

makes it nice for driving over fields. It has over 35,000 miles with no problems."

Paul Hobbs, Kansas City, Mo.: "My Makita 4-in. grinder is easy to handle, compact, and has an overload shutoff. It's a best buy."

"My Homelite XL 14-in. chain saw is light and easy to handle. I've used it for six years and my only expenses have been for a new filter and new chains."

"My Craftsman 3/8-in. electric drill is a worst buy. After I used it about 10 times it started making a howling noise. I returned it and got another one, but the same problem happened again."

Martin Kenzie, Vermilion, Alberta: "It's a decent looking car, one that I'm proud to be seen in," says Martin, happy with his 1990 Ford Crown Victoria car. "Consistently gets 30 mpg, handles good, and has a nice quiet ride. However, I don't like the bell that rings when I open the door without removing the key. It's annoying."

"My worst buy is the Last Perch sparrow trap. It simply doesn't catch sparrows. I've moved it around to different locations like the manufacturer suggests, but with no luck. There are plenty of sparrows around. I don't know if they don't fly into the trap, or if they're able to get out once the perch drops."

Reg. M. Powell, Whitewood, Sask.: "Our 1991 Great Plains 12-volt fuel pump has done everything the company said it would. It works fast, doesn't leak, and the automatic shutoff works well. It's our sec-

"It has done everything the company said it would."

ond one, but someone else must like them too because ours was stolen."

Ervin Bayne, Harrold, S. Dak.: Ervin's the satisfied owner of a "best buy" Lincoln portable welder that doubles as a generator. "It's powered by a 1 hp Briggs & Stratton engine that always starts. As a generator, it puts out 5,000 watts. Recently we were out of electricity for 18 hours and I was able to use it to handle the entire farm. Our utility company mounted a special box on a pole so there's no danger that it will send electricity into the line. During the haying season we put the unit in the back of our pickup and use it to make welding repairs in the field. It has really paid for itself."

Gary Smorstad, Decorah, Iowa: Gary's pleased with his 1991 Yetter 1815 rotary hoe. "It works very well. I especially like the fact that it flexes up and down in minimum till conditions."

Richard D. Banta, Banta Bros., Unadilla, N.Y.: Richard's had good luck with his 1991 Sunflower C Flex 24-ft. folding disk. "We made two passes with it on 120 acres of rocky ground with stubble and got a beautiful seedbed. We pulled it with our Belarus 1770 tractor and it worked flawlessly. It weighs about 1 ton more than a comparable size Deere disk. It's also easy to service. However, the disc scrapers have to be frequently checked for tightness. I broke one."

James Smith, Hamlin, N.Y.: James likes his 1990 Makita 10 mm drill. "I've used it for over a year with no problems. In the past I've used Black & Decker, Craftsman, and Skil drills, but none of them lasted more than six months."

On the "worst buy" side, he's unhappy with his 1989 Ford F-150 pickup. "I had problems with the engine, transmission,

power steering, springs, and brakes. The pickup was in the shop 25% of the time. Finally I returned it to the manufacturer under New York's lemon law."

Jerry J. Schleck, Kenyon, Minn.: "My 1990 Deere 185 Hydro lawn tractor is a best buy. It has a 38-in. deck and hydrostatic drive and does a nice job of mowing. My Deere 110 lawn tractor is also a best buy. It still works good after 16 years with few repairs."

Hal Meenach, Valleyford, Wash.: "It should have better shank depth control," says Hal, who otherwise is pleased with his "best buy" Flexi-Coil 1100 air seeder. "It has good trash clearance and is durable. No broken frame parts or shanks in five years. Saves field trips and is very versatile. We've used it for all our crops, from garbanzo beans to canola. The company handled a few start-up problems quickly and efficiently."

Larry Cassatt, Carlisle, Penn.: "My 1990 Stihl 044 chain saw performs well and is a pleasure to use. Starts easy and has plenty of power to handle the 20-in. bar, even in dry hardwoods. This is the second Stihl saw I've owned and I'd buy another one."

