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wash, apply the rust converter, and paint. It makes a glassy acrylic seal on the metal that paints great and looks good."

Ron Scott, Doniphan, Mo.: "My 2007 Woods 15-ft. BW180 Batwing mower has exceeded my expectations. We live in the Ozark foothills where we're surrounded by rocks, sumac, persimmon and oak saplings. The gearboxes have a 5-year warranty but I've had no problems with them at all. All I've replaced are the blades and stump jumpers."

Dan Weber, Pine City, Minn.: "It's one of the best investments I've ever made," says Dan about his Central Boiler CL6048 outdoor wood burning furnace. "It paid for itself in 3 years compared to heating with propane."

John Thompson, Deming, N. Mex.: "I'm well satisfied with my 2014 Millcreek model 37 ground-driven manure spreader. I had been using a 2003 Millcreek model 30 pto-driven spreader that I pulled with horses and a pto power cart. The only problem with it was a tire failure. I probably hauled 800 to 900 loads with it."

He's disappointed with Black & Decker products. "The company advertises they have 'special factories' in China, but my 1/2-in. hammer drill and sure-start battery booster were both junk. I've used Black & Decker products for more than 40 years, but no more."

Al Page, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: "My 2012 Cub Cadet Yanmar SC2400 garden tractor equipped with a 60-in. mower deck and front-end loader does a fine job. The loader is built plenty strong for a subcompact tractor.

It's unbelievable how much snow this blower can handle."

The tractor itself has a lot of power, is fuel efficient, and is easy to operate with simple controls. I bought it with a 4-ft. front-mount snowblower made in Canada by Berco-mac (www.bercomac.com; ph 877 772-3726). It's unbelievable how much snow this unit can handle and how far it can throw it. I later purchased a 4-ft. wide, 3-pt. mounted rototiller from Tractor Supply Co. to use with the tractor and it works great, too."

Sid McMillion, Baltimore, Md.: "I really like my 2013 Traeger Junior wood pellet grill (www.traegergrills.com; ph 800 872-3437). I was raised on a farm and moved to the city some years ago. The flavor of the food that I fix on this wood grill brings back the good old days when my aunt cooked on her wood stove. I learned to cook from my grandmother, so I love to cook. I've even baked Christmas cookies on this grill."

Al Simmons, Harrisville, N.Y.: "No problems with my 2009 Wood Doctor WD8000 outdoor wood boiler. It never overheats and burns the wood to a fine powder, with absolutely no wasted wood. I only have to clean out the ashes every 30 to 35 days. It produces very little smoke when getting up to temperature, and after the damper shuts there's no smoke at all. You wouldn't even know it was running."

"I had owned a Central Classic C617 outdoor wood boiler, but it wouldn't burn the coals because there was no way to get air under them so they just kept building up. It took forever to get up to temperature, and the longer it took the more it smoked. As a result we had had to clean it out every 5 to 6 days. Also, whenever the power would go

out the boiler would overheat and burn up the circulating pumps."

Robert Weatherhead, Exeland, Wis.: "My Stihl 390 chainsaw and Stihl 55RC weed whipper both start and run well. We use the saw to cut 20 to 30 cords of wood every year."

"My 2007 New Holland TD80 tractor had a lot of problems and had to be split twice. It went through 4 pto clutches because the cables that run the clutches stuck and ruined them. The first time this happened with less than 50 hrs. on the pto clutch; the second time, 1,200 hrs. Also, the tractor's steering rod bent, the primer pump quit working, and bolts in the frame broke. My dealer has been good to me, but not the company."

D.J. Tournillon, Carriere, Miss.: "The deck on my 2013 Sears Craftsman 46-in. riding mower should be built stronger."

"My 2012 Deere 46-in. riding mower started hard and needed numerous repairs."

Charles Fink, S. Woodstock, Ct.: "I've had good luck with my Cub Cadet EX3200 garden tractor built by Yanmar."

"I like my Supersplit wood splitter (www.



supersplit.com; ph 508 427-5800). It has two spinning plywheels and a pinion gear that's used to slam into the wood to split it instantly.



"After the original patent expired on this splitter, it was copied by several other companies, but I don't know how they compare," says Charles. "My Supersplit is powered by a Subaru Robin engine, and it works fantastic. This splitter wasn't cheap, but it was worth the money. It works much better and a lot faster than hydraulic-operated splitters."

Jason Dubac, Scarsburg, Vt.: "I use my 2009 Kubota 5240 tractor almost every day. It's a real work horse."

"My 2013 International 7500 4-WD Durastar truck is my worst buy. I bought it equipped with a custom fully loaded cab and chassis and paid \$101,700. The truck's regeneration system didn't work, and the dealer or company reps tried to fix it 14 times in just the first 1 1/2 years without success. I finally sold it for a huge loss. The extended warranty didn't help. I'll never buy an International truck again."

John Coleman, Mount Pleasant, Penn.: "In 2012 I bought a used 2007 Dodge Dakota pickup equipped with a 6 1/2-ft. bed. I wanted a bed cap, but new ones for my pickup would have cost \$2,000 to \$3,000. So instead I bought a used cap from Ishlers Caps in Mt. Joy, Penn. (ph 717 653-5253). They sell good used caps and also mount them."

"Just 15 months after I bought my 2012 Kawasaki 19.2-volt cordless drill, the batteries went bad. The company said I had to buy a whole new drill because they didn't

Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: "My battery-powered Core E400 Trimmer with its revolutionary new electric drive system (See Vol. 36, No. 1), is somewhere between a 'best' and 'worst' buy."

