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Kubota 2202 tractor is my best buy. All I've replaced is the water pump and battery.

"My 1997 **Mercedes** C230 car is my worst buy. Everything on it seemed to go wrong."

Richard Gerlt, Gravois Mills, Mo.: "My 2000 **Deere** 270 skid loader is my best buy. It has enough power to lift oak logs up to 16 ft. long by 20 in. in diameter, without tipping the machine."

Lawrence Bauer, Lucasville, Ohio: "I like my 2001 **Deere** 4700 tractor equipped with a Deere 460 front-end loader. It's the handiest tractor I've ever had. No problems."

"My **Black & Decker** 1/2-in. VSR hammer/drill is my worst buy. The gear stripped after very little use."

Craig Richlen, Lockhart, Texas: "I threw away my calf puller chains after I bought my purebred Santa Gertrudis bull. The calves come out thin and long, so even small heifers have no problems delivering. The calves fill out fast and that 'Bing Cherry' red color is really pretty."

"My 2001 **Ryobi** brush cutter is my worst buy. The problem is the plastic and rubber parts fell apart after just one year of use. I had to replace the primer bulb and fuel hoses twice, and after two years the fuel tank cracked, even though I stored the machine in my shop."

Chad Glidden, Stanley, Wis.: Chad nominates his 2004 **Skidoo** Summit snowmobile as his "worst buy." "I was able to ride this snowmobile only about 300 miles before the running boards bent down. I took the machine back to the dealer who called the company. They told me there's an aftermarket product that would solve the problem. I paid about \$7,000 for this snowmobile and feel I should be able to ride it without having to buy aftermarket parts. My brother bought the same model this year and he had the same problem. I've always bought a new Skidoo every two years, but this one may be my last."

John McClelland Jr., Viroqua, Wis.: "My 2003 **Gehl** 4835 skid loader is my best buy. I traded my smaller Gehl 3825 for it last April. It was a good machine. However, the 4835 has the lifting capacity I need and more power. I got the factory cab and heat option which I like a lot. I use it every day on my dairy farm no matter how cold it gets."

Tim Sitzer, Weiner, Ark.: Tim likes his **Case IH** MX240 tractor. "It has adequate power and rides better than the company's Magnum models, which it replaced. We did have to make a major repair on the 3-pt. hitch. The hitch should be built stronger."

Mike Talbott, Riverton, Wyo.: "My 2001 **Snapper** zero turn 32-in. riding mower is my best buy. It does an excellent job of mowing with few problems."

"My 2003 **Toro** cordless trimmer is my worst buy. After only two months of use I couldn't get it to charge. We replaced the charging element but it still wouldn't take a charge."

James E. Smith, Aberdeen, S. Dak.: "My 2003 **New Holland** BR 780 round baler has performed well in a variety of crops and conditions. It has a lot of capacity and makes solid, square shouldered bales with a minimum of operator effort. I previously owned New Holland 855 and 664 balers which did a good job for me, so my expectations were high. Fortunately, this machine is living up to them."

Clyde L. Martin, Weatherford, Texas: "My **Stihl** chain saw is my worst buy. I had to remove a tree to get my recreational vehicle on a lot. I was 60 miles from home so I went to a dealer in Emory, Texas, and paid almost \$300 for the chain saw. It was very hard to start. I was able to use it for only about 15 minutes before the blade came off the bar.

I put it back on but 15 minutes later it came off again. I found that the only way to keep it on was to tighten it real tight but then the bar would get hot. I've owned and used saws for 30 years so I know how to use them."

Doyle Dazey, Milford, Ill.: Doyle's the satisfied owner of a 1996 **Husqvarna** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck and 17 hp Kohler engine. "My wife just loves this machine. It mows so much faster and neater than our other Husqvarna model which is equipped with a 50-in. deck and 20 hp engine. But both are excellent machines."

"I've owned my 1990 **Shindawa** string trimmer for more than 10 years and it's a best buy. It sets idle all winter long with gas in it, but the following spring it never fails to start. All I have to do is prime it and choke it, and away it goes. It's ready to work before I am."

