

Bill Brandt, Concordia, Mo.: “My 1990 Dodge W 250 diesel pickup that I purchased new is a best buy. It has over 400,000 miles and was used hard, sometimes to the point of abuse. I spent nothing in parts. Last year, I gave it to my grandson, and he still uses it.”

Aaron Hershberger, Middlefield, Ohio: “My 2020 Ditch Witch SK800 stand-on skid steer is an awesome little machine with plenty of power for digging holes with minimal impact on yards.”

Barry Strawser, Liverpool, Penn.: Barry is the satisfied owner of a Kobalt brushless 8-in. pole saw (KPS 1024B-03). “It works great on trimming tree limbs with 10-ft. reach. I can also shorten the pole to trim bushes and brush. The lithium battery lasts. The kit came with two batteries and a charger. It’s self-oiling and has easy chain access and adjustment.”

Harvey Altenburg, East Troy, Wis.: “After reading a best buy nomination in FARM SHOW about 5 years ago, I purchased a Greenworks 12-in. battery-operated chainsaw and love it. In the last year, we added its 16-in. ‘big brother.’ We cut a lot of wood with the two of them. We did, however, have an issue when the 12-in. quit, and the company was no help. An electrician friend took it apart, repaired a broken wire, and we’re back to sawing up a storm.”

Robert Bryant, Decatur, Ala.: “I bought my Chevy Tahoe new in 2000. I have two other vehicles and keep the Tahoe locally. It has 393,000 miles. I’ve replaced the transmission and had some minor work done. There have been no engine problems, and it still looks great.”



Brian Johnson, Snohomish, Wash.: “My 2023 Boss 7-ton log splitter splits wood bigger than the specs without a stall (www.boss-industrial.com; ph 800-780-2677). The price was very reasonable. I would recommend it to anyone looking for an electric-powered splitter.”

Gary Sampson, Freedom, N.Y.: Gary is a fan of Rust-Oleum Krud Kutter Cleaner/Degreaser. “I like that it’s non-toxic. It works better than Goo Gone or mineral spirits. I’ve also had luck using it as a stain remover.”

“I had to remove some window tint from my car. After finally getting it off, the glue left residue all over the window. I tried Goo Gone, but it didn’t touch it. It made me wonder if it was super glue. I tried mineral spirits next with no luck. I even tried a razor scraper. With nothing to lose, I decided to try Krud Kutter. I had to rub, but it finally came off.”

“It works great on anything dirty.”

Fred J. Hall, Monmouth, Ill.: “My DeWalt 20-volt grease gun was a worst turned best buy. Hot or cold, it took forever to grease anything. As I removed the battery and cartridge before throwing it in the dumpster, the sealing ring came out with the cartridge. I noticed that there was almost no grease on the pump side of the screen. I cut a hole in the screen and now hundreds of cartridges later, it works as it should.”

“DeWalt should give 20-volt adaptors to everyone who purchased 18-volt tools. The 18-volt batteries are a problem. The 20-volt batteries are far superior. I also think

Milwaukee offers better tools.

“Our Wick 60-ft. by 120 ft. building is structurally good, but the sliding door’s cross members were so weak they bowed, loosening the metal siding. The replacement material we paid for was much stronger. The bottom door tracks were mounted with zip screws which failed. The track is so weak that the doors aren’t held tight to the building, which makes closing a problem. If the doors are open, birds build behind them, so they won’t close without being removed. I wouldn’t recommend.”



John L. Nissley, Millersburg, Ind.: “My Pacific Energy Super 27 wood stove is very efficient, well-built, and reliable year after year (www.pacificenergy.net).

“I wouldn’t want to be without my Makita 36-volt cordless blower. I use it to clean barns and dust off tools, wagons, trailers, etc. There are endless uses.”

“The nose broke off my Channellock needle nose pliers after just a couple of uses. They’re not like the 25-year-old needle nose pliers I have from Channellock. Are they using lower quality or softer steel?”

Harry Hickerson, Pine Bluff, Ark.: “I was so disappointed in my Samsung refrigerator I purchased in November 2011 at Lowe’s. Sometime in October 2012, the icemaker quit making ice. I called Samsung, and they had me call Best Home Solutions (BHS), who sent out a repairman. He told us that before the icemaker would work, the refrigerator needed a new compressor. A week later, a second repairman installed the compressor. The icemaker only worked for a short time, but we had a cooler refrigerator. We went without the icemaker until May 2014, when the refrigerator went completely out.”

“I made multiple phone calls and sent emails and faxes. It was a frustrating experience of being sent from one person or company to another and getting different information. After about 6 weeks, they had me cut off the cord and email them a photo with the sales receipt and model and serial numbers. It took a couple more emails and phone calls, but they finally bought back the refrigerator minus local sales taxes.”

Franklin Zitta, North Dinwiddie, Va.: Franklin was disappointed with his Kenmore electronic washing machine. “The electronic agitator drive wouldn’t clean clothes like the old type drives. Occasionally, we had to wash clothes twice. The basket suspension kept failing. The last time Sears repaired it, we told them to leave it outside the house. We now have an old KitchenAid washer that works just fine with no problems.”

