

ph 844 205-7266). It is a great place to find authentic forged iron hardware. They carry about everything you can imagine, from handles and hinges to door knockers and handrail brackets. They even carry pizza oven doors for wood-fired ovens.

"They had a wide selection of lag screws in various sizes with round, square and hex heads. The heads came hammered, smooth or pyramid-styled, in more than a dozen finish options from raw steel to black, gold and gunmetal gray.

"We opted for the black, hammered, square head style and used them throughout. That included T and L connector plates also from City Forge that dressed up our front porch posts and beams.

"Bilyeu matched the hammered look on his iron work, which he left raw. It and the hammered lag screws are both decorative and functional. We don't have to worry about any of the old wood moving on us."

Lou Totilas, Kimballton, Iowa: "My worst buy ever was my 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado** 4-WD pickup. At only about 40,000 miles the brakes had to be rebuilt at a cost of about \$1,000. My mechanic had warned me these pickups have serious brake issues, and boy was he right. The pickup wasn't even 5 years old when the brake lines began to fail due to corrosion.

"Later on, the ABS pump and sensors failed. I was so disgusted that I replumbed the pickup for conventional brakes using nickel-copper tubing. It was the best thing I could have done.

"This pickup had other problems. The 4-WD failed, U-joints failed, there were constant electrical problems, oil leaks, and the frame developed serious corrosion. The pickup barely lasted 100,000 miles, yet my Toyota cars of the same vintage have no trouble going 300,000 to 400,000 miles."

Ed Metcalf, Lakeview, Ark.: Ed's the satisfied owner of a **Stihl MS 192 TC** professional chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar. "This saw is reliable and very handy. It starts with one or two pulls even when it's cold and is easy to operate. The company makes two chainsaw lines - professional models built to last a lifetime, and homeowner models that are only good for occasional use but cost several hundred dollars less.

"I really like my 1996 **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine."

Scott Wolf, Ramona, S. Dak.: "I bought an 11-gal. **Coleman** air compressor from Menards, and after just one year it blew up. I then bought a 15-gal. **Coleman** stand-up compressor and it blew up after one year, too. I called the company but they told me this is a throw-away world, and that I should just buy another one. So I did, only this time I bought a **Masterforce** model. I love it."

Charles Jennings, Seligman, Mo.: "My 1969 **Sears Craftsman** 180-amp welder still works like new. All I've done to it is to replace the welder's original electrode cable with one that's 30 ft. long. They don't make welders like this any more."

Lyndon Jenkins, Freedom, Wyo.: "Back in the 1980's I bought two **Caterpillar D4 7U** dozers and two **Deere** tractors - an R and a 1956 70 diesel. All four machines are high quality and still in use today. I think the Deere R was, in its day, the best tractor Deere ever built."

Venna Trepaso, Sebastopol, Miss.: "The 1997 **Lincoln** Town Car I bought used is the best looking and best riding car I've ever owned. It still looks like new inside and out and gets a respectable 23 mpg. It has a nice all leather interior, and all the bells and whistles

on it still work."

Eugene H. Sellers, Trout Run, Penn.: "When I bought my new **Deere** 20-ft. rotary mower I was under the impression that bigger has to be better, but I was wrong. The long driveshafts that lead to the mower's two outside wings began to vibrate badly, simply because they were too long to operate without support in the middle. After much frustration I traded for a smaller 15-ft. model. The man who delivered the new model said it wasn't the first time he had seen a trade like this. It was an expensive lesson to learn."



Darren Meeks, Pocasset, Okla.: "In 2017 I bought a new **Triple C Hydra Bed 3350** bale bed (www.hydrabeds.com; ph 800 530-5624) and installed it on my new 2017 **Dodge Ram 3500 4-WD** diesel dually pickup. I use the Hydra Bed to feed 4 by 4-ft. big square bales and 5-ft. round bales to my livestock. The Cummins diesel engine on this pickup has more than enough torque to handle the load, and the Dodge pickup itself rides better than the Ford it replaced. The Hydra Bed saves a lot of time because I can back the pickup in my barn and load two bales at a time, without having to use a tractor. I highly recommend both machines."

Phil Henning, Medford, Oregon: Phil's impressed with his **Milwaukee M18 1/2-in.** cordless drill. "This drill's variable speed control, torque adjustment, power, battery pack life, and charging unit are way superior to other brands I've used, including Sears Craftsman and Makita. I also own two **Milwaukee 4 1/2-in.** angle grinders and a 14-in. metal chapsaw. All are reliable and get lots of use."

James D. Fogarty, Leesburg, Ala.: James says the **Husky 8-in.** self-adjusting, slip joint pliers he recently bought are his "best buy". The pliers allow for one-handed use and great for turning or bending small objects.

"I often find that I need three hands when working with fence wire, water hose hook-ups, and so forth. These pliers have already become indispensable in the few short weeks I've owned them," says James.

Thomas G. Fargen, Plain, Wis.: "Years ago I bought a 1954 **Deere 70** diesel tractor which I still use to rake hay and to pull wagons and a 14-ft. disk. The pony motor still works fine and the tractor uses less than one gallon of fuel per hour doing light work. I own some great **Deere 20** series tractors including a 4010, 4020, and 3020, but I love my 70 the best.

