

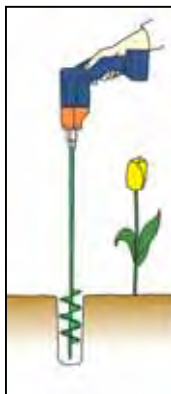
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far from the shop. The vacuum is handy to clean out tractor and combine cabs, as well as planter boxes. I'm very pleased with both."

Don Miller, North Platte, Neb.: "As a widowed person, it's so easy to grill, air fry or bake with my **Ninja** grill. If it quits, there will be a new one on order."

Donald Moore, Dover, Del.: "I had a serviceman repair my Deere with a new starter and tune-up. I got the tractor back after paying \$500, and it still won't start. I thought the serviceman had used a brand-new starter, but it turned out to be a used one. I love the tractor, although it's old, but I just didn't get good service this time."

Donald Brower, Severn, Md.: "At 84, getting down on my knees is difficult when planting bulbs. My **K. van Bourgondien** bulb auger, used on a battery drill, solves this problem for us older folks (www.dutchbulbs.com; ph 800-552-9996). I just planted 44 gladiolus bulbs in 30 to 45 min., and I still have clean knees, which makes my wife happy."



George A. Dutton, Holtwood, Pa.: "I have 140,000 miles on my **Dodge** 1500 1/2-ton V-8 truck that I bought new in 2018. I still get 15 to 19 mpg."



David Sorensen, Eaton Center, N.H.: "My **Takuo** battery-operated pruning shears are a best buy. The blade is made of titanium SK5 high-carbon steel. It quickly cuts branches over 40 mm. It came in a nice case with an extra set of blades, two 21-volt batteries and a charger for \$89. It's less than 14 in. long. It's been great for pruning high bush blueberries."

Richard Barngrover, Wakarusa, Kan.: "I've used **Hydrotex** grease for over 50 years (www.hydrotexgrease.com; ph 308-635-8162). I've been very satisfied with the Texas-based company's products."

Albert Schollenberger, Egg Harbor City, N.J.: "I've been disappointed with **Sylvania** lightbulbs. They're advertised as 650-hr. and 800-hr. bulbs, but many last only 100 hrs. or less."

"I purchased **Nano** hearing aids. Upon receipt, my wife, who's 93 and blind, fell and fractured her hip. I'm 95 and I couldn't remove the dome from the hearing aids, so I couldn't use them. After much correspondence, they sent me a label to return them. I did so, but they won't return my money. I missed the 45-day return policy because of my home emergencies. They stole my \$247."

John L. Heide, Deerbrook, Wis.: Although John's opinion of his original

Kubota 1100C UTV is mixed, the model still ranks as a best buy.

"I had my original vehicle for 10 years. It had 5,150 hrs. on it. It still ran like new and used no oil. It used only about 1 to 1 1/2 quarts of fuel per hour. The all-steel box is hydraulic. After 10 years of abuse, it still looked like new. It had a terrific heat (and A/C system), which served me well in the cold Wisconsin winter."

"On the downside, it was very hard shifting. A lot of the time, you had to shut the engine off to shift. It had a poorly engineered exhaust system. I had to rework it to allow for expansion. The hand brake was hard to release."

"I've just traded it for a new 1100C, and these problems have been corrected in the newer model."

"These machines aren't fast (25 mph), but they're tough, comfortable, economical and very dependable."

"Another best buy is **Mobil** synthetic diesel motor oil. It lasts many hours, keeps the engine very clean, and makes for easy starting."

Harold Talaski, Bad Axe, Mich.: "In 2019, I purchased an **LS MT225E** tractor. It has 390 hrs. and no real problems. I worked it hard for the first 250 hrs."

On the negative side are **Hart** 40-volt batteries. "I bought two of them for almost \$200. They won't recharge because they went dead over the winter, and I can't find anyone to rebuild them."

Aaron Williams, Tyler, Texas: "I haven't made many purchases over the last few years, but my best purchase, hands down, would be my **FARM SHOW** subscription. I love seeing ideas come to life from the scrap pile. It's beautiful, useful and saves the working man a lot of money."

L. Nelson, Hartwick, N.Y.: "I replaced my 2008 **Toyota** Prius with 300,000 miles in 2024 with a 2009 Prius with 175,000 miles for \$4,000. I've only done regular maintenance and gotten 50 mpg."

"I wasn't happy that the foil on my **Braun** electric razor wasn't warranted. It's suggested to replace at 18 mos. with a replacement cost of \$40.00. I was able to get two for \$30 on Amazon."

Luke Wise, New Holland, Pa.: "A few years ago, I switched to all battery-powered **Milwaukee** tools. There's no need for extension cords or air hoses. The 1/2-in. drive impact wrench is very powerful. I also have the 1/4-in. and 3/8-in. impact wrenches, a 4 1/2-in. grinder, drills and a walk-behind mower. I wish my single battery leaf blower had more output, but I feel it performs as advertised."

