “I like my skid steer post hole digger from **Danuser**. With it, I’m always looking forward and can back it out if it hangs up.”

James E. Yoder, Bonanza, Ore.: “My worst buy is a 2001 **Lincoln** Ranger 9 welder/generator. The gas engine has a vacuum fuel pump that doesn’t work consistently. I’ve replaced it with an electric (battery) pump. It’s hard to find a pump that’ll run slow enough to not flood the engine.”

Bill Bitter, Wall, N.J.: “My best buy is a **Ford Motorcraft** Tested Tough Max 12-volt battery. I have a ’94 F-150 and the original battery lasted 10 years. When I went for a new one, they said they had a better one for \$10 more. I’m glad I chose that one because that Motorcraft battery lasted 15 years. Now I’m on my third battery in 28 years.”

Tony Kramer, Converse, Texas: “I like my 2022 **Echo** SRM-2620 trimmer. It has plenty of power and easy string line replacement. I owned my previous Echo for 15 years with only minor repairs.

“My 2019 **Craftsman** 25-cc is short on power, and you need three hands to rewind the string line.”

Stan Thomas, Ashville, Ohio: “I’ve done industrial machine maintenance for 29 years full-time and then 19 years as a contractor. I’ve had many drill motors, but the best drill for battery power and chuck is my 12-volt **PS31** 3/8-in. **Bosch**. I’ve had it for over 10 years and am still using the original batteries. I’ve drilled and tapped thousands of holes and more.”

Charles Percy, Weatherford, Texas: “**Coleman Sawmill Supply** blades cut straight and stay sharp for a decent amount of time (<https://www.facebook.com/colemansawmillsupply>; ph 800-459-4626). Dried white oak is murder on any saw blade.”

John Brennan, Ellicottville, N.Y.: “The handiest ratchet in my toolbox is my 14-in. **Craftsman** fine-tooth flex-head ratchet. It’s basically a breaker bar with a ratchet head, and with the extra length, it works very well. The fine-tooth gearing makes it more versatile.”

Spencer Turrentine, Bell Buckle, Tenn.: “In the 1990’s, I bought the first **Stihl** 39 model that was made in the USA. It still runs and has cut firewood for multiple households.”

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Bill Kropelin, Cambridge, Vt.: “My **Deere** X300 lawn tractor has operated flawlessly for more than 400 hrs. with only standard maintenance.

“My worst buy is a 2017 **Chevy** Colorado pickup. This truck suffered drive train issues after the first 12 mos. in service. It required two transmission fluid flushes and a replacement torque converter. The oil coolant lines leaked, requiring a tow. All of this was covered under warranty, but my loss of confidence in this truck was irreparable.”



Anderson likes his Sioux combination pressure washer and steam cleaner.

Steam Cleaner Best Buy

Tim Anderson, Beresford, S. Dak.: “I love keeping my equipment clean with my Combination Pressure Washer and Steam Cleaner (H3.8D2000) from **Sioux Corporation**. I use it to keep my tractors, skid steers, combine, truck and other equipment clean and looking great.

“I mostly use it after spring’s work and harvest. Those are two of the most important times of the year to clean equipment.

“The combination unit lets me switch between hot-water pressure washing, steam cleaning and cold-water pressure for a quick rinse. The 2,000 psi, 3.8 gpm pressure washer is perfect for cleaning dust, dirt and mud off equipment without peeling off safety or maintenance decals.

“The pressure washing is great, but the steam cleaning mode is my overwhelming

favorite. It melts away grease, oil, sludge and grime from my equipment. Steam gets into hard-to-reach places and cleans safely around electrical components and bearings without damaging high pressure. Steam also cleans surfaces without blowing debris back onto equipment or me. It gets my equipment clean from top to bottom.

“Sioux Corporation has been great with any parts or maintenance requests, and the machine is still running strong after 10 years. I expect it will keep doing so for another 10 years or more.

“Having clean equipment is great for its own sake, but over time the steam cleaner will more than pay for itself. Clean, well-maintained equipment always brings more money when it’s time to sell or trade.”



Steve Lam, Springville, Iowa: “My best buy is the **Extractigator** that was featured in Vol. 46, No. 1 (www.extractigator.com; ph 855-743-0353). I had volunteer cedar trees in the pasture. It’s easy to use and very effective on young saplings. I cleared the pasture and fence rows of cedar, maple, plum, mulberry, etc. Gentle, steady pressure instead of pulling prevents breaking.”



Mike Frantz, Seymour, Mo.: “My most recent best buy is a 55-in. **Wicked Root Rake Grapple** from **Everything Attachments** (www.everythingattachments.com; ph 866-581-5818). This piece of equipment is of true quality built right in North Carolina and does everything advertised. I use it more than I do my bucket, especially since I adapted my clamp on pallet forks to work on it. I’ve used

it to dig out multiflora roses, pull down grape vines and move my wife’s flower pots around the yard. The main tasks have been loading logs on a wagon to haul up for firewood and piling brush. I bought it in 2021 and wish I would’ve had it a long time ago.”

Rod Walters, Canton, N.C.: “I like my 2019 **Echo** leaf blower. I’ve never had anything start so easily. It’s so light and powerful.”

Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.: “I agree with the reader in your last issue, who owns a **Kubota** BX 1880. The reverse pedal is useless. My solution is putting my toes underneath the forward pedal and lifting up. Gives me better control.”

John Powell, West Point, Iowa: “One of my best buys is **Evans Waterless Coolant** (www.evanscooling.com). I’ve used it for over 20 years in all my equipment, including cars and trucks. Water is the bane of all cooling systems with its low boiling point, rust, corrosion, scale, and the list goes on. Evans has a high boiling point of 375 degrees and is a long life coolant. Engineers do not understand what it takes to cool an engine. Coolant does much more than keep the system from freezing in cold weather. I have been a dealer for Evans since 2001.

“My other best buy is **Hankook** tires, a South Korean brand available at Walmart, among other places. Living on a gravel road that leads to the local garbage transfer station, we got tired of having flat tires all the time. A walk down the road will always yield a nail or two. My friend is a Hankook dealer and he suggested I try them. They have almost completely eliminated my flat tire problems and they last over twice as long as other tires I’ve used.

“A reader from Iowa recently commented that tires on new cars don’t last very long. I’ve learned when buying a new car to go from the