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Dave Bulawsky, Oakhurst, Calif.: "I like my 2015 **Quest G5** drive compound bow (ph 866 456-8836; www.questbowhunting.com). It's accurate, lightweight, easy to handle, and fits like a glove. I had it set at 70 lbs. of pressure but then backed it down to 63 lbs. It only takes 7 lbs. to keep it drawn."

Monroe Esau, Grifton, N.C.: "I'm well pleased with my 2014 **Hypertherm Power Max 30** plasma cutting torch (ph 800 643-0030; www.hypertherm.com). I use it in a farm repair shop to do custom work."

Mark Conyers, Weatherford, Texas: "I like the **Luminar** rechargeable lights I bought last year at **Harbor Freight**. I own an underhood light, a spotlight, and a couple of work lights. I keep one work light in my shop and the other in my truck. All of them have performed beyond my expectations. They hold their charge and can be recharged in a reasonable amount of time."

Ray Norman, Moultrie, Ga.: Ray's disappointed with his 2006 **McCormick XTX200** tractor. "I paid \$86,000 for this

"I paid \$86,000 for this piece of scrap iron."

piece of scrap iron. It has only about 2,250 hrs. on it and has spent more time in the shop than in the field. Seems like every time I want to use this tractor something on it goes wrong. The company won't stand behind its product."

Keith Stagg, Bentonia, Miss.: "My **Dodge 2500** pickup has held up well, but the dash has fallen to pieces. The gauge bezel cover fell off onto the steering wheel. According to what I've read online this is a common problem, and it's not covered by the company's warranty."

Philip Myers, Hollsapple, Penn.: "I like my **Dremel 8220** variable speed die grinder, which is operated by a 12-volt Max Lithium-ion battery (www.dremel.com). At last there's a practical cordless die grinder on the market."

Spencer Lee, Roosevelt, Minn.: Spencer's impressed with his 2014 **Kuuma Vapor-Fire 200** wood burning furnace (ph 800 358-2049; www.lampakkuuma.com). "A computer controls the draft to the firebox during operation. The chimney pipe always stays cool. In fact, the bar code labels are still on the stovepipe, unburned, even though I used the stove all last winter. There's no visible smoke, creosote, or soot with this furnace, and much less ash. It delivers better heat while using only half as much wood."

"Also, with some simple changes this furnace will continue to operate during a power outage. You do need a Class A chimney to use it. It will also work with an existing forced air furnace."

Walter L. Thomas, Watsonville, Calif.: Walter nominates his **Deere 100** series riding mower as his "worst buy". "I like the tractor but not the mower deck. The wash port on it is useless. The paint on the deck flakes off in chunks as big as my hand, and the underside of the deck is difficult to clean."

David Shade, Sharpsburg, Md.: "My 1994 **Massey Ferguson 240** diesel tractor starts right up in cold weather, is fuel efficient, and is a pleasure to operate."

"My 2014 **Shindaiwa** weed trimmer starts easy with no vibration. It's equipped with a Walbro carburetor, which I think is more reliable than the Chinese-made Zama carburetor that's found on some other trimmers. Also, the trimmer head is easy to

rethread."

David A. Plyler, Lancaster, S.C.: "It rides and handles great," says David about his **Ford F-350** longbed pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter gas engine. "Everyone told me to buy a diesel model, but I don't pull real heavy loads too often so I figured the extra \$9,000 wasn't worth it. I was right. This pickup will pull a trailer loaded with my 10,000-lb. Ford 6610 tractor with ease. It averages 16 mpg."

On the negative side, "I traded my **Ford New Holland 3415** tractor in for a **Deere 4005 39 hp** diesel model. The **New Holland** tractor was rated at 38 hp but ran circles around the **Deere**. I had trouble with the **Deere** tractor's hydraulics and fuel injector so I traded it for a **New Holland Boomer 45**, which I really like."

Ray Yount, Kellogg, Idaho: "Recently I combed the internet looking for a broad axe handle - something that I wasn't likely to find at my local hardware store. I ran across a company called **House Handle** that sells wood handles for every tool you can think of in varying grades (www.househandle.com/index.html).