Mike Davis, White City, Ore.: Mike likes the Nikon electronic leveling system mounted on his 1991 Laserplane 350 land leveler. "It gives the driver complete control and allows one-man operation which saves time and labor. It's easy to use."

Steven L. Brooks, New Windsor, Ill.: Steven's pleased with his 1983 Deere 6620 turbo diesel flatland combine, but says it could use a number of improvements. "It works very good on perfectly flat ground, but poor on slopes. Grain runs over the rear end of the sieve and onto the ground. I cut out grain saver fins above the chaffer inside an old White combine and installed them on the outside edges of the top and bottom sieves (featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 12, No. 1). It lets me harvest three to four times faster on hillsides. The engine gauge should be mounted in front of the operator instead of behind him. The shutoff system that controls hot water for the heater doesn't work right. The dealer replaced our system, but the cab got even hotter than before. We finally installed a plumbing gate valve in the heater hose so that we now have real control over the heat and air conditioning."

"The snapping rolls on our Deere 444 corn head are poorly designed due to lack of a lower support bearing. We have to replace the rolls every year. The fingers on our Deere 213 reel head are too short. By the time the fingers reach down to the lodged bean stalks, the reel bats are already shattering standing beans. The reel has a 'cave-man' pin-and-hole cylinder height adjustment. It should have a cylinder stop spacer that simply snaps onto the cylinder rod."

Don Klein, Peru, Ill.: Don's happy with his 1991 GM pickup equipped with a 305 cu. in. V-8 engine and automatic transmission. "It doesn't have any rattles or squeaks and runs perfect. Gets 20 mpg. Glad to see a good U.S. product."

Curtis R. Hennings, Ritzville, Wa.: An R & R 21-ft. HD subsoiler is Curtis's "best buy". "It's built strong enough so I don't have to worry about how much tractor horsepower I use to pull it. The parabolic shanks pull much easier than straight shank subsoilers we've used in the past."

Duane L. Rodine, Polk, Neb.: "We use it for something every day," says Duane, impressed with his Deere 158 loader. "We've seen other brands where the joints

are worn oval, but that's not a problem on this one. It requires little maintenance."

Lytle Sheller, Malinta, Ohio: Lytle mounted The Spreader shrow spreader on his 1981 Massey Ferguson 750 combine (The Spreader, Box 82A, Gifford, Ill. 61847). "It works good, but should have shields to keep it from throwing debris into belts at the rear end of combine."

John H. Burr, Sharon Springs, N.Y.: "It's the easiest pulling plow I've ever used," reports John about his "best buy" International 7105-bottom moldboard plow that he bought used. "Now I know why so many Deere farmers have International plows. They can't be beat."

Merle Spohr, Hancock, Minn.: Merle's had trouble with his Case-IH 496 cushion gang disk. "The scrapers don't move with the gangs, which causes them to bend or break. The bolts that hold the gangs on break, bending the scraper bars. May also break the bearing holders. The manufacturer should stand behind its product, and when they develop an update kit to solve a problem they should contact us instead of expecting us to contact them."

Don Papenburg, Streator, Ill.: "My Deere 8430 tractor is a best buy. It has over 5,000 hours and no major repairs."

Ed Zimler, Washougal, Wa.: "My best buy is my 1990 Deere 1350 disc mower-conditioner. It goes right through heavy hay with mole hills and is fast. It has only 10 knives and they're easy to change. It does require a lot of horsepower - I use a Deere 2640 70 hp tractor to pull it. I make sure I do the necessary maintenance. Lubrication is important."

Bob Davis, Dixon, Cal.: Bob likes his 1991 Buick LeSabre car. "We drove it over 10,000 miles on a trip to New England and it averaged over 30 mpg. No problems at all. Handles beautifully and is a pleasure to drive."

