

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

cleaner burn. It's available at big box stores and Amazon.com."

Jim Eshleman, Garfield, Ark.: "In 2002 I installed a **Heatmoor** outdoor furnace between our 40 by 40 shop and our 4,000 sq. ft. home, which are located about 300 ft. apart. It has more than paid for itself and has never failed. Over the years I've made 3 improvements to the furnace resulting in 1/3 less wood consumption."

Joe Strueder, Fransville, Wis.: "My best buy of all time is my **Husqvarna 372XP** chainsaw with an 80-in. bar. Great machine that starts easy and has plenty of power. There's only one problem. The bar groove sometimes fills up with sawdust and then it cuts crooked. Anyone have a suggestion?"

"My worst buy is the **Royal Weeder**. It's a small electric garden tiller. After only a few uses it wouldn't even turn on. Worst \$100 I've ever spent."

Neil Stenmann, Red Wing, Minn.: "Our 80-gal. 1958 **McGraw-Edison** electric water heater was installed when our house was built. We've had no maintenance expense at all. Due to its age and the fact that it no longer keeps up with the demands we put on it, we're planning to replace it in the coming year. What are the chances our new one will last 62 years like this one?"

On the negative side, "Our 2020 **Whirlpool** washer (model WTW5005KW) does not get clothes clean. In fact, jackets, sweatshirts, work pants, and other things come out more soiled than they were before they went in the washer. We've sent photos to Whirlpool but they don't answer our letters. Our previous Whirlpool did a great job and lasted 18 years."



Tom Dufrense, Grant, Minn.: "My best buy is the **Toro Z Master** commercial mower I bought last year. Besides doing a fantastic job cutting the grass, the 'My Ride' independent suspension system on this mower is amazing."



Air shocks are easily adjusted to give you the best possible ride depending on what terrain you're on and your comfort preferences. The seat is suspended independently of the frame of the mower so you feel like you're riding on air. The Kawasaki engine has lots of power. Great machine."

Harrison McGill, Wayland, Mich.: "My best buy is my 2007 **Chrysler Aspen SUV**. It's equipped with a 5.7-liter V-8 Hemi engine. I bought it used with 75,000 miles on it and it now has around 165,000 miles. It

pulls my stock trailer easily. Trouble-free. Great vehicle."

Joe Cegielski, River Falls, Wis.: Joe bought a used 2001 **Honda 350 Rancher** 4-wheeler in 2004 and says it's the most reliable machine he has ever owned. "I replaced the starter in 2009, which is the only major repair it has needed. I keep the air cleaner clean and change the oil twice a year. I use only premium 91-octane gas."

Stan Klekar, Brenham, Texas.: "My 2020 **DeWalt** cordless grease gun works great and is easy to refill."

Allen H. Moreland, Mountain Air, N. Mex.: "No job is too big for the 2015 **Deere 1025R** sub-compact tractor I bought used in 2019. It has never let me down. I use it with a backhoe to plant trees and to dig post holes in our hard soil. I use the bucket for everything from feeding hay to pushing snow. I highly recommend this little tractor."

Foster T. Hoover, Flagstaff, Ariz.: "The shuttle synchronizer gear on my **Montana R3644** tractor has failed twice with less than 1,000 hrs. of use. We don't have any tractor repair shops in our area and the company doesn't publish repair manuals, so it'll take some reverse engineering to self-repair the damage."

Jim Linger, Negley, Ohio.: "My **Porter-Cable** cordless sawzall is lightweight and powerful, and the 4Ah battery lasts longer than I do. It has become an indispensable tool, similar to the first cordless drill/driver I bought years ago. I've used it to limb trees, cut pipes and purlins, and trim logs for my sawmill. It's convenient to operate with no cord, electrical outlet or generator to deal with."

Gerald Heitman, Patton, Mo.: Gerald nominates his **Ryobi** 18-volt, 1/2-in. impact wrench as his "best buy". "In the past I sprained my wrist many times using DeWalt and Milwaukee impact wrenches, so a tool man suggested I try a Ryobi. I didn't expect much and was surprised how well it works. I'm able to remove tractor tire lugs and tighten them without any twisting or wrapping up of my gloves. And, I can sleep all night long now because I don't need to wear a splint on my wrist."

Gene Johnson, McDermott, Ohio.: Gene likes his **Greenworks** 18-in. cordless chainsaw equipped with an 80-volt battery. "I have trouble starting gas-powered chainsaws, but not this cordless one. It's well balanced, cuts good, has an easy-to-adjust chain, and an electronic chain brake for safe operation. Also, there are no fumes and no need to carry a gas can."