"I decided to buy their top-listed grade, which I thought was very reasonably priced. I got the handle in the mail and the craftsmanship was excellent. It came well wrapped along with 3 wedges. I paid \$11.10 for the handle and \$7.87 for S&H."

Bill Miller, Terre Haute, Ind.: "My **Black & Decker Gyro** cordless screwdriver is handy to use, but the battery has a short life."

"Last February I bought a wood burning furnace for my shop from **U.S. Stove Co.** This stove won't hold heat overnight and burns out in only about 6 hrs. I can't control it. I had bought a used **Charlotte** wood stove 6 years ago (ph 704 909-2420; www.theearthandpatio.com). It was built so tight that I could just close it off to put the fire out."

Kenneth Kugler, Johnson Lake, Neb.: "My 2014 **Toyota Avalon** has a lot of bells and whistles; a few of which I like and a few that I'll never use. It's a nice driving car, but it rides worse than an ox cart."

Kenneth Goodman, Elkton, Ky.: "Going back to 1989 I've owned 5 different **Woodmizer** sawmills. The motors went out on my 1996 and 1998 models, but the company repaired them at no charge."

A 2009 **Dodge 3500** dually pickup rates as his "worst buy". "I was able to put less than 200 miles on it before the front end started shaking, and I had to accelerate to higher speeds before it would stop. Finally a tie rod end on it broke. I traded it for a **Ford 3500**, which I really like."

Hal Stroot, Burns, Wyo.: "I've worn my **Seiko** wrist watch every day for the last 49 years. It cost \$90 when I bought it, which was a lot of money back then. But it was well worth it."

Dave Worden, White Lake, Wis.: "I'm a fan of **Belleville** extreme weather boots fitted with fire and ice soles (ph 800 376-6978; www.bellevilleboot.com). These are the only boots that keep my feet warm and dry. I can wear them right out of the box all day long without a break-in period. These boots don't slip or slide. I've used them while operating a snowblower and while collecting maple syrup. I won't buy any other brand. They're made in the U.S."

He's disappointed with his 2013 **Ariens** Deluxe snowblower. "The friction wheel on it came apart, and the company admits they've had problems with rubber deteriorating. The detent spring for the forward reverse lever broke, and the center part of the drive pulley hub broke out. Also, the lockout for the power steering system won't always re-

43-Year-Old Chainsaw Still Runs Like New



"I bought my first house more than 42 years ago and along with it came a special gift from my dad," says contributing editor **Lorn Manthey**. "He handed me his 2-year-old **Jonsered** chainsaw and said 'You got trees and firewood to cut. This should do the job'."

"Hundreds of times since that day in 1973 I've thanked my dad for that **Jonsered 49SP**. With its high-compression engine, 18-in. bar, and shock-resistant handbars, 'O! Red' has been the most trusted piece of equipment I've ever owned. Even though I've dropped it to the ground from 35 ft. and sawed into nails and frozen ground, it has never stopped working."

Manthey has owned 2 other brands of chainsaws over the years, but neither one has performed as well as the **Jonsered**. "One of them was from a U.S. company," says Manthey, "but I'm sure it was made outside the U.S. Another one blew its engine twice and had an oiler that refused to work, even when the machine was new."

The Swedish-built **Jonsered** still performs like it did the day he got it. "The 49SP has always started easy and runs without a sputter. It idles quietly regardless how hard it works and has never overheated."

Manthey has talked to people who know a lot about chainsaws and they've told him the 49SP **Jonsered** is one of the most dependable saws ever built. "The body is all metal, so it can handle hard knocks without cracking the housing," says Manthey. "When it fell 35 ft. from an elm tree I was

More than 40 years ago **Lorn Manthey's** dad gave him this **Jonsered 49SP** chainsaw. "It still runs like new," says **Lorn**.

cutting, it kept on idling, upside down, on frozen ground. The only damage was a slightly bent top handle, which is still bent 20 years later," Manthey says.

