

a long term test using Sharkhide aerosol, and it worked much better than I expected. I applied it to a couple of metal pieces, one copper and the other sheet metal. I cleaned and polished them well and then sprayed them. I then screwed them to pieces of wood and set them outside. They've been setting there in the weather ever since, but still look shiny and new.

"I've also applied Sharkhide to the fill caps on unpainted gas and oil cans, as well as ones on backhoes and tractors owned by my customers. The gas and oil can caps were purchased plain without any plating on them. I wire brushed the caps until they were nice and shiny and then sprayed them, and they still look shiny. The company says a single application can last for years."

David Alford, Brownsville, Ky.: "I put about 150,000 miles on my 1972 Ford F-150 pickup, and during that time had to replace 5 rear ends and one transmission.

"My 1996 Chevrolet Silverado pickup equipped with a V-8, 350 cu. in. engine has about 226,000 trouble-free miles on it but still doesn't use any oil."

William Edwards, Pittsburg, Texas: "Our Kubota RTV utility vehicle works great."

Hugh Fulton, Patoka, Ind.: He's had problems with his Mahindra 6110 tractor with cab. "The air conditioning compressor went out at 500 hrs., the power steering valve started leaking at 630 hrs., and the clutch went out at 800 hrs. Also, it takes at least one month to get parts for this tractor."

Harrell Cummings, Fairmont, N.C.: "I like my Homelite chainsaws and string trimmers, and my Black & Decker hand tools which include a circular saw, drill, sabre saw, and sawzall. Some of these tools are 40 years old but all of them are still going strong."

"I like Briggs & Stratton engines, and the 100-amp stick welder I purchased from Fingerhut about 40 years ago still works great."

Bruce E. Smith, Covington, Ohio: "My 1968 Deere 4020 diesel tractor, which I use with a 5-bottom semi-mounted plow, is worth more now than what I paid for it new."

On the negative side, "Harbor Freight 4 1/2-in. angle grinders bend easily. There's no bearing for the upper end of the wheel shaft, which causes the shaft to wear out prematurely."

"I was only able to use my Harbor Freight high lift jack once before the handle on it bent where it's welded to the frame, making the jack unusable. Rural King makes a better and stronger jack (ph 800 561-1752; www.ruralking.com).

Dwight Veldhouse, Norcross, Minn.: "I use my Kubota RTV 500 side by side utility vehicle every day. It's my second one. Great engineering."

John Kiminski, North Brookfield, Mass.: "My DeWalt 20-volt 1/2-in. drive impact wrench has a lot of power and holds its charge for a long time. It's sized just right."

"My Speed Queen clothes washing machine is a top load model with no digital controls. The salesman calls it a 'Granny washer' because he thinks it's old fashioned, but it does an excellent job of cleaning clothes."

"Right from the start I had trouble with my Cub Cadet 1045 riding mower equipped with a Kohler engine. There were electrical issues, and the engine had a cracked block."

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: Tim's impressed with Blue Devil Hydraulic Stop Leak additive, which is designed to revitalize hard, shrunken or leaking hydraulic seals to their original condition (ph 888 863-0426; www.gobdp.com).

"Every time I tried starting my 1979 Ford loader tractor, I had to first empty the drip cup underneath a hydraulic valve. Now I can start the tractor 10 times but still might not need to empty the cup," says Tim. "This additive also keeps the loader's hydraulic cylinders from leaking."

Mark Musser, Beecher City, Ill.: "With Deere parts, the cost keeps going up while the quality goes down. Their rubber return fuel lines used to last for several years, but the new ones last maybe one or two years. Also, their new fuel filters start to leak practically right out of the box."



Jason Brubaker, Port Trevorton, Penn.: "I like my Yeti 125 cooler as well as my Yeti water jug (ph 833 225-9384; www.yeti.com). One time I stored some meat overnight in the cooler and the next day found it had started to freeze, even though there wasn't much ice in the cooler."

"The Yeti jug will keep ice from melting for several days. It saves money because I don't have to buy a new bag of ice every day."

DeWitt Zimmerman, Tomah, Wis.: He's impressed with his 2010 Grasshopper 729 commercial zero-turn riding mower equipped with a liquid-cooled engine and a grass and leaf dump box. "It works good to vacuum up debris in the spring and also to collect grass clippings later on. The heavy-built blades last twice as long as other mowers before they need resharpening. This mower costs a little more, but it's well worth it."

Hollie D. McCoy, Saint Marys, W. Va.: "My 2019 Ford F-150 pickup rides 10 times better than my 2014 GMC 1500, and I sure hope the brakes and rotors last longer. I've owned 3 different GM 1500's in the last 10 years, and the brakes and rotors didn't last much more than 28,000 miles on any of them."