Roger Starck, Fairbury, Neb.: "Our 1977 **Gehl** 95 grinder mixer is our best buy. Over the years we've used it to grind about 300,000 bushels of corn and milo for our hogs. We grind a 2-ton batch every day. It has required very few repairs and is on its third set of hammers. It still looks and runs as good as new."

"Over the years we've used it to grind 300,000 bu. of corn and milo."

On the negative side, he lists the **Aqua** tube feeders he used in his hog finishing barn. "These type feeders are designed to let hogs eat either dry or wet feed. However, it takes a lot of labor to keep them adjusted so they'll work properly. If they're set so tight that they don't waste feed, they plug up. And of course if you open them up too much, that wastes feed. Because of all the wasted feed our feed conversion ratio was terrible. We decided to install a new feeder of a different brand, and the feed savings on just one group of hogs paid for the new feeder."

Wesley Magnuson, Murdock, Minn.: "I love my **Uni-Hydro** ironworker (Uni-Hydro, Inc., 310 East Gemini Ave., Cosmos, Minn. 56228 ph 800 328-0036). I use it every day."

"My **Grizzly** 7 by 20-in. metal turning lathe is also a best buy (Grizzly Industrial, Inc., P.O. Box 2069, Bellingham, Wash. 98227 ph 800 523-4777; www.grizzly.com). It's reasonably priced and works great for small jobs."

John Carson, Sherwood Park, Alberta: "My 1998 **Arctic Cat** 454 4-WD ATV is my worst buy. I had to take it back to the shop five times before it even had 350 miles on it. The only things that worked correctly on it were the tires. I had to take it back to the garage five different times before it even had 500 miles on it. One problem was that it wouldn't start - I had to manually prime it. The tie rods broke due to bad welds. Overall, this machine was poorly designed, with the weight way too far forward. As a result, one time I got it stuck almost down to the handlebars on some wet land where I was able to drive right through with other ATVs. I still have this machine because I wouldn't want to sell it to anyone."

Aden Schrock, Bellville, Ohio: Our 1974 **Stihl** 031 chain saw is our best buy. We've had to change the points only once even though we use it regularly to cut firewood and for small jobs around our farm. We really got our money's worth."

Lynn Simonsen, Sleepy Eye, Minn.: A 2001 **Ford** Ranger 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4.0, V-6 liter engine rates as Lynn's "best buy." "This pickup is smaller than the

Pocket-Sized Knife Sharpener

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

My husband, Keith Schole, says the Speedy Sharp Knife Sharpener does a good job and is easy to use.

Keith was appointed by me to try out the pocket-sized device that was sent to me by Wayne Dorsett of Seattle, Washington. As a contributing editor for FARM SHOW, I had previously done an article on Wayne's sideline knife sharpening business. He also sells commercial knife sharpening machines.

Now Wayne has become a distributor for Speedy Sharp pocket knife sharpeners. The company promotes the device as being the "world's fastest knife sharpener" and Wayne says everyone he shows it to says it's "amazing."

"It's made with MICRO 100 Super Carbide that will stand up to the hardest use," Dorsett says. "It's good for sharpening any sized knives, garden tools, scissors, hatchets, and many other items."

My husband says he wouldn't use the word amazing, but he was surprised at what a good job it did sharpening his very dull pocket knife. It's small size certainly makes it handy,

company's F-150 model, but it's an incredible machine. The best part is that it gets 22 mpg. It has a nice cab and also rides well, and it does a good job in snow. This is the first Ranger I've ever owned and I love it. The only negative was the right front caliper. It ate up my right front rotor because a pin or two had frozen or got stuck inside the caliper. Repairs were made, and no problems since then."

Jeff Shaffer, Elizabeth, Ind.: Jeff's generally satisfied with his 2003 **Deere** 7420 tractor. "It has a lot of comfort and power and handles well. However, the paint job isn't very good."

