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A person needs to see their banker before buying a tire. The gas mileage is fair. An oil change costs \$80 if they can find the filter somewhere you can't reach to do it yourself."

Johnny Murray, Granite, Okla.: Johnny is the satisfied owner of a **Makita** 18-volt cordless 3/8" drill with hammer, drill and clutch settings and a 1/4-in. impact screw gun. "These tools and batteries perform well and last years under DIY use. They'll also do the job under daily contractor use."

"I've tried two **Rheem** small electric tankless water heaters (RTEX-8 and RTEX-11), and neither will furnish hot water. The 8-kW model is purported to furnish two sinks, and the 11-kW model three sinks. Neither will deliver anything but lukewarm water, even when the flow rate is choked down to the limits."

Christie Joehl, Greenfield, Ill.: "My best buy is **FARM SHOW Magazine**."

"My most recent worst buy is **Miracle Grow** potting soil. We bought a big bag of it, and when we opened it up, the soil was sopping wet and smelled like manure. We found multiple rocks the size of half-dollars. I wouldn't recommend buying it."

Paul Volk, Battle Creek, Neb.: "In 2019, I bought a 72-in. **Diamond SSL** shredder for my New Holland skid steer. It claims to be able to cut through 6 to 7-in. trees and will do so with a bit of patience."

"I've used it to shred piles of bark from cutting firewood by raising the shredder up and then lowering it slowly onto the pile of bark, which turns it into mulch, though it'll throw pieces over 100 ft. if not contained. If doing this, make sure you have a shatterproof windshield."

"The shredder is solid and very well built. I've used it to shred small trees, grass, and weeds around the farm. The only maintenance has been changing blades. With new blades, it'll leave the grass lawn smooth. I use a leaf blower to clean off the surface and the well area around the hydraulic motor so water can drain away without rusting the steel."

"I did have to replace the hydraulic hoses since one started to leak, but since the unit is outside all year, it could've been from sun damage. I've had others use the shredder, and they've liked it and wished they had one."



Gideon Miller, Ashland, Ohio: "I like my **Kreg Rip-Cut** (www.kregtool.com; ph 800-447-8638). It's a fence system that attaches to a standard circular saw and lets you make accurate rip cuts up to 24 in. on plywood without marking. Also, when a part broke, they promptly replaced it free of charge."

John Cowell, Granath Mesa, Colo.: "My best buy is my **EGO** 18-in. electric chainsaw. At 88 years of age, my gas-powered saws have become somewhat of a challenge to start. The EGO has a 5Ah battery, which will cut a lot of wood on a charge. While made for right-handed users, the saw is still easy for us lefties. It has a very easy-to-use chain tensioner and is similar in weight to my Deere CS40 or my Stihl."

Alan Walker, Houston, Texas: "My 2023 **Ford F-250** diesel with high output engine

gets almost 20 mpg. It has tremendous power, rides very well, and is quiet."

Randy Plattsmier, Bruce, Miss.: "In 2009, I bought a **Kubota L3400 4-WD** tractor with 79 hrs. It has 900 hrs. today and has been very reliable with no issues."



"I'm impressed with the **Woodland Mills HM130Max** sawmill I bought in 2022. It's worked perfectly, and Woodland Mills' customer service is second to none."

Robert Fussner, Brookville, Ind.: "The 66 series tractors are simple. They're easy to start and repair, although repairs are rarely needed. The combines are equally reliable."

"My **Kubota** tractor and RTV have been basically maintenance-free."

Richard W. Lee, Valley City, N.D.: "Last year, I bought a **Milwaukee** 18-volt compact leaf blower. I use it to clean my gutters and blow light snow off my deck and pickup. I'm very satisfied with this product. I have other Milwaukee tools, and they're all good products."

Richard isn't satisfied with his 2014 **Big Dog** 54-in. zero-turn tilt-deck mower. "It has less than 200 hrs. on it. It's had various electrical problems, some related to the tilt deck. It was out of service for two months. Then the mower wouldn't start. I finally bought another mower to replace it."



Tony R. Fallin, Cleveland, Ala.: "My **FLEX** 1/2-in. 24-volt hammer drill has plenty of power, and the warranty service is great."

Leon Piitz, Brainard, Neb.: Leon is pleased with his **DeWalt** 20-volt Cordless Pruner. "These shears work great for clipping small cedar trees, which continuously grow in our pasture. They can clip trees up to 1 in. with a couple of tries."

Doyle Motsick, Panora, Iowa: "My all-time best buy is my 2002 **Honda** Foreman 400 shaft-drive ATV. Except for normal maintenance and two batteries, it's been trouble-free for 23 years."

Matt Moore, Pulaski, Tenn.: "My 10-ft. wide roller crimper with 3-pt. hitch has been a great buy. It hooks up okay, rolls easily, and crushes brittle plant material well."