The machine has been to the repair shop a few times, but only for routine maintenance. The ignition coil was replaced 5 years ago and a new bar stud was installed to replace one that had stripped threads. Manthey has also replaced two bars and several chains, but the starter pulley, recoil and starter rope are still original. The carburetor, air intake, bar plates and muffler are also original.

"I've taken good care of it over the years," says Manthey. "I keep it clean and stored in a dry place when it isn't working. My dad made a smart buy when he bought this saw for about \$150 in the early 1970's. I checked out prices for used models on eBay last April and saw a model just like this going for \$300. Where else can you double your money on something that you've used hundreds of hours over the years?"

engage. I'll think twice before buying another snowblower from this company."

Robert Pinske, Gary, Minn.: "I like my 1982 **Deere 4040S** front wheel assist tractor equipped with a **Buhler** front-end loader. It starts right up, is easy on fuel, and has a flip-out rear window that makes it easy to see to hook up. Drives and handles great."

Pete Lauska, Allegan, Mich.: "I've found that **Zep 10 Minute Hair Clog** remover works as well as advertised (www.zepcommercial.com). I bought it at Home Depot. It comes in a 32, 64, or 128 oz. jug and pours down the drain or even through standing water to penetrate the clog. It works amazingly well."

Ricky L. Kirkpatrick, Cottontown, Tenn.: "My **New Holland 7320** discbine is the best hay cutting machine I've ever used. It pulls easy and has no problems in thick-matted grass hay. Any hay I cut in the morning will be wilted by noon. The hay is still in great shape when I feed it to my cattle the following winter."

Dean Silvey, Chanute, Kan.: "In 2003 I bought a 1970 **Montgomery Ward** garden tractor equipped with a 12 hp **Briggs & Stratton** engine and 42-in. mower deck. I also bought a trailer and scraper blade for it. This tractor has required only routine maintenance. I replaced one of the tires, 3 belts, 2 bearings, and a starter. It has a lot of power and has done a lot of hard work, but it's still going strong."

He's disappointed with his 2013 **Sears** cordless drill set. "Within a year one of the batteries quit working and wouldn't take a charge. Also, the clutch started slipping, even when it was in drill mode."

Neal E. Pitzer, Amboy, Ill.: "Our 2004 **Grasshopper 618** front-mount riding mower has been trouble-free. We use it to mow about 1 1/2 acres every week on less than 3 gal. of gas. It has plenty of power and is easy to service. If it ever wears out I'd buy another

one without hesitating."

L.J. Yarger, Hayestown, Ind.: He likes his 2003 and 2010 **Poulan** medium duty chainsaws equipped with 16-in. bars. "If you're looking for an inexpensive saw, these are hard to beat."

Charles Baldwin, Elizabethtown, Penn.: "Over the years I've purchased several **Snap-On** cordless tools. I'm a professional mechanic so I use these tools a lot. My 3/8-in., 14.4-volt and 1/2-in., 18-volt impact drills work amazingly well, as does my 1/2-in. 18-volt drill. It runs smoother and has more power and torque than any cordless drill I've ever used. I'd recommend these tools to anyone."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists **Primecell** battery service. "I sent a batch of batteries from several guys in our shop to this company for rebuilding, but when the batteries came back the guys all complained about the poor running time. I told them to follow the instructions provided and they did, but the batteries still wouldn't last."

"I tried contacting the company, but they wouldn't return my calls until I left a voice message saying that I would be calling the Better Business Bureau. A company rep then called me back and said my warranty had expired, and that they were going to turn me in for harassment. I tried to explain that I was trying to make sure our guys had done everything as instructed and that I had been trying to contact the company for more than 3 months. If the warranty had expired so be it, but I just wanted them to call me back and tell me. The company rep then hung up the phone."

Robert Greiff, Deer Park, Wash.: "My best buy is a 4-wheel steer bale wagon I built 30 years ago. I used steering axles from 2 potato harvesters.

"I put the axles under a 30-ft. long bus frame that I cut to drop low in the middle