"I recently bought a **Stihl 200** electric chainsaw and find that it works even better than advertised. It's lightweight, and the battery lasts more than the one hour that's promised. I can set this saw down when cutting brush and do something else, then just push a button to restart it. It cuts fast and is a joy to operate."

Ross Bayer, McDade, Texas: Ross is the satisfied owner of a 2017 **Krone 283 3-pt.** mounted disc mower. "This is my second **Krone 283** and it has been virtually bullet proof. No problems with either machine.

"Best Buy" Grab Handle

Gary Shank, La Vernia, Texas: "My **Hitchmate** Grab Handle makes it easy to climb in and out of the bed on my Dodge pickup. It attaches to the tailgate latch pin and hinge, forming a sturdy post with a hand grip above the bed sidewall. By using the hand grip and the truck's bumper as a step, I can use both arms to stabilize myself as I step into and out of the bed. The Grab Handle can be adjusted to fit both the left and right sides of the pickup. In addition, the hook on the end of the tool is handy for pushing and pulling hard-to-reach cargo.

"I had been using an aftermarket step stool to help get in and out of my pickup bed, but it was inconvenient and not very safe because there was nothing to hold onto. The Grab Handle is fast, safe and easier on my legs. It's available online at Walmart, Home Depot, Sears, Target, Amazon, Tractor Supply Company, Ebay, AutoAccessories and other stores."

The Grab Handle sells for \$79.95 plus S&H. The company says it's not compatible with the Toyota Tacoma.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Heining Holdings, LLC, 2222 Queen Street, Bellingham, Wash. 98229 (ph 800 505-6884; orderinfo@rackbiz.com).



Hitchmate Grab Handle attaches to tailgate latch pin and hinge, providing a sturdy post with a hand grip above the bed sidewall. It can be used on either side of pickup



These mowers are shaft-driven with no belts to deal with, and the skids they ride on are built heavy. Even the covers are made of heavy-duty material - the cover on my old 283 was in perfect condition when I traded it in.

"My **Simpson 3100** psi pressure washer has enough pressure to do a good job, but after several years the original Honda 190cc engine failed. I replaced it with a **Harbor Freight Predator 212 cc** engine that has performed flawlessly. I've had to replace the spray wand on this washer three times because the wands have such poorly made plastic triggers. I also had to replace the pump."

Truman A. Johnson, Eagan, Minn.: "My **Ryobi BT 3000 10-in.** table saw is made of thin aluminum and flimsy plastic. You need three hands just to adjust the angle of the blade. Another problem is that it takes forever to get replacement parts."

Jeff Lutes, Thorndale, Texas: Jeff nominates his 2012 **New Holland Workmaster 55** loader tractor as his "worst buy". "One month after I bought it a hydraulic hose on the loader started to leak, and then at 250 hrs. the tractor's left brake locked up. I traded it for a **Kubota**, which works great.

"I'm impressed with my **Lincoln** air-powered grease gun (www.lincolnindustrial.com; ph 314 679-4200) and **LockNLube** grease coupler (www.locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). The grease coupler fits onto most standard grease guns and comes with a sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. Activating the lever releases the coupler from the zerk. Now I don't dread greasing equipment any more."

Roger Meihak, Forest Lake, Minn.: "The **Cyclone Rake** leaf mulcher I bought used performs like new. The engine has a lot of power, but the best feature is the 2-caster wheeled trailer. It attaches to my riding mower with two pins, making it easy to back up the trailer."

Kevin Dullanty, Rio Oso, Calif.: "No problems with my **Noritz** propane-on-demand tankless water heater ever since I

installed it in our house 6 years ago (www.noritz.com; ph 714 433-2905). I'm on a well and my old electric tank heater was always filling up with mineral deposits. The Noritz unit only has one scale filter at the inlet, and it'll last about 18 months. With this heater it takes a little longer for hot water to get where I want it, but the supply is unlimited. Also, it doesn't use a lot of propane."

Peter Durkee, Canby, Oregon: "I continue to purchase **Stihl** outdoor equipment including chainsaws, weed eaters, blowers, and pole saws. I add new Stihl tools each year, and am still using the first tool I bought from them 16 years ago. Their tools always start right up, which is a must for me."

James Rundus, Munden, Kansas: "I absolutely love my 2010 **Versatile 340** cab tractor equipped with a 340 hp. engine. It has a 12-speed synchro power transmission which I really like. My only mistake was that I didn't buy a bigger tractor with at least 400 hp. But this tractor will pull a 49-ft. Fallow Master tillage machine, a 36-ft. tandem disk, and a 60-ft. Deere 1910 seeder. It's a gutsy tractor.

"The treader teeth on my 2015 **Orthman 7-49** Fallow Master must have been hardened too much, because a single rock or stick is enough to break a tooth off. I never had a problem like that with **Quinstar** tillage equipment."

David H. Reits, Niles, Mich.: "The computer on my 2018 **New Holland TS6.110** diesel tractor went out just three days after I bought the tractor. The computer is very sensitive and acts up way too much. Another problem is the tractor uses too much diesel exhaust fluid. I can already tell that maintaining this tractor is going to get expensive."

L. Munger, Monticello, Utah: "The **ATS** transmission on my 1995 **Dodge** diesel pickup lasted for only about 5,000 miles before it quit working. This pickup has a stock engine and I don't use it to tow anything or to do any drag racing or sled pulls, so the transmission hasn't been abused."