"It does a great job on grasses and smaller, younger weeds. However, the company says it's designed for commercial landscape professionals. They suggest it is heavy-duty and able to handle big weeds and brambles. When I took it into tough, late summer weeds with anything bigger than 1/4-in. stems, it struggled to do the job. It took the leaves off, but usually left the stems standing. My old Stihl gas-powered trimmer handled them with difficulty, but it would clip them off."

"Its weight is well-balanced. The company claims the Elite power cell lasts as long as 2 tanks of gas. While that is hard to judge, it certainly has a long run time. The quick charger powers it back up in about 45 min."

"The Core electric motor technology is unique with its multi-layered printed circuit board and magnets motor. This reduces weight and complexity, putting the motor right at the trimmer head. At one point I seemed to be losing torque and power. When I took the head off, I found stringy weed fiber had worked its way inside the power head. Once I cleaned it out, the trimmer returned to full power."

"While the Core trimmer couldn't do everything I wanted, I have to admit the



"It's a really handy tool around the yard, but I expected more for the money," says Jim Ruen about his battery-powered Core E400 Trimmer.

electric motor is handy and quiet. Just press the button and you're cutting grass and weeds. It was especially nice around the yard, trimming lawn edges and even edging sidewalks.

"Customer service is good. Initially I had a problem with the cord breaking off. It seemed to melt the remaining cord to the spool edges. They sent a new bump feed that seems to have taken care of the problem."

"At \$699.99 for the trimmer, power cell and charger, I can't recommend it as a great buy. It is a really handy tool around the yard, but I expected more for the money."

You can find out more about Core power tools at <http://coreoutdoorpower.com>.

have replacements. It seems stupid to me that they don't have batteries for a 2-year-old drill! I just wanted to buy new batteries, that's all, not an entire new drill. The drill itself works great."

Doug Medlin, Marshville, N.C.: Doug is impressed with his Jawhorse portable work station (www.rockwelltools.com). It's made from solid steel and is said to have 10 times the clamping power of a regular vise. A foot-operated pedal is used to lock the object into place. "It's a great tool to hold almost anything when you need someone to help you but there is no one. It's strong, lightweight and very maneuverable," says Doug.

"My Ridgid cordless drill has a lifetime warranty that even includes replacement of the battery (www.ridgid.com)."

John H. Smith, Mosby, Mont.: "The steering system on my 2012 Honda Big Red utility vehicle is downright dangerous. I don't dare drive with my thumbs around the wheel, because if ever I hit a rut or a big lump of ground, the steering wheel will rip right out of my hands and spin clear to the stops."

Dru Burk, Ismay, Mont.: "My 2011 Ford F-350 pickup has about 103,000 miles on it, yet I've had to replace only the tires. I've pulled a lot of heavy loads with this pickup."

"When I went to trade in my 2012 Polaris Ranger utility vehicle I found that it cost me \$1.80 a mile in actual depreciation. Their utility vehicles aren't built for ranch work."

Delbert Billings, Tomah, Wis.: "No problems with my Cyclone Rake tow-behind lawn vacuum system (www.cyclonerake.com; ph 888 531-7253)."

Jim Wade, Oak Hills, Calif.: Jim's impressed with his 1997 Ford Crown Victoria. "What a fantastic car. I bought it used with about 69,000 miles on it and now it has about 417,000 miles. I drove this car 134 miles round trip every day for many years and never thought it would last this long. It still has the original drivetrain, and nothing on the car has been rebuilt."

"The vehicle's 4.6-liter, V-8 engine averages 28 mpg, and my all-time best was 30.96 mpg on a long trip. The engine is a little tired now, but it ought to be and I may

rebuild it. I think Ford made a mistake in discontinuing its Crown Victoria line."

Howard Woehrer, Centertown, Mo.: "My 2012 Massey Ferguson 5465 is a great tractor for doing loader work. I pull my round baler with it and find the power shuttle transmission to be very handy. This tractor has ample power and is fuel efficient."

Regina Rainey, Glenallen, Mo.: Regina likes her 2013 TYM T723 4-WD tractor (www.tym-tractors.com). "We bought this tractor last December after comparing different brands and prices, and it has performed beyond our expectations. We work it hard but have had no problems. We have Deere and IH tractors on our place, too, but I like the TYM the best."

On the "worst buy" side, she lists her 2013 Chevrolet 3500 1-ton pickup. "It still looks like new but has been a nightmare to own. We've had problems with the warning lights and the 4-WD, and our dealer doesn't know how to fix it. We finally took the pickup to a dealer about 300 miles away, and he couldn't believe everything that was wrong with it."

Philip Seidenschwarz, Bybee, Tenn.: Philip's the satisfied owner of a 2011 10 by 12-ft. aluminum greenhouse built by One Stop Gardens in China and sold by Harbor Freight. The building comes with 4 roof vents. "Everything is included in the package, with directions that are easy to follow. It's designed with an extruded aluminum frame that's easy to assemble, and with woven plastic panels that fit snug into channels with locking clips."

"Last spring we used this greenhouse to grow more than 3,000 vegetable and herb plants on home-built, plastic pipe shelving. This building is all it's advertised to be, and more. We're 100 percent pleased with it."

Robert Erickson, Williamstown, Vt.: He's had problems with his 2011 Sears Craftsman 20 hp riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck. "Right from the start the choke didn't work properly, and the throttle cable broke at the handle. Also, every time I start the engine I have to use starter fluid."

Lynn Buss, Le Mars, Iowa: "I like my 2011 Kawasaki Mule 4010 side by