Marty Gallaher, Hartford, Alabama.: "I like my 1997 **Ford F-350** dually pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter Power Stroke diesel engine. This pickup is rock solid and simple to operate. I bought it used in 2013, sight unseen, for \$5,900 and now it has about 240,000 miles on it. All I've replaced are the starter, alternator, and brakes."

Richard Gadke, Capron, Ill.: "My **Stihl BG 50-Z** gas-powered leaf blower has a lot of power and is easy to operate. I use it to blow dust and weed seeds off my combine and baler."

"Our new **Panasonic** microwave oven lasted less than one year."

David Crooks, Ottawa, Kan.: "My **Stihl MSA 140-C**, 12-in. cordless chainsaw is lightweight and handy to use. It makes narrow, fine cuts and is a great trim saw."

Delbert Hayes, Norwalk, Iowa.: "I'm satisfied with the 40-in. long, 3/4-in. breaker bar I bought at **Menards**. I bought it because I broke several smaller breaker bars while trying to loosen the nuts on my combine's wheels and needed something heavier. It's a great tool."



Mini-Ductor Venom tool uses flame-free heat to loosen rusted bolts and other parts.

Tools Use Heat To Loosen Stuck Parts

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

I recently tested a couple tools that use flame-free heat to remove rusted bolts and other parts. Unlike a torch, they're safe to use around fuel lines, electrical wiring, and other flammable materials because they focus electromagnetic energy only on the parts you're working on.

You place an insulated electrode around the nut, bolt or other part and turn on the power. Only the ferrous parts surrounded by the electrode heat up.

The first tool I tried was the 110-volt, 1,800-watt **Mini-Ductor Venom HP** from Induction Innovations. I needed to loosen some badly rusted bolts and set screws on an old twin shank toolbar that had been impossible to remove with wrenches.

The tool comes with various pre-formed electrode coils to fit a variety of nuts and bolts. They also offer flexible coils that can be wrapped around larger items, such as a bearing. There's even a pad-type electrode that can be used to gently heat flat surfaces to pull out dents or remove adhesive backed stickers.

I first tried a 7/8-in. dia. pre-formed coil to loosen a couple nuts. When heated red hot, they came loose quite easily.

I had some larger nuts on the toolbar so I used the flexible electrode by first wrapping it around a socket the size of the nuts. Again, the tool performed great.

My major concern with the tool was how quickly the insulation burned off on the electrodes, resulting in some sparking. I wanted to get more than a couple of uses out of each one. According to the company, they should be good for hundreds of uses.

So I called my contact at the company and shared photos of the coils. She politely reminded me that the manual says to "apply heat for 10 to 15 seconds, check the item for release, and then reheat if still seized."



David Davignon, Damar, Kan.: "Last December my 1997 **Pontiac Grand Prix** turned 347,000 miles and I've since put on about another 1,000 miles. It's still going strong and has the original fuel pump. I always add a few squirts of Marvel Mystery Oil to the fuel at each fill-up."

Bruce Griffiths, Jerome, Mich.: Bruce is impressed with his electric **Worx** tools which include a pressure washer, weed trimmer, and leaf blower. "These tools do the work of gas-powered ones but are easier to start. The batteries last a reasonably long time and recharge fast."



Insulated electrode on tool focuses electromagnetic energy only on the parts you're working on.

I realized I had used the tool for extended periods of a minute or more in several cases. My contact also emphasized that heating parts until they're red hot is not usually necessary and will shorten the life of the electrodes.

After testing the 1,800-watt **Venom HP** inductor tool, I moved on to the company's 1000-watt, 12-volt portable unit.

You can attach the clamps to any 12-volt battery. I carried a battery and tool to a 2-wheel trailer half buried in snow. The wheels hadn't been off it since I bought it 15 years ago. I tried the lug nuts, and they were tight as a drum. Two 10-second treatments with the battery-powered inductor and the lug nuts slipped right off.

Both tools are impressive in what they can do. No question they're expensive - at nearly \$600 on Amazon.com - but for people who do a lot of work on older equipment, these would be hard to beat.

See a video at www.farmshow.com.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Induction Innovations, 1175 Jansen Farm Ct., Elgin, Ill. 60123 (ph 847 836-6933; info@theinductor.com; www.theinductor.com).

Darrell Berreth, Laclede, Idaho.: "My **Deere 3720** loader tractor always starts and can lift up to 1,000 lbs. It's my main hay raking tractor."



Elias D. Wolf, Mancelona, Mich.: "I'm pleased with my **Dorcy** LED aluminum flashlight (www.dorcy.com). It has 150 lumens and I love the sliding focus feature on it that lets me move seamlessly from a spot to flood beam, and any point in between. It has an 8-hr. run time per set of batteries, but seems to run even longer than that. It turned out to be such a good flashlight that I went back to the store and bought the last two still on the shelf."