

and then go up over the axles at either end. It works like a drop-bed trailer. The steering axles let it follow the tractor perfectly through gates and other tight spaces.

"With a rack at either end, I never have to tie bales. I can load small square bales 2 high between the axles and then go 6 layers high over the entire length of the trailer. I can set 60 between the axles and 100 in each layer above them.

"With large round bales, I am able to carry up to 31 at a time. They stack 2 wide and 2 high with a third row down the center.

"The big, single 14/20 truck tires have always carried the load. I can haul 8 to 10 ton of hay at a time. It does take a good size tractor to pull it loaded on hilly ground. I had one tractor with 90 hp and front wheel assist, and it couldn't pull the load up a steep hill.

"It still works great. I even built a hitch that lets me pin and unpin hydraulically from the cab."

Donald Putteet, Middleburg, Fla.: "I really like my 1999 Exmark Lazer zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck. I used it hard in my lawn service business in Kentucky and to mow my 2 1/4-acre yard. In all those years this machine has required only routine maintenance. Last year I finally replaced the belts and an idler pulley. The deck and frame are made of solid steel so they're built to last. This mower may be 16 years old, but I still plan to use it for many years to come."

Alan Linda, New York Mills, Minn.: Alan like the **BatteryMinder** charger-maintainer-desulfator he bought from Georges Automotive Electric (www.batteryminders.com; ph 800 379-5579). "I used it to charge the two 12-volt batteries on my Deere 3020 tractor. The batteries would barely start the tractor even with a large booster charger on them, but one month after I installed the BatteryMinder the batteries were able to start the tractor on their own. This unit isn't cheap, but it's less expensive than having to buy new batteries all the time."

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: "I like my 2015 FloForce FJP-075, 3/4 hp shallow well jet pump equipped with pressure switch and dual voltage. It's an awesome pump that sells for \$129.95 including shipping (www.pexuniverse.com; ph 800 818-3201). The pump was delivered a full day early. It delivers 14 gpm, which is more than enough to operate 2 lawn sprinklers."

John Perry, Andover, N.H.: "A Power Twist Plus Link V-Belt saved me from the expense and hassle of having my Ford F-650



tow truck towed to a shop (www.grainger.com; ph 800 472-4643). The A/C clutch froze on the wrecker, and no one in our area had a 'bypass' belt in stock. Once we installed the Power Twist belt we were able to drive the truck back to the shop for repairs."

Tom Holaday, Searcy, Ark.: "Our Eden Pure 1000 infrared heater failed the first time we tried to use it. The factory sent a replacement model that worked for one winter, but then it quit working, too."

Glenn Arnold, Okeechobee, Fla.: "The pto shaft on my Case IH MX 135 tractor

keeps coming out. I use this tractor to operate a round baler, and about every 10 bales or so the snap ring securing the pto shaft pops out and the pto quits running. I replaced about everything that can be replaced, including the telescoping shaft on the baler, but nothing helped. I finally traded this tractor for a Deere 6615. Problem solved."

Andy Fiehler, Lawrenceburg, Ky.: "I like the W.E. chaps I found at a yard sale, and my



shins wish I'd found them even sooner (www.wechappsinc.weebly.com; ph 800 816-2427). These chaps work great to keep me from getting wet or beaten up by weeds and other debris."

Jerry Hasnedl, St. Hilaire, Minn.: "This sprayer takes the stress out of spraying," says Jerry about his 2014 Top Aire TA2400 132-ft. pull-type tracked sprayer (www.topairequip.com). It's equipped with sonar automatic boom height, a steerable hitch, and a wireless Raven controller. "Even when we fill the 2,400-gal. tank, it leaves minimal tracks and follows our Deere 8360RT tracked tractor perfectly. No boom height adjustment is necessary, even when crossing ditches at an angle.

"Our 3M Speedglass auto darkening welding helmet works great when it works, but if we go more than a week without using it we have to replace the battery - which isn't the easiest job in itself. We can't rely on this welding helmet to do quick little welding jobs."

Larry Flesher, Ridgeville, Ind.: "Our Kinze 3600 24-row interseed planter is well built, plants at an even depth, and works great in no-till. However, the KPM III seed monitor on it is pretty much useless. Our dealer has helped some, but the seed sensors still burn out at the rate of about 3 per year. When that happens the ground speed, population, and total acres on the monitor all register zero. The monitor will indicate when a seed box runs dry, but that's all."

Tony Peterson, Harbor Beach, Mich.: "I'm a mechanic so I use my Ingersoll Rand W7150 1/2-in. cordless impact wrench every day. The battery usually lasts a couple of days and the tool has a lot of power. Not only is the battery long lasting, but so is the tool."

Terry Diggs, Skidmore, Mo.: "It does a great job and requires little maintenance," says Terry about his 2010 Country Clipper 42-in. riding mower. "The deck is easy to clean, and I really like the one-lever steering control. This machine has reduced my mowing time by half. I like it so much that last spring I bought a new model equipped with a 60-in. deck."

Robert Eastwood, Underwood, Minn.: "It does a nice job cutting and runs good," says Robert, pleased with his 2008 Cub Cadet LT 1042 riding mower equipped with hydrostatic drive.