Pete Volkert, Northfield, Minn.: "I like my 2003 **Sirius Satellite Radio** equipped with a Kenwood receiver. I especially enjoy being able to receive the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights. It also offers channels with old radio shows from the past, and good classic country music."

"**Direct TV** has lost the Grand Ole Opry. Dish network now has it. To get it, I would have to junk my Direct TV setup and have Dish network installed. I still like Direct TV, but I'm disappointed in the lack of channel choices."

Shawn Nix, Steele, N. Dak.: Shawn does a lot of hauling and was looking to get more power out of his 2000 **Dodge** Ram pickup



equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine. So he added a K&N air filter, TST power max competition programmer, Bully Dog injectors, Jacobs exhaust brake, and a Tekonsha voyager brain controller. He left the factory transmission and 4 by 4 suspension stock, for now.

Steve Weisbrod, Canastota, N.Y.: Steve's impressed with his 2001 **Deere** 1750 6-row corn planter equipped with a Rawson Zone Till cart. "This planter is accurate and reliable, like the other Deere planters we've owned. It works well with the Zone Till cart and sometimes does a better job of planting than conventional tillage."

Joe Sims, Temple, Ga.: Joe owns a **Deutz** Agrolux 70 4-WD tractor equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and an **ALO** 920 front-end loader.



Speedy Sharp Knife Sharpener is small in size but "will stand up to the hardest use," says distributor Wayne Dorsett.

according to Keith.

Wayne sells the pocket sharpeners for \$12.50 each, or two for \$22. Shipping and handling charges are \$1 or \$2, respectively.

Dealers are also wanted.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wayne Dorsett, Sharpsales, 13505 - 121 Ave. N.E., Kirkland, Wash. 98034 (ph 425 823-5421).

He says it's his "best buy." "I use it in my six 40 by 500-ft. broiler houses, and it works all the power I need. Even though it works in an extremely dusty environment, the air-cooled engine never overheats. I can go for months without having to blow out the air-cooled system, and I only do the cleaning as part of my preventive maintenance program."

Les Pritchard, Detroit Lakes, Minn.: "My 1994 **Dodge** 350 pickup equipped with a diesel engine and 5-speed manual transmission has more than 260,000 miles on it. It gets 15 to 17 mpg. I replaced the alternator at 255,000 miles. This pickup has never had an easy day's work. I use it all the time to pull a 24-ft. gooseneck trailer and also a 20-ft. cattle trailer."

"My **Belarus** 85 hp 4-WD tractor is my worst buy. The hydraulics never worked right from day one. Oil leaked from every crack you could think of. Also, the radiator builds too much pressure and spits water out. The front wheel drive went out at only 52 hours."

Vern Glaza, Mt. Morris, Mich.: "My best buy is **Gempler's** Ultraease tire sealant (ph 800 382-8473 or www.gemplers.com). I put this product in the tires on my Simplicity garden tractor and haven't had any problems with low tires since then. I also had problems with the front wheels on my Massey Ferguson tractor going flat whenever I used it to mow brush. Ultraease did a good job of sealing the tires on that tractor, too."

Mark Wilson, Phoenix, N.Y.: Mark's happy with his 2004 **Nissan** 4-WD extended cab pickup. "I live in the snow belt of central New York and even when there's 2 ft. of snow on the road, this pickup doesn't bog down. It just plows right through. Mechanically, this pickup has been flawless in the first 30,000 miles. It has a comfortable ride and handles very well."

On the negative side, he lists his 2003 **White** 2150 garden tractor equipped with a mower deck and snowblower. "I've had the engine replaced once and then repaired again. It took six weeks to get it fixed each time because they never seem to have parts in stock. Even drive belts seem to be a problem."

Gerald Meyers, Kalamazoo, Mich.: "It's one of the most enjoyable tractors I've ever driven," says Gerald, pleased with his 2001 **Deere** 4200 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "The diesel engine is responsive and the hydraulics are efficient. This tractor is also fuel efficient."