

Gary Brzezinski, Hobart, Wis.: “My 2021 **Kubota SCL1000** track loader is a great product. It’s a strong and very maneuverable loader. It’s so much fun it should probably be illegal to drive.”

Tim Foslien, Benson, Minn.: “I’m very pleased with my 2021 **Ford Mustang Mach-E GTPE**. I don’t believe EVs are the answer, although evolving battery technology could change that. I wanted to try something different as I hadn’t bought a new car for 40 years. It’s been a blast driving a car an old guy can easily get in and out of, yet has 480 hp., 634 ft.-lb. torque, low center/gravity, sports car handling, racing brakes, AWD and instant power. These features make for an exhilarating drive. It seems to do better on slippery roads than my 4-WD pickups.

“Charging at home in the summer works out to around 120 to 140 mpg. Yes, it’s considerably less in the winter, but 80 to 90 mpg works for me for a car with that performance. We’re 20 miles from a free charger, which I’ve used many times. I’m still looking for free gas. There’s hardly any maintenance. We’ve had it to Texas three times, which takes longer than an ICE car, but it works at our age. It has 53,000 miles, 90 to 95 percent of which were BlueCruise hands-free highway driving. That feature and one-pedal drive have made for a very enjoyable vehicle.”



Eli Apple, Hillsborough, N.C.: “My 2024 **Coleman B200R** mini bike has been great (www.colemanpowersportsusa.com; ph 888-405-8725). The only problem has been the key on the torque converter jackshaft shearing. I had a replacement in my shop, and it’s been fine since.

“My **Milwaukee Fuel M18** impact driver has been great. It has tons of power.

“On the negative side, I was given a **Ryobi** cordless grinder. It has little power. When I cut 3/8-in. rebar, it almost stalled out. It did come as a ‘scratch and dent’ from the store.”

Matt Dillon, Boones Mill, Va.: “I’ve had two worst buys in the last couple of years. My **Maytag** refrigerator (model MRT 118FFHH) runs 90 to 95 percent of the time and doesn’t get as cold as my old GE. It was a bad mistake to take out a perfectly good 28-year-old GE. I’ll never buy a piece of junk like it again.

“My **Speed Queen** washer doesn’t get clothes clean no matter what cycle or how much detergent you use. Sometimes, the water runs for 15 to 20 min., starting on the rinse cycle. The dealer was of no help. I’ll buy GE products from now on.”

Kevin Suda, Mandan, N.D.: Kevin is a fan of **Dawn Platinum Plus** Powerwash dish spray. “I liked the way this product worked on greasy pots and pans. I even tried it on my BBQ grill. I wondered how it would work on engine oil and grease. I sprayed the engine on my **Deere 425** lawn tractor (another best buy) and then sprayed it with the garden hose.

It probably wouldn’t have come much cleaner with hot water and a pressure washer. I also decided to spray the hydraulics, power steering cylinder and



transaxle. The old gal hasn’t looked this good in years!”

Bill Cooper, Fillmore, Ind.: Bill’s the satisfied owner of a 2018 **Intimidator 4x4** diesel UTV 2500 Truck (www.intimidatorutvs.com). “I’ve had good service from this machine. It was built in Arkansas with U.S. steel. When I call the factory, a person answers the phone, and techs answer questions.”

On the worst buy side is Bill’s **Hustler Raptor 50**. “The hydrostat mount bracket broke, causing it to throw the belt. I couldn’t replace just one part but had to buy a kit to replace several inferior parts.”

Paul Michener, Waynesville, Ohio: “As soon as my **Deere** zero-turn mower reached 1,000 hrs., the engine locked up. The Deere company didn’t have parts. I replaced it with a yellow Cub.”

Daniel P. Rohr, Navarre, Ohio: A GE gas stove rates as Daniel’s worst buy. “I can’t set the timer or clock when the electricity goes out. The alarm is too soft.”

Morris Owens, McComb, Miss.: “My best buy is **FARM SHOW**. I can’t get any work done until I finish reading it.”

Brian Ensminger, Princeton, Minn.: Brian nominates his **Stihl MSA 161 T** electric chainsaw as a best buy. “This one-hand chainsaw allows me to use every piece of each oak tree I take down (due to oak wilt). After harvesting the splittable firewood with my ‘big’ saw, I cut all the small stuff into IBC cages for my maple sap boiler. I feed the saw with my left hand and cut with my right. I’m essentially using every part of the tree for productive use.”

John S. Steele, Napoleon, Ohio: “My 1999 **Kubota L3710** tractor always starts and does the work I want to use it for. It has 1,050 hrs. and works like a new tractor.

