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**Doug Dewing, Grantsburg, Wis.:** Doug likes his **LockNLube** grease gun coupler ([www.locknlube.com](http://www.locknlube.com); ph 603 795-2298). It fits onto most standard grease guns and comes with a unique sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. The unit has 4 spring-steel jaws that lock onto the grease zerk, creating a leak-proof seal that prevents the coupler from coming loose and breaking the seal. Activating the trigger releases the coupler from the zerk.

"I use it on my DeWalt 18-volt cordless gun. It's not 100 percent effective, but I don't like to grease any machine without it. It's a bit longer than standard tips, and occasionally that can be a problem. But overall it works great."

He likes **Lucas Hydraulic Oil Booster & Stop Leak** ([www.lucasoil.com](http://www.lucasoil.com); ph 800 342-2512). "It seems to work good in older machines that have a lot of hydraulic drips and seeps. It's not as effective as the advertising would have you believe, but it does slow down a lot of annoying small leaks."

**Reid Allaway of Quebec, Canada:** He says his **Husqvarna** chainsaws are two of his "best buys" ever. "When I started cutting firewood I bought a pair of almost identical Husqvarna 262XP chainsaws, both of them used. One was for me and one was for my wife, who likes logging almost as much as I do." Allaway says both saws have been fantastic for he and his wife and are easy to work with and maintain.

Says Allaway, "Their power-to-weight ratio is still only matched by a handful of modern saws, and these were manufactured in 1998. I even ran over one of them with the tractor one winter, yet it still ran fine."

In 2016 Allaway bought a used 346XP, which he says is nice to use for limbing. "However, we've worked those 262XPs for 10 years and they still run well."

**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** "The 20-volt battery-powered pressure washer from **WORX** was a worst buy for me. It sounded great with its dual speed control and 5X pressure compared to traditional garden hoses. Being able to use any fresh water source was an added benefit.

"The reality was my Dramm hose-end spray gun delivers more pressure and volume, and it doesn't require batteries. The WORX washer was a huge disappointment. At \$119 for the basic package, it was also a huge waste of money.

"When I pressed the high-low speed control button, I could barely tell the difference in pressure. The "pressure-enhancing lance" didn't seem to affect the pressure. In fact, when I called in to the company trying to figure out what I might be doing wrong, one suggestion was to remove the lance. I did, but it didn't help.

"If there had been pressure, the idea of pulling water from a pail or a pond would have been nice. However, even that was more difficult than it was worth. The supply hose had to be filled with water at start up or it wouldn't work.

"One thing that I did like was the 45-min. charge time for the battery.

"In the future though, I'll stick with a hose-end spray gun for smaller jobs. It's way less expensive and works better."

**Delman Andes, Liberty, Mo.:** Delman's pleased with his **EGO** ST1500 15-in. cordless string trimmer ([www.egopowerplus.com](http://www.egopowerplus.com); ph 855 346-5656). "It has as much power as a gas trimmer, without the hassle of gas and oil. I plan to buy a chainsaw that'll run off the same battery. The trimmer is equipped with a

rapid reload head that lets me clear aggressive brush and reload in seconds. I just remove the excess string, feed in the line, and rotate the head to wind it."

**Glenn Alpert, Paola, Kansas:** Glenn, who raises alpacas and also operates a custom sharpening business, says he likes the ceramic cutters he uses on his **Premier** clippers ([www.premier1supplies.com](http://www.premier1supplies.com); ph 800 282-6631). "They cost only \$15.50 and last 2 to 3 times longer than steel cutters, and they're also easier on the comb. I've used them for 4 years now to shear hundreds of animals. The company website says their ceramic cutters can't be resharpened, but that's not so. I use a 4 by 10-in. DuoSharp flat plastic diamond hone with blue and red grit. Works great. ([www.dmtsharp.com](http://www.dmtsharp.com); ph 800 666-4368)."

**Robert J. Wagner, Whitewater, Wis.:** Robert installed **Dawn** Pluribus Strip-Till units on his planter ([dawnequipment.com](http://dawnequipment.com); ph 800 554-0007). "I've ridge tilled since 1980 and tried using several other strip-till units before settling on these. I find they produce the best seedbed in all planting conditions and soil types. They improve the crop yields on my poorest soils."

**Terry Shelton, Crab Orchard, Ky.:** "I like planting seed corn sold by **Caverndale Farms**, which is an independent family-owned seed company located in Danville, Ky. They're devoted to focusing on hybrids and varieties that work in the Mid-South. They produce corn hybrids and varieties with the traits I want and the yields I need, at a very competitive price. Also, they grow their own corn so they know their product first hand."

## "They grow their own corn so they know their product first hand."

**Peter Carling, Finland:** "I've used the **Smarttripod** build-it-yourself portable hoist with great success. It's made in Finland and distributed in North America by Pierre



Menard ([www.vispieux.com-tools](http://www.vispieux.com-tools); ph 819 829-2501). Works great for a variety of uses, but especially if I need to pick up heavy things in out of the way places. The Smarttripod hardware bolts to 4 by 4's that pin together, providing a 2,000-lb. lift capacity.

"I also bought Menard's **EZ-Gripper**, which I plan to use with the Smarttripod this fall to pull saplings out of the ground, roots and all. The beauty of using it with the Smarttripod is that I'll be able to work among lots of trees where a tractor couldn't go. Using the Smarttripod on a slope isn't a problem, either, as I can adjust the spread between the feet to create a stable lift point."

**John Harms, Eldora, Iowa:** "I own a **Toro** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a steering wheel and 50-in. deck, and it does a great job. So does my **Earthquake** rear tine rototiller ([www.getearthquake.com](http://www.getearthquake.com); ph 715 822-2415)."

