



numerous accessories for it including different saws, blades, rasps, sanders and scrapers.

"We've relied on this tool for many cutting and scraping projects, both in the shop and while we were remodeling our house. The hyperlock feature on it makes changing blades an easy job."

Charles J. Crossman, Ortonville, Mich.: "It took 35 years to save enough money to buy my **Morton 54** by 60-ft. shop building, but it was worth it. It's built strong and with great quality, including the insulation and doors.

"Two years ago I purchased new two-way radios from **Cardinal Wireless**. Big mistake. The company claimed these cheap Chinese-made radios had twice as much power as my old American-made radios, but actually they were virtually worthless."

Stewart Rachwal, Weyauwega, Wis.: "Every time we drove over a high spot with our **Estate Rough Cut** pull-type mower, the deck belt would pop off. Otherwise, this mower does a good job."

Lanny Vail, Bowman, N. Dak.: "The gas-powered **Massey Ferguson 165** tractor I bought used 30 years ago is my best buy. It spent its early days pulling a pto-driven small square baler for a local custom haying operation. I was on the road a lot with it so I replaced the rear tires with Firestone Field and Road tires. I also had to replace an oil seal on the pto shaft. Otherwise the tractor has required only routine maintenance. Now I use it mostly in the winter for blowing snow, and it always starts right up."

On the negative side, "I had less than seven hours on my **Coleman** generator when something on it flew apart causing it to stop working. The warranty had expired just 7 days before, so I thought maybe the company would help out. No luck. If the company rep I talked to hadn't been so nasty, I would have accepted that the generator was out of warranty and just junked it. But now I'll never buy a Coleman product again or recommend them to anyone else."

Freeman Hochstetler, Gilman, Wis.: He's happy with his **Milwaukee** 18-volt high-torque, 3/4-in. drive impact wrench which produces up to 750 lbs./ft. of torque. "This tool has guts. It beats air impact wrenches for its light weight, great torque, portability, and ease of use. I use it every day to change the knives on a big wood chipper, and have to loosen and retorquer 27 3-in. long bolts to do the job. Yet I can loosen and retorquer the bolts to 465 lbs./ft., without using up more than half the battery's capacity. I think every farmer should own this tool."

Rich Schieber, Plymouth, Ind.: "My **BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A** Ko tires last a long time and have a good tread design for both winter and summer. No highway noise, either."

Roger H. Keil, Bellevue, Iowa: "The engines on my **IH 303** and **615** combines seem to run forever, and are simple enough in design that I can work on them by myself. I bought both combines used years ago and they're still going strong.

"In my experience, **Deere 3020** and **4020**

series tractors equipped with the powershift transmission will run forever without any problems.

"Several years ago I bought a new **Deere 275** 9-ft. disc mower which turned out to be a piece of junk. It was welded together at the factory with the belt pulleys out of line, and as a result I had to replace several sets of \$300 belts. I had a welding shop cut 1/2 in. out of the frame, which cured most of the problem. Also, the mower's swivel shaft broke off, and I've had to replace several gears and bearings. I've spent more money on repairs than what I paid for the machine."

Gary Thomsen, Arion, Iowa: Gary's the satisfied owner of a **Sears Craftsman Nextec 12-volt** lithium ion right angle impact driver. "The lithium battery lasts a long time and works great for drilling holes, driving screws and any job that can be done with a tool equipped with a 1/4-in. hex shank. This is my 'go to' tool. With a couple of spare batteries that charge quickly, it can go all day long with no down time."

Paul A. Badger, Lecompton, Kansas: "It's the most reliable and smoothest running mower I've ever owned," says Paul about his **2010 Grasshopper 618** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck. "Maintenance has been limited to normal wear and tear on the belts and bearings and so forth."

Stan Moore, N. Manchester, Ind.: Stan owns a **2009 Deere Gator 620i** utility vehicle. "My wife and I enjoy driving this machine almost every day. It's dependable and easy to get on and off. A real workhorse. We've used the machine to pick up tons of rocks and to spot-spray crops using a 25-gal. sprayer mounted on back. It always starts and works great for checking on crops and cutting firewood in winter."

David Van DeWeert, Geneseo, N.Y.: "My **Case IH Magnum 7110** is a simple tractor with lots of power, and it's easy to service. However, parts from the company are expensive. I can buy filters for half the price at NAPA Auto Parts. For example, an oil filter that costs \$50 at Case IH sells for \$25 at NAPA.

"My **New Holland 450** Utility round baler is designed to make 4 by 5-ft. bales weighing up to 1,000 lbs. However, the computer on it never worked right. This is a small baler so I have to baby it. My advice is to buy a bigger baler - you'll be money ahead."

Roy Seale, Mexico, Mo.: Roy's the satisfied owner of a **2017 Deere X370** lawn tractor equipped with a **Kawasaki 18 1/2 hp** engine. "I love this machine. It has power

"My advice is to buy a bigger baler - you'll be money ahead."

steering and a hydraulic lift deck, and to switch to mulching the grass I just pull a lever. Before I bought this model I owned four **X300's** that I used in my mowing and landscaping business for years, and they were great, too. I put up to 1,100 hrs. on them without a bit of trouble. These are great mowers.