David Artmeier, Rushville, Ind.: David's "worst buy" is his 1986 Massey Ferguson 550 combine. "This combine was just plain junk. We had to install two new clutches in it the first two days we used it. We used it two years before we could go an entire day without breaking down. The company replaced the frame and worked on the hydraulic system, unloading auger, sieves, straw walkers, engine, electrical

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system, and headers. The day the warranty expired, our dealer said 'it's your problem now' and laughed at us. The corn head was so rusty when we got it that we couldn't even adjust the stripper plates. However, the combine does have good capacity and threshing ability."

James Makowski, Freedom, N.Y.: "It has plenty of power and is versatile. We use it every day," says James, pleased with his 1990 Ford 7610 4-WD tractor equipped with a 7410 loader. "It has 500 hours with no problems."

"Our 1979 Ford 7700 tractor has 4,000 hours and still works as good as

new."

Harvey Steffen, White Lake, S. Dak.: "It's a joy to drive," reports Harvey about his "best buy" Deere 318 garden tractor equipped with a 50-in. mower. "It has a twin cylinder Onan 18 hp engine and power steering. After 210 hours all I've replaced are two spark plugs."

"My 1989 Ford Ranger pickup is also a best buy. It has 37,000 miles with no problems. The V-6 engine gets 25 to 26 mpg."

W.J. Thomas Kirk, Marquette, Manitoba: He's "very satisfied" with his 1988 Ford New Holland TR96 combine, but says it could use a couple of improvements. "I've had some problems with flax straw wrapping around the feeder chain and beater. Also the unloading auger should be speeded up substantially."

Arthur G. Egbert, Downing, Mo.: "My best buy is a Posi Lock gear and bearing puller (Ray-Mac, Inc., Box 457, Gwinner, N. Dak. 58040). Works great for many types of repair jobs."

Steve Intveld, Bellingham, Wash.: "My 1990 Massey Ferguson 124 baler has run two years without missing a tie or shearing a pin."

Dwight G. Gilbert, Dorr, Mich.: "My 1991 White 195 tractor equipped with front wheel drive assist always starts and has plenty of power to get the job done."

On the negative side, "I bought a used Landoll Tilloll 15-ft. soil finisher last year. It looked impressive but wouldn't dig more than 2 to 3 in. deep and the bearings had to be replaced constantly."

F. Erwin Spencer, Roaring Branch, Penn.: He purchased his "worst buy" Ajax 3 hp electric motor last January to operate his barn cleaner. "The motor started blowing fuses within two weeks. A capacitor went out and the dealer replaced it, but within two weeks the motor wouldn't start again. When it's damp or cold I have to heat the motor with a torch and let it run for a while with the belt off before I can even think about cleaning the barn."

Floyd W. Plank, Rush City, Minn.: "My Stihl FS66 brush cutter is a best buy. I've used it to cut big weeds and small trees up to 2 in. in dia. along fences, around buildings, etc., with no problems. It's light and easy to service."

"My 1991 Craftsman 10-in. belt-driven table saw is a worst buy. None of the guides are perfect so I always have to measure to make sure they're set right. The blade tends to tilt on its own regardless of how much I adjust the tightener belt."

Earl S. Hoffland, Valier, Mont.: A 1992 Morris 36-ft. Ranger III wing up packer harrow heads Earl's "best buy" list. "It does a super job of packing the soil, breaking up clods, and making a firm seedbed. I've had some problems with the wing locks, but hope to get this worked out."

Andrew Davidson, Seaforth, Ontario: "I'm pleased with my 1991 Dodge 4-WD truck equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and standard transmission. It's very fuel efficient. I mounted a snow plow on it last winter and it did a great job."

Mike Nelson, Reed City, Mich.: Mike's happy with his 1992 Ford F-350 4-WD diesel truck. "I like the new look of the 1992 Ford trucks. They still use a straight axle in front instead of the independent front suspension that GM uses. The straight axle handles a load better. I also like being able to sit up higher for better visibility. The seats make you sit with good posture without giving you a backache. Over all, Ford gives you more truck for your money."

Tim Schultz, Clintonville, Wis.: "My best buy of all time is my silage bagging equipment."

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