

The front end has never needed alignment, and the brake shoes usually last about 80,000 miles. Everything on it still works as it did when new, and it's the most dependable vehicle I've ever owned."

On the negative side are Cen-Tech battery chargers from **Harbor Freight**. "I've had three in the past 10 years. They usually go out after about 2 years. The good thing is I bought the extended warranty, and they always honored it, so I only had to pay for one of the three."

Daryl Reynolds, Oneonta, N.Y.: "I'm happy with all my 20-volt **DeWalt** battery-powered tools. My wife enjoys the weed trimmer because she doesn't have to start a motor. She also enjoys the hedge trimmer, but maybe too much."

"I'm not too happy with the 20-volt **DeWalt** battery to 18-volt Milwaukee adapters I found on the internet. I've had to return both of them as neither fit properly. I guess I'll have to bite the bullet and get new 18-volt Milwaukee batteries."

Blaze Scheid, Waxahachie, Texas: Blaze likes his 2022 **Harbor Freight** Chicago Flux 125 electric welder. "It was my first welder. It's cheap, but good quality for the price. It works with thin metal. It's easy to use and good for a first-timer. I welded two horseshoes together nicely with it."

He didn't have a good experience with his 2023 **Intertool** splitting hatchet (model #0274). "This hatchet is poor quality. The blade wouldn't keep an edge. It chipped and broke easily. It seems balanced well enough, but the metal is very soft."

John Lee Downey, Pikeville, Tenn.: "My best buy is a 2014 **Kubota** M7060 tractor with loader. I've had very good service from it. I mostly use it with a **Vermeer** round baler (also a good buy). I also use it with a **Bush Hog**. I like my **Kubota** M6800 open-station tractor, too. The dealer service has been very good."

"My worst buy was a **Case IH** CX90, which I traded for the 7060. The power shift went out two times, and it cost about \$5,000 to fix it the first time, and the second time is when I traded it. The cylinder on the steering went out as well."

William Peterson, Bangor, Mich.: "My 1992 **Deere** 5300 always starts and runs great. The repairs have been a starter and tie rod ends. It doesn't use oil."

William hasn't been happy with his **Bobcat** CT450 compact tractor. "You can't use the air conditioning, or it overheats. There are problems with the wiring/electrical system. The tech quit working in the first year."



Chuck Schultz, Wheeling, W.Va.: "I'm really happy with my **Husqvarna** 435X AWD Automower. From day one, it did a good job. All summer, it mows at night and even in the rain if you want it to. It's totally automatic, returning to the charge station when the battery is low. It recharges, then goes back out to keep on mowing. Since it mows constantly, there are no grass clippings to deal with. With its AWD, it mows parts of my lawn that my AWD **Kubota** could not or that I was afraid to do. It was also much cheaper than a new **Kubota**. Plus, I don't have to buy fuel for it or ride around in the hot sun for hours at a time. Sometimes, I just sit on the porch drinking a beer and watching

it mow. This model will mow up to 1 acre. The picture is the first day it mowed, before it had the lawn cut down to size."

Wayne Sabine, Tilley, New Brunswick: "I must admit, I'm disappointed in my **Central Boiler** Classic Edge 360. I had it installed after another manufacturer's outdoor wood-burning furnace needed to be replaced following many years of service. I fell for the hype—up to 60 percent less wood and less maintenance. I should've asked compared to what? I'm well into my 2nd year and am burning more wood than before, which takes three times the work to prepare. The former burner took 2-ft. wood and only had to be split small enough to handle. The **Central Boiler** needs 16-in. wood split to approximately 2 to 3 in. in diameter. One has to check the furnace more frequently as it's not uncommon to see 'fire out' flashing across the screen only to find the wood in the firebox has bridged. One also has to stir the coals every time the door is opened."

Bill McKeeman, Calgary, Alberta: "In November 2010, I bought a 2004 **Honda** Civic 5 speed with 125,000 km (77,671 miles) on it. The only repairs have been a timing chain/belt and one lower ball joint. I had a new **Honda** battery put in just after 13 years. I often get over 50 mpg on the highway. What an amazing vehicle."

Don Rowley, Emery, S.D.: Don's the satisfied owner of a **Mahindra** 8560 with front wheel assist he bought new in 2014. "It's worked great. The only problem was when I had the clutch cable break. It's simple to run without all the electronics in it. I'd trade my **Deere** 4020 for another if I could get one with 100 hp."

Don was unhappy with his **Milwaukee** battery-operated chainsaw. "It cut for 10 min. and burned out two batteries (smoke coming out of motor and batteries). I took it back and got a **DeWalt**."

John Janisch, Beldenville, Wis.: "I have an older model **Deere** 430 tractor. A few years ago, I read many letters in **FARM SHOW** about how **SealLube** helped various people with hydraulic oil leaks. A leak had started in my tractor, so I decided to try it. I ordered the proper amount and followed the directions. After a month, I still had leakage. Remembering the 100 percent guarantee, I wrote the company. It took a few months, but they did send me a refund."

Thomas Weekly, Guysville, Ohio: "I've owned my 1971 **International** 454 diesel tractor for over 30 years and have been extremely pleased with its durability. There have been very few breakdowns. We continue to work this tractor nearly every day with great performance."

Bob Hickson, Harleysville, Penn.: "I'm sure it's been said before, but **FARM SHOW** must be a 'very best' buy and is deserving of many compliments. Every issue comes with excellent ideas, information, and projects created from pure genius. I'm always impressed by stories about the unique and different uses of discarded machines or their transformation into something completely different."

"I enjoy every issue and pass each on to a friend who likes it as much as I do. Thanks for it all, and keep up the good work."