"The belts kept coming off both of my **Cub Cadet LT 42** riding mowers and I had a lot of trouble with blades bending. The first mower had to be worked on 6 times with less than 23 hrs. on it. The engine blew up on the second mower with only 125 hrs. on it."

Mike Hammes, Wadena, Minn.: "I've used my **2006 Yamaha Rhino 450 4-WD**



Sharpeners tested include: 1. Work Sharp 2. DMT Diafold 3. Lansky Blademedic 4. The Puck

Looking For A Knife Sharpener

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

There are lots of knife sharpeners on the market. We wanted to find at least 1 or 2 that really work well so we bought 4 sharpeners to put to the test.

There are sharpeners out there for everything from axes to fish hooks - including expensive motorized units - but for this test, I stuck to simpler hand-held units.

Work Sharp Guided Sharpening System (\$60 at www.worksharp.com; ph 800 597-6170): The most expensive sharpener I tried - and the best - it can sharpen all types of knives including concave, recurve and serrated blades. The sharpener can be set on rigid or pivot so that it moves as you sharpen. Work Sharp says its innovative pivot system makes sharpening curved pocket knives faster, easier and more precise along the entire length of the blade.

I appreciated the adjustable angle plates (17 degrees for kitchen cutlery and 20 degrees for outdoor knives) that help keep the correct angle. There are two diamond plates - coarse 320 grit to sharpen and fine 600 grit to hone - as well as a ceramic rod with different grooves to sharpen serrated knives and fish hooks.

With a 42-year warranty, this tool is built to last. I plan to keep it handy in the kitchen.

DMT Diafold (\$47 at www.dmtsharp.com; ph 508 481-5944): DMT offers folding sharpeners designed to go anywhere. The Massachusetts company offers a single-sided version and a variety of double-sided combinations. I opted for coarse and fine grit, which can sharpen a dull knife and hone a nice edge. The plastic handles fold in over

diamond grit surfaces to protect them so it's a handy 5-in. length when closed.

This sharpener works great and I can see it working especially well for people used to using a whetstone or file for sharpening. It's ideal for throwing into a toolbox or glove box.

Lansky's Blademedic (\$16 at www.lansky.com; ph 716 877-7511): Lansky designed this 4-in. long sharpener to fit into a pocket like a knife.

Despite its compactness it is multipurpose. It has two grooves for carbide sharpening followed up by ceramic honing, a diamond tapered rod for fast reconditioning, and a ceramic edge to sharpen serrations. The grooves make it easy to get the right blade angle while sharpening. This sharpener is ideal for ranchers and farmers to carry with them.

The Puck (\$9 at www.lansky.com; ph 716 877-7511): As the name implies, it's round like a hockey puck - and just under 4 in. in diameter so it fits nicely in the palm of your hand.

The directions suggest putting the tool to be sharpened - axe, lawn mower blade, machete, shovel - in a vise to hold it securely. Then use a circular motion to sharpen one side, then the other. There is a coarse side and a fine side of the puck, and Lansky recommends applying a few drops of oil on the puck before sharpening. It worked great and seems ideal for use around the farmstead.

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utility vehicle for fencing work, wood cutting, hunting, planting food plots, and so forth. So far it has required only routine maintenance. When my daughter was getting ready for her driver's test she used the Rhino to practice parallel parking. This machine would be tough to replace, but it may last as long as I do."

Elbert Morrison, Lawson, Mo.: He says his **2016 Mahindra 4550** loader tractor "has worked as good as I expected. It had a few minor problems but the dealer promptly took care of them."

Amos Brubaker, Ina, Ill.: "I'm well pleased with my **Deere 1025R** sub compact utility tractor equipped with a mower and front-end loader. It's a handy, versatile tractor. I especially like the drive-over auto attach mower deck, and the loader sure saves on our wheelbarrow.

"My **2010 Deere 7330** tractor has a lot of power in a compact size and is a joy to operate."

Bob Payne, Coldwater, Miss.: "I'm happy with the **Predator 8750** generator I bought

at Harbor Freight. This 13 hp. generator has 8,750 maximum starting and 7,000 running watts. I use it to operate a healthy size air compressor and keep a 100-watt drop light plugged into it to 'preload' the generator. I wait for it to get up to speed before I flip on the compressor switch.

"I liked this generator so much that I bought another one 2 years later. Both start on the first or second pull, even in temperatures down to 30 degrees, so there's no need for electric start.

"I also like 2 **Pittsburgh** products that I bought at Harbor Freight - a 2-piece vehicle dolly with 1,500 lbs. of capacity, and a 1 1/2-ton aluminum racing floor jack equipped with a rapid pump."

Ben Lapp, Myerstown, Penn.: "I bought my **2015 New Holland L220** skid loader new in 2016 and rented it to a friend to push snow, but when it came back it had a bent boom. Fortunately, my dealer was able to repair it under warranty. Now this machine has 720 hrs. on it and has required only routine maintenance."