Dave Ibach, Wellsboro, Penn.: "My Logosol M7 portable sawmill came with detailed instructions and included a Stihl 066 power head and a ripping chain (www.logosol.com; ph 877 564-6765). The parts fit together perfectly, and extra hardware was included. This sawmill can support a 16-ft. long, 1,100-lb. log on 2 adjustable log beds. The hand crank-operated carriage pulls the ripping chain through red oak trees with

"Best Buy" CNC Plasma Cutter

"I purchased a 4 by 4-ft. CNC table with a Hypertherm torch from BurnTables and have had excellent results with it. The table is rugged, and we've cut 10-ft. sheets on it with excellent results. The accuracy has been great for all types of bolt hole patterns and parts. I'm running it daily for as much as 6 hrs. a day, doing part and piece work for a local gold mine, as well as for other shops looking for parts," says Randy Schmidt, Fairbanks, Alaska (www.resmetalworks.com).

During slow times in the shop, we started making our own products to sell. We do things for dog sleds, as well as BBQ grills with smokers/bun warmers, skis to mount on wood splitters for use in snow, and add-ons for trucks, ATV's, snow machines and boats.

"We also do more artistic pieces and outdoor furniture. My wife is an artist and draws the designs. We scan them and enter them into the CAD system. I do the programming. My wife comes up with some really fine detail work that requires some really small cuts.

"We've had the table for 2 yrs., and it has held up well. When I purchased it, I flew down to BurnTables, went through the shop and did some training, which I would recommend. It was very informative, and they treated me really well.

"The Hypertherm torch that came with the burn table is great as well. I had used Hypertherm plasma torches before, and after using them with the BurnTable, I'm really committed.



Randy Schmidt uses his 4 by 4-ft. CNC plasma cutter to build all kinds of things, including a decorative bench and skis for a log splitter.



"Parts and service are fast with both companies. That's not always the case with companies when you live in Alaska. Service means a lot to us up here. When we get companies that will deal with us, we stick to them and treat them good. BurnTable (www.burntables.com) and Hypertherm (www.hypertherm.com) are just fantastic."

ease."

Ben Kauffman, Chesapeake, Va.: Ben likes his 2014 Milwaukee M18 FUEL

"One day I used the drill to actually drive my riding mower into a shed."

hammer drill impact wrench. "One day I used the drill to actually drive my riding mower into a shed and up a ramp by using a socket to drive a transmission pulley nut. I love this tool's power. I recently bought a Milwaukee brushless sawzall and it works great, too."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists the Performance Tool pistol grip grease gun from Northern Tool. "The directions didn't make sense. I finally got it loaded, but something inside the grease gun went bad and messed everything up. I never was able to get much grease out of the gun and ended up throwing it away. I think I'll go buy a Milwaukee cordless grease gun."

James K. Thompson, Arlington, Texas: "My Stihl 4-mix weed trimmer always starts, runs quiet, and has a lot of torque. The engine is designed like a 4-stroke, but runs on a 2-stroke oil and gas mix.

"I like my 2 Stihl chainsaws - a 2002 Farm Boss 029 and a 2008 MS210. These saws don't start quick enough when they're cold, but they do always start and they cut great.

"I use my 1999 Echo BP4600 backpack blower all year long. Works great and always starts right up.

"My 2000 Dodge pickup equipped with a Cummins turbo diesel engine has about 190,000 miles on it. It's a great truck.

"I recently discovered Mechanic In A Bottle (Wal-Mart or Home Depot) and found that it really helps clean the carburetor on 2 and 4-stroke engines. I let the product set overnight in the carburetor and, once the engine starts, I add more into the tank. I used

it to take care of a rough idle/surge on my riding mower's Vanguard 16 hp engine."

Jack Brunacini, Magdalena, N. Mex.: Jack has more than 600,000 miles on his 2005 Dodge 350 1-ton dually 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and 6-speed transmission, with no major problems. "I think the Cummins diesel is the finest automotive engine ever built anywhere in the world, and the power developed by this engine, coupled with 4-WD, makes this pickup unstoppable. It gets good mileage, and I think it'll run forever."

Tommy Brawley, Neb.: Tommy's happy with the GPSXII Run Flat tires he installed on his Polaris Ranger utility vehicle (www.gpsoffroadproducts.com; ph 855 643-8473). "We were having flat tires almost every day and tried at least 4 different tire brands all claiming to be durable and puncture-resistant, but they weren't. Then we found these GPSXII Run Flat tires and haven't had a single flat tire since. I think they're by far the best ATV/UTV tires on the market. We've now got them on all our vehicles."

Bill Wood, Giddings, Texas: "I'm 74 years old and have owned many riding mowers over the years, but my 2013 Sears Craftsman VT3000 42-in. model is the worst. The first time I used this mower the belts came off, and the company repairman said they weren't assembled properly. The next time I drove it the belts came off again. I called the company and tried to return the machine, but they said since it had been bought more than 30 days ago they wouldn't take it back. I've never been able to finish a mowing job with this mower without a problem. Now it's broken down again, and we've been waiting 3 weeks for a repairman to show up.

"Not long ago I noticed this mower was made by Husqvarna, and if I had known that I wouldn't have bought it. Sears used to have good products and great customer service. Now they seem to have neither."