Gary C. Brown, Fort Valley, Ga.: “I recently purchased what I believe is the worst junk buy.

“Our farm workshop is located near a creek, so we use a bug zapper light to kill mosquitoes. I’ve always been amazed at the great job they do, and they last for years.

“I bought a Black Flag Ultra Zapper and plugged it in under the big shelter on the front of our workshop. When I plug in a new



Ehlers has made his own replacement parts using a 3D printer, saving time and money.

3D Printed Seed Hoppers

David Ehlers, Elbow Lake, Minn.: “My LulzBot 3D printers (Vol. 46, No. 2) are best buys for my operation. I’ve used them for making hopper extensions for my planter for doing test plots, as well as making gaskets and other parts.

“I made 36 custom hopper extensions and hose blocks for about \$12. Deere was selling hopper extensions for older planters for \$35, and they were capped. I had a newer high-speed planter, and they didn’t match up with my hoppers.

“I can buy gaskets at a dealership, but not at night or on a weekend. With my printers, I can make them in a couple of hours. Once I have the design, I can make as many as I need.

“I have a lot of Milwaukee and DeWalt tools and have printed pieces of plastic to repair them or improve them with little add-ons that might cost \$20 at the store. I can print them for a dollar in material cost.

“Luckily, you can find almost any basic shape design online and make the changes you need. For example, just enter ‘Milwaukee tool 3D plan,’ and you’ll get a million results. You can also go to a website like Thingiverse.

zapper, I always scatter newspapers on the pavement under the light so I can see how well it works. The next morning, when I picked up the newspapers, I only found one mosquito. I couldn’t believe it, normally the newspapers would be covered.

“As I examined the directions, I noticed they said to have it on all night to set the yellow switch to 24 hrs. I checked, and it was on the 24-hr. setting, so I continued to read. I found out it came with a little yellow and black plug. I found it in the box and inserted it in the plastic grid. This time, I plugged it in and let it run all weekend.

“On Monday morning, I didn’t find even one dead bug or mosquito. The light was shining, but no dead bugs.

“I looked back at the directions, and they said that the little yellow and black plug should be replaced once a month. In over 40 years, all I’ve done was plug in the zappers, and they worked great. Can you imagine having to buy this little plug for something that should just draw the bugs to the light and electrocute them?

“I looked for the UL (Underwriters Laboratory) label, but it wasn’t there. Of course, it was made in China. I remember my dad told me to always look for the UL label so I wouldn’t buy junk. I would’ve thought better of Black Flag than to put their name on such junk and have people buy those little plugs every month for nothing.

“I didn’t return this little disaster for a refund, and I definitely didn’t want an

com and enter a brand name to get plans.

“My 3D printers are a tool like a welder. The more I use them, the better I get. It takes a little practice at first, but after 4 years, I’ve gotten better.

“Learning to load a CAD program and designing the piece you need is the biggest barrier to entry. When I was making the hoppers, John Olhoff at Lulzbot helped with the design.

“The online community is really good about sharing. You can get help on a problem from members of Reddit or Facebook 3D printing groups.

“I have two 3D printers and used them to make gifts for family and friends at Christmas. While I don’t have any big projects planned, I’m making battery and tool pegboard holders, as well as organizers for bolts and nuts and stuff.

“There are so many small plastic parts, often wearables on equipment. If we could get the plans for them, we could make replacements. If the company won’t make the part, we’ll have to figure out how to do it ourselves with a 3D printer.”

exchange. I hung it up near the office door with a warning sign to prevent other people from buying such a worst buy.”

David Simpler, Elkton, Md.: “My Land Pride rear discharge mower is a best buy. It never clogs up or throws out clods or clumps of grass. I’ve never busted a window or hit cars with flying debris, and it’s always clean underneath. I don’t understand why the commercial guys don’t use them—they’d have less clean-up with grass on sidewalks and driveways.”

John Juntunen, Nisula, Mich.: “My Milwaukee 18-volt 1/2-in. impact driver has impressive torque for equipment and truck repair. The 18-volt batteries have a long life. Overall, it’s a great tool for the money.”

Kathy Bauder, Coleman, Mich.: “Having a dump trailer is such a help on the farm. We haul everything with it—wood, dirt, mulch, stones, brush, junk, and more.”

Rocky Fowler, Tiffin, Ohio: “In March 2019, I ordered a Chevy Colorado ZR2 pickup extended cab (with the optional 4-cyl. diesel engine) in the factory orange color. Since the Chevy Colorado “Crush” orange paint is the same color as Kubota paint, I had all of the Chevy emblems removed and Kubota ones installed. Everywhere I drive, I get asked where I got a Kubota truck.

“It gets 24 mpg and is a nice size to drive. But a new 2019 Dodge with a Cummins diesel cost the same and will pull anything and get even better fuel mileage running empty.”