Walt Blackert, Mineral, Ill.: "My 2020 **Stihl** MSA 140C battery chainsaw is lightweight, handy for small jobs, and easy to use. It's much easier for small trimming jobs than a larger gas-powered saw."

Michael Troyer, Millersburg, Ind.: "We use cordless **Milwaukee** tools at work. We make and install tarps on all makes and models of semi-trailers. We get into some nasty stuff. But **Milwaukee** tools do an

"Best Buy" Paint Rejuvenator

Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn.: "I refreshed the red color on our 16-year-old 4-WD tractor and brought it to a 'like-new' finish by applying **Rejuvenator**, a one-step auto paint restoring product. The **NAPA** store employee who pointed me toward the product said he'd tried many other products and found this one to work best on his 1950s-era cars. He didn't see why it wouldn't work on farm equipment."

"The recommendation came with a few words of advice: 'Have plenty of soft cloths available, only work on a small area at a time, and apply it in the shade when the surface is 60 to 70 degrees.' A 70-degree cloudy March day in Minnesota is extremely rare, but that's when I put **Rejuvenator** to work. After 10 min. of rubbing a 2-sq. ft. area on the hood, the faded red turned to a shiny, smooth, and bright color."

"I've used 3-step products before, which take a lot of time, but with **Rejuvenator**, you apply, let it dry, and rub it off with a soft cloth. The application removes oxidation, which appears as residue on the first wiping cloth. I used two different cloths to get the best and clearest glossy finish. Brightening the painted hood and fender surfaces on the 4-WD took nearly 3 hrs., but now the tractor looks brand new."

"My **NAPA** guy says **Rejuvenator** should protect painted surfaces with a durable, high-gloss finish for at least a couple of years, even after exposure to field conditions and weather. With the skyrocketing cost of machinery these days, it's important to maintain appearance not only when you



Manthey likes the one-step application and overall results of **Rejuvenator**.



own it, but when it comes time to trade or sell. Auctioneers and dealers say that clean, well-kept, and polished equipment always brings premium prices, sometimes 20 to 30 percent above those not well cared for."

awesome job. The best part is if they happen to break, you get a brand new one. However, they seldom break down."

Paul Schmittauer, Albany, Ohio: "I bought a used **Kubota** B1750HST around 16 years ago and have since put over 1,000 hrs. on it. I've replaced the battery twice, put on new front tires, a hydraulic pump, and several air, oil, and fuel filters. It's been a trooper. It always runs and does what I need. I would buy another **Kubota**, but I'm 66 this year and may never need another tractor."

"I have several 1996-2000 **Toyota** RAV4s. I've done some repairs, but I've run them hundreds of thousands of miles, and they've never left me stranded."

"I like my **Stihl** tools (BR 600 leaf blower, MS 250 chainsaw, and FS 90 weed eater). I've had the saw and blower going on 20 years and the weed eater for 10. The blower needed new fuel lines some years back, and I've had to clean the carburetor on the saw. I've worn through two bars and at least six chains. I've done nothing but put gas and string on the weed eater."

"I have a set of **Ryobi** One+ cordless tools. They're also 20 years old, and all still work, including the drill I dropped onto the concrete, breaking the housing."

"It's not a worst buy, but I wish **Stihl** had put more thought into the fuel and oil caps as they seem to funnel dirt into the tanks."

Steve Zeigler, Excelsior Springs, Mo.: "My 2006 **Chevy** 3500 4x4 with an 8.1-liter gas engine has 428,000 miles. I've used the truck to tow my 5th wheel and haul farm and construction trailers."

Charlie Brown, Harrison, Idaho: Charlie nominates his **Kubota** L6060 tractor with cab and front loader that he bought used as a best buy. "It has three remotes on the back and one on the front. It was very comfortable blowing snow this winter. It's an easy tractor to drive with the HST transmission. My wife loves it."

Lloyd Stemper, Demotte, Ind.: "My **Deere** 3032E has 1,500 problem-free hours."

Tom Dent, Oak Grove, Mo.: Tom likes his **DeWalt** battery-powered grinder, Skil saw, and chainsaw. "They're just right for those quick projects. They fit on the tractor or 4-wheeler, making it easy to cut that limb that threatens your muffler or windshield. The grinder can cut fence wire out of a mower. These tools are handy at the sawmill to sharpen an ax, saw a tip off of a board, or take a limb or nub off a log."

On the negative side is Tom's **Bobcat** T770 skid steer. "I had to replace DEF tanks, drive motor, injectors and rails, carrier rollers, you name it. When you pay a lot for a machine, downtime is not your friend. With high payments, you want it to give you years of trouble-free service. Recently, this 4-year-old machine with 3,100 hrs. on it went down. After 2 weeks, it was still in the shop, and I was given an estimate of over \$55,000 for a fuel system, engine, and hyd. drive motor on one side."

B. Clayton Shumpert, Lexington, S.C.: "My **Milwaukee** Fuel M-18 1/2-in. drive impact has been the most powerful drill I've ever owned. It removed 1 1/8-in. nuts from a John Deere A's rear wheels. These nuts hadn't been removed in over 20 years. This drill removed them easily. Awesome."

Ivan W. Branch, Lexington, Va.: "In the 5 years since I purchased it, I haven't had any problems with my **Kubota** 2680 tractor. I've only done regular maintenance."

James Stauffer, Port Trevorton, Penn.: "My 2023 **Stihl** MS 462 chainsaw is high quality and has exceptional power. By simply purchasing two 6-packs of 2-cycle oil, the warranty was extended from 1 year to 2 years. The saw glides through big oak logs like a hot knife through butter. Overall, I'm exceptionally pleased."

James isn't happy with his 5-gal. galvanized

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