Blake Phillips, Malvern, Ark.: "My worst buy is a 2023 **Mahindra** Roxor. It's a solid machine made of metal with plenty of power. The dealer sold it to me as a 4-WD. I consider it a 2-WD, one in the front and one in the rear. I test-drove a 2017 and a 2022. They were 4-WD. All four wheels pulled at the same time. The salesman told me to sell it, or they would correct the problem for \$5,000. It's not

Metal Chop Saw Best Buy

John Humeniuk, Baudette, Minn.: "I really like my **Evolution S355 Metal Cutting Chop Saw** (www.evolutionpowertools.com; ph 866-386-8665). Combined with a **Diablo** carborundum metal cutting blade, it does a great job on steel and other metals."

"Unlike other chop saws I've used with metal cutting blades, it operates much slower. Neither the blade nor the metal heats up like with regular chop saws. It's also neater without as much dust."

"Before I ordered it, I watched a review of it on YouTube. The operator used a regular chop saw with a metal cutting blade and cut through square tubing in 11 sec. With the **Evolution S355**, it took 90 sec. It operates at only 1,450 rpm. Regular chop saws run at 3,800 for a smooth cut in wood."

"The slower speed is why you don't get the dust. With this one, you get metal shavings instead."

"The **Evolution S355** comes with a quick-release vise, which is important. The carborundum blade will grab and rip if the piece being cut isn't stabilized. When I have the piece being cut locked in with the vise, I can cut almost anything."

"The vise really locks it down. Put the metal piece in and push the lever forward until it hits the metal, drop the hold-down, and firm it up. It has a big wing nut you can spin down and lock."



Humeniuk found his Evolution chop saw fitted with a Diablo blade cut through steel tubing faster than other saws.

"The chop saw has a 0 to 45-degree miter. It comes with a 66-tooth, mild steel TCT blade, but I prefer the **Diablo**. It also comes with a V-block for clamping down round and square tubing."

"The S355 was only \$379. They have more expensive ones with bigger decks and more features. The S355 is a nice setup and works fine for my needs."

Hole Saw Best Buy

John Humeniuk, Baudette, Minn.: "I bought an amazing 12-piece set of **Assnomy** tungsten carbide tipped hole saws for cutting through hard metal. They're available at Amazon and other retailers. They were only \$50. They work like nothing else I've tried and don't get dull."

"In the past, I've drilled a 3/4-in. hole for a bolt, and the bit would quake and shiver as I tried to get it lined up. That's not the case with these."

"I did learn the hard way that they need to be used in a drill press and not with a hand-held drill. As the titanium-plated steel pilot drill bit penetrates the metal, it holds the hole saw in place, and you start to see the slivers of metal curl up."

"The hole saw has outer, middle and inner blades incorporated in its cutting edge. This makes it sharper and more efficient. They have a 1-in. cutting depth. The company says they can be used with a variety of drill types and materials, including steel, stainless steel plate, square tubes, cast iron, copper, aluminum and sheet metal, as well as softer materials like wood. They're not designed for concrete, tile or stone."

"I've used them to cut through 1/2-in. steel. It was a little work for them, but I don't know how else I'd get a hole so nice and clean."

"The hole saw and the metal being cut will get hot, so I squirt it down with cutting oil."



Tungsten carbide tipped hole saws have outer, middle and inner blades incorporated into cutting edge.

I've found that no matter what cutting bits you use, you want to try to keep them cool."

"The 10 hole saws in the set are 5/8-in. to 2 1/8-in., and the two pilot bits are 15/64-in. Recommended speeds vary by the diameter of the hole saw and the material being cut. I figured they were pretty common sizes for most jobs around the farm."

legal on public roads; off-road, be prepared to walk."

Samuel (Doc) Holloway, Riverton, Wyo.: "My 2001 **Challenger** 4x4 40-hp tractor with loader is powerful, runs well, and is nice to drive. After 700 hrs., it still does a great job moving snow and other jobs. It has 16 forward and reverse gears—you can get lost in finding the right gear for your job."

Russell Smith, Waco, Texas: Russell is the satisfied owner of a **RIDGID** 1/2-in. battery-operated impact (model R86212). "It's a twisting son-of-a-gun. I don't need it

often, but when I do, it works well. A buddy and I work on 9N, 2N and 8N Ford tractors. It comes in handy on those."

Tom Beck, Culbertson, Mont.: "Last winter, I mounted a used **DewEze** 275 bale bed on my work pickup (www.deweze.com; ph 800-835-1042). It's even more handy than I'd hoped. It makes taking bales out to the cows a fast chore. Along with a mineral tub lifter (also a best buy), it takes the work out of moving tubs and oil drums around."

Dexter Brahn, Ionia, Iowa: "We have a **Menards** 60-gal. air compressor. I can hear