## Step-In Posts Used To Brace Corner

**Ian Gerrish, Cobb Creek Farm, Hillsboro, Texas:** One of the challenges in putting up portable fencing with step-in plastic posts is that they work best in straight lines. "It's hard to make much of a curve or corner with the fence because the posts aren't strong enough to withstand a side pull. A lot of people resort to using metal posts and insulators when making a curve or a corner. However, I came up with a way to make a brace with O'Briens plastic posts by using 3 of them together."

He faces 2 posts in opposite directions and hooks them together on top. Then he places another post against them to form an angled brace.

"This configuration is sturdy enough to brace a fence corner. I've put up a quarter mile of fence from the brace point with no problems," says Gerrish, noting that he can put O'Briens posts in the ground without pounding on them. (**Kencove Fence Co.**, [www.kencove.com](http://www.kencove.com); ph 800 536-2683).



Gerrish faces 2 O'Briens plastic posts in opposite directions and hooks them together on top. He places another post against them to form an angled brace.

**John Vickers, Carlisle, Ky.:** "My 2014 **Kawasaki** 4010 4-WD utility vehicle always starts, even in below zero weather. It has great towing capacity and is a good all-around little vehicle.

"My 2012 **Massimo** 4-WD utility vehicle starts hard and rides rough. After 6 mos. the shifting mechanism on it broke, and after one year the transmission range gear stripped. This vehicle is made in China so we have to make our own replacement parts."

**B. Kent McCullough, Manchester, Mich.:** "I've owned **Stihl** products for several years and have never had anything that wouldn't start. I've owned 4 different backpack blowers and liked them so much that I gave one to each of my sons. Whenever a new model comes out I upgrade and give the old one away. I also own 2 Stihl chainsaws, a weed trimmer, pole saw, and hedge trimmer.

"I'm disappointed with my **Excalibur** 22-in. hedge trimmer and **Bolens** 3 1/2 hp. gas lawn edger. Neither product will start at the beginning of the season, possibly because of ethanol in the gas, even though I always use a fuel stabilizer."

**Robert Merillat, Hudson, Mich.:** "In February 2015 I bought a new 2014 **Deere** 5670 combine, after the engine on my 2008 Deere 9770 burned up and the company wouldn't stand behind it. However, the 5670 turned out to be my worst buy ever. The electrical system on it was no good, and the emergency brake would engage without warning. Because of these problems we had trouble getting our crops harvested, but thankfully our neighbors helped out."

**Ramon R. Fish, Indian Lake, N.Y.:** "I like my **Kubota** 1100cc utility vehicle. It has power steering, heat, air conditioning and hydraulic dump. This is our fourth Kubota product and we've had no problems with any of them."

**Don Lloyd, Kalamazoo, Mich.:** "We use our 2014 **Dodge** Ram 2500 4-WD diesel pickup every winter to pull our fifth wheel trailer to Florida. It gets 14.2 mpg going south and 13.8 mpg going north. It's equipped with coil springs and rides good."

**Phil Teske, Rensselaer, Ind.:** Phil's impressed with his **Gopher Hawk** mole and gopher trap ([www.gopherhawk.com](http://www.gopherhawk.com); ph 805 486-8225 or cell ph 805 216-4704). This trap lets me get rid of gophers and moles from above ground without ever having to use a shovel. It does a great job. In a short period of time I caught seven gophers in my yard

and haven't seen any more since."

**Melvin H. Sporrer, Portsmouth, Iowa:** "I got my **Starkey** Receiver-In-Canal hearing aid last January from the Veterans Administration ([www.starkey.com](http://www.starkey.com); ph 888 282-2013). Over the years my hearing had deteriorated due to so much time spent driving tractors on our farm. I went to the Veterans Administration because I served in the Army in 1966 and 1967. I've heard of people spending \$5,000 to \$6,000 for their hearing aids, but mine cost me just 2 office calls and \$100. Now I don't hear ringing or background noise any more."

**John M. Davis, Noblesville, Ind.:** "I'm impressed with the **Canada Green** grass seed I planted last spring ([www.getcanadagreen.com](http://www.getcanadagreen.com)). What they say in their advertising is true - you could grow this grass on the moon. Also, it blends in with our other kinds of grass, unlike **Zoysia** grass seed.

"According to the company, this hybrid strain of grass is biologically engineered to stay green all year long, even in winter, and also stay green during extreme heat and drought. It grows thick enough to crowd out weeds."

**Norman Beale, Cadillac, Mich.:** "I give my **Stihl** chainsaw a thumbs up. The gas sold in Michigan has quite a bit of ethanol in it so to make this saw run better I use REC-90 fuel in it. It's an ethanol-free, 90-octane unleaded gasoline blend that's mostly used in boats and snowmobiles. It costs about \$1 per gal. more than regular unleaded gas, but is totally worth it. I use it in all my small engines and have never had a problem.

"I had a **Generac** home backup generator installed last fall and it works exactly like the company says ([www.generac.com](http://www.generac.com); ph 888 436-3722). Knowing we'll always have power is a huge relief, and I like not having to drag out a generator during power outages."

**Thomas Fisher, Edgewood, Ky.:** "The 15-gal. spot sprayer I bought last year at **Tractor Supply Company** is excellent in every way, except that the plastic outlet that holds the sprayer's discharge hose breaks way too easily. There's no way to replace just the outlet since it's built into the unit, so I use an epoxy to repair it. I had to repair it this way three times after just two days of use."

**James R. Holt, Cincinnati, Ohio:** "I like my **Black & Decker** cordless 36-volt weed trimmer and also my 36-volt hedge trimmer. I also like my **Lynxx** cordless 40-volt leaf blower and 40-volt brushless hedge trimmer,