Perry Bender, Kalona, Iowa: Perry says his 2010 Stihl MS 361 chainsaw "has a lot of power and, once the engine is warmed up, always starts on the first pull."

"I always had to open the choke on my 2008 Stihl MS 261 chainsaw so I could start it, even when the engine was warm. Also, the carburetor had to be replaced several times. I finally traded it in for the 361, and bought another used one at an auction. Both work great."

Michael Walek, Appleton, N.Y.: "My Hustler zero-turn riding mower is fuel efficient and has a comfortable seat."

"After 2 months of use of the steering shaft on my Ford garden tractor broke in half."

Dan Schmitt, Omaha, Neb.: "I like my DeWalt cordless tools which include a drill, grinder, air inflator, and chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar. The air inflator can air up a



The self-propelled, mini-combine with a 3-ft. wide head and a double sicklebar can cut about an acre in 30 to 40 min. and harvest 90 to 100 lbs. of grain per hour.

Mini Combine Ideal For Small Fields

When Ron Boyd expanded his heritage grain operation, he needed to find a better way to harvest but couldn't justify the combines available in North America. Previously, he cut his small grain crops by hand and threshed them with his foot-powered mini-thresher from The Back to the Land Store (Vol. 34, No. 2).

So he went looking for an alternative that wouldn't break the bank. After lots of online research and phone calls to China, he found Henan Machinery and Equipment and the mini combine model 4L-0.7B.

"A million dollar Deere might do a better job, but my 'combinita' does really well," says Boyd. "I used it for the first time last year, and it cut an acre in 30 to 40 min. I harvested about 90 to 100 lbs. of grain per hour, and it was about 90 percent clean."

The mini combine is self-propelled with a 3-ft. wide head and a double sicklebar. The double sicklebar gives him the option of cutting the grain heads and the straw separately. The lead sicklebar is on a hand-powered hydraulic lift that can raise as much as 3 ft. Cutting just the grain heads reduces the load going through the thresher. The second sicklebar can be used to lay the straw on the ground or leave it standing.

The reverse tricycle wheel design uses 2 drive wheels forward and a castor-type tail wheel to the rear. "The drive wheels have individual brakes for primary steering," explains Boyd. "The operator sits behind the tail wheel and steers it with his feet."

The combinita has 3 forward gears and 1 reverse gear. Instead of a hopper, grain is augured to a sack stand.

While Boyd is very satisfied with the little combine, he did have a few frustrations early on. The engine that came with the combine didn't meet domestic clean air standards and

wasn't allowed into the country. While cancelling the 12-hp. diesel engine saved him \$200, replacing it with a 19 hp. Kohler gas engine added \$2,000 to the cost and complications.

"I asked the sales agent what direction the drive turned, and she swore it was clockwise," recalls Boyd. "It wasn't. We hooked it up and put it in forward gear and it went in reverse. It took some machining to match the counterclockwise drive."

Other than the engine, Boyd is satisfied overall. "I thought more of it would have been assembled," he says. "While there were no instructions, it was straightforward and easy to assemble. It was sort of like putting a model car together."

Boyd estimates that he has around \$10,000 invested in the combine. He paid the sales agent \$6,000. The 30 percent import tariff charged by the U.S. government added another \$2,000, bringing the total to around \$8,000 before adding the \$2,000 engine and some spare parts.

"I was concerned the axial pressure to run sideways off the driveshaft was more than the engine could handle," says Boyd. "With the help of a buddy who is an excellent machinist, we set up a jackshaft with pulleys from the driveshaft to power the combine."

If other readers are interested in his combinita, Boyd is willing to share what he knows.

"I'm not interested in importing them to sell," he says. "However, I think there is a market for anyone who is."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ron Boyd, P.O. Box 649, Alcalde, New Mexico 87566 (ph 505 927-0150; rjbinnm@gmail.com).

13 by 38 flat tire without depleting the battery, and the chainsaw will keep on cutting until I'm tired and have to quit. I'll soon be 89 years young."

Bunkie Smith, Philadelphia, Miss.: "My Danuser Hammer LM40 post driver can pound an 8-in. post into the ground with no problem. My Texas Fence Fixer works good and can tighten almost any kind of fence wire."

On the "worst buy" side, "I could seldom make 20 bales with my New Holland 460 round baler before something on it would go wrong. The dealer gave me a new baler while he spent almost an entire season working on mine. The problem turned out to be a wire harness that connects to a computer. I think

too much technology is built into today's balers. However, I'm happy with this baler now."

"I'm happy with this baler now."

Monroe Miller, Grand Junction, Mich.: "I operate a kitchen cabinet business and use nothing but Stanley 16-ft. measuring tapes. Before using a new one, I always pull the tape out as far as it'll go and also oil the recoil spring generously."