Dan Carroll, Olive Hill, Ky.: "As a union pipe welder for 40 years, I needed products that wouldn't let me down. **Miller** Welding products, **ESAB** Atom Arc welding rods, **Weldcraft** tig torches, **Victor** Torch burning torches, **Fibre Metal** safety products, **Jackson Safety** burning goggles, **Tillman** weld gloves, and **Lincoln** Fleetweld 5P welding rods served me well through the years."

Sam Ashton, Hometown, Ind.: "We just love our **DeWalt** 20-volt weedeater. No more gas trimmers for us."

Richard A. Young, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.: Richard is pleased with his **Harbor Freight** Predator gas-powered pressure washer (model 71100). "This pressure washer is only rated at 3,200 psi, but it cleans better than my 5-year-old **Troy-Bilt** unit rated at 3,400 psi that refused to run anymore. The Predator starts every time on the second pull. The big 12-in. wheels make it so easy to move around the yard. It makes cleaning stuff a lot more pleasurable, and it works great. No more **Troy-Bilt**.



"I was able to drill new 1 1/2-in. dia. holes for new bushings," says Hagans.

Mag Drill Best Buy

Rhett Hagans, West Salem, Ohio: "I can't say enough good things about **Evolution Power Tools USA** products (<https://store.evolutionpowertools.com>; ph 866-386-8665). I have their **EvoMag42** 1 5/8-in. magnetic drill, and it saved me over \$900."

"I had two previously neglected (auction buy) bucket link arms. The \$900 saved is what John Deere wanted to replace them."

"Instead, I was able to fill them in. Using the **EvoMag42**, I was able to drill new 1 1/2-in. dia. holes for new bushings."

"I've also used it when making a rear bumper for a truck. I drilled a 2 1/8-in. hole for the trailer plug socket. I've also used it to drill smaller holes in angle iron or random pieces of steel for various projects."

"The drill is lightweight and powerful."

Tire Gauge Has Great Accuracy

Tom Hohl, Hermantown, Minn.: "I got tired of misplacing my old silver pencil-shaped tire gauge, so I bought an **AstroAI** digital tire pressure gauge with a locking chuck (www.astroai.com; ph 877-278-7624 or 562-631-5464). This is a great all-in-one device for airing up everything from lawnmower tires to tractor tires to truck and car tires."

"The gauge has a 250 psi capacity with a 0.1 digital display accuracy. It's easy to read even in dim conditions. The locking chuck works great because valve stems can sometimes be hard to access, making it difficult to hold the nozzle by hand without leaking air. After the chuck is connected, just squeeze the handle and inflate to the required pressure."

"I also like the quick-connect coupler, so I can remove the inflator quickly and switch to another air tool without losing any tank pressure. I bought the gauge for around \$20, and it's been a great investment. Although more expensive gauges were available, this one had good reviews."

"Now, I don't have to look for that old pencil-shaped gauge that didn't give an accurate reading. This gauge is always



Hohl considers the **AstroAI** digital tire pressure gauge with a locking chuck a best buy.

hanging on my compressor. I can also use it on a portable air tank if I need to pump up a tire beyond the reach of my compressor hose."

"Unfortunately, the new **Easy Change** oil and filter system that **Deere** is putting on its riding mowers isn't easy at all. The alignment arrows on the filter and base don't align as advertised. It makes you wonder if it's installed right. And at \$56, **Deere** should be ashamed of this setup. Bring back the older spin-on and off filter they used on the 2012 D110 model that I had. With it, you drained all of the old oil for sure, and you didn't need a filter wrench. Other than that, I love my S130 lawn tractor."

William Fricks, Sylvester, Ga.: "In 2003, I bought a **Ford** Super Duty F-250 7.3L diesel truck. It now has 226,000 miles, and the only problem, aside from normal wear and tear, was replacing the transmission at about 100,000 miles. At that time, the truck was used for heavy towing."

John F. Smith, Glen Haven, Wis.: "Rechargeable battery tools have been a disappointment in the past, but they've made

great improvements over the years. I've always had good luck with **Stihl** products, and my **FSA** 57 string weed eater is no exception. It powers through tough weeds and even small tree seedlings. I've never run it down; it holds a charge for a long time. I run out of energy long before the battery does."

David White, Gresham, Ore.: "Over the years, I've purchased quite a few **Ryobi** 18-volt cordless tools and have never been disappointed. Their offerings just keep getting better. My tools are used frequently, although not daily. If you buy their batteries at Home Depot or Lowe's when they're on sale, you can get a pretty good deal."

Robert C. Schroeder, Cedar Grove, Wis.: "My children gave me a **Buck** folding knife over 30 years ago (www.buckknives.com; ph 800-326-2825). I've used it almost every day on my farm and at work. Several weeks ago, the locking spring broke. I sent it back to Buck. It was returned fixed, as well