“I bought my 2016 **Honda Accord EX-L** new in 2016. It now has 56,000 miles with no problems.”

Rod Mortimer, Rock City, Ill.: “My 2011 **Deere 6430** does everything I need and was made before DEF. The controls are in the right place. It has good A/C and great lights.”

Rod’s **Deere 700** loader hasn’t been such a good buy. “It’s a great loader, but it’s almost impossible to reinstall after removing it from the tractor. The attaching points are supposed to be quick and easy, but it’s not. The engineers should get out of the office and try it themselves. I needed the dealer to make a house call to reinstall it.”



Paul Yakey, Saint Germain, Wis.: Paul is the proud owner of a 2024 **Wallenstein BX52S** 5-in. wood chipper (www.wallensteinequipment.com). It’s a 3-pt. hitch mounted, pto-driven, 540 rpm model. “My diesel Cub Cadet pulls it just fine. It’s easy to use, very well built, and has good paint. The heavy-gauge material chips great. It has a fold-up input chute and an adjustable output spout.”

Richard J. Noel, Highgate Center, Vt.: “My 2020 **Ferris 2500Z** zero-turn diesel 61-in. mower is well built and strong. I have almost 500 hrs. on it and have only done regular maintenance and blades. I mow



Ruen finds a used rolltop desk handy for many uses in the shop.

Rolltop Desk Best Buy

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “I never thought I’d have a rolltop desk, much less have one in my shop, but I do now. I got the idea when I noticed the desks offered at prices as low as \$50 and in various styles.

“I paid \$100 for a solid oak desk with 13 small and medium-sized drawers ideal for specialty tools. They even have a place to slip in a card identifying contents. Maybe I’ll even get around to filling them out.

“The desk also has a storage area on one side of the knee cubby and several large drawers to the other, including one perfect for holding my **FARM SHOW** books.

“The rolltop provides dust-free protection for an old receiver and CD player for times when I want a little music or news. Speakers sit on top just fine. It’s also a great place to look at YouTube videos on my iPad when I need help on a project.

“I’m not sure why so many people are getting rid of them. New ones like mine are still advertised at \$2,000 and more. Perhaps the advent of computer desks and laptops with everything stored digitally is killing the value for many people. I’m fine with that. Their trash is my treasure.”

almost 2 acres on my farm, and it’s not all flat land. It takes about 2 1/2 hrs. per cutting, sometimes twice a week. This is my second **Ferris**. My neighbor has my first one with 1,200 hrs. on it.”

Eugene Bardal, Keller, Texas: Eugene nominates his 2023 **Deere S130** lawn tractor as a worst buy. “Just 15 mos. after purchase, the gas gauge and hour meter failed. The oil change system is unacceptable. The oil filter full of oil costs over \$50, and you only change about 1/3 of the oil. That means some of the oil never gets changed.”

Russ Gilliom, Churubusco, Ind.: “My 2016 **Toyota Tundra** (purchased on CarMax—a great experience) is a great truck. It performs like a 2/3-ton truck with a 5.7 V-8 engine. It’s comfortable and has no rust. **CarMax** provides a great warranty and service.”

Russ nominates his 2009 **Ford F-250 V-10** as a worst buy. “It had terrible rust the second year. Then, at 92,000 miles last year, the ‘super strong’ V-10 twisted a camshaft on the right bank and destroyed valves. Total failure. It would cost \$17,000 to replace it in a rust bucket. I got scrap price.

“Before, I had an F-250 3-valve V-8. At 53,000 miles, it was a disaster with blown plugs. Wake up, Ford!”

Gordon D. Myrick, Grand Coulee, Wash.: “These tools are compact, lightweight and work great with plenty of power and endurance,” says Gordon about his **Milwaukee** 12-volt cordless tools.

“At less than 90,000 miles, the supercharger on my 2014 **Toyota Tundra** overheated and wiped the lobes. The dealer estimated a \$13,000 replacement cost just for the supercharger. I parked it.

“During service, they saw the leaking hoses and did nothing to fix the leak. I won’t go back to their service garage. I’ll take my business elsewhere.”

Marlin Kline, Angora, Minn.: “I purchased a 2021 **GMC** with in-line 6-cyl. diesel. The DEF tank went after 18,000 miles, and the dealership replaced it. At 36,000 miles, it went again. The dealership wouldn’t

replace it this time. I had to trade a 1-year-old truck for a gas truck so I could continue driving. No more diesels.”

Bill Bitter, Wall, N.J.: “Not 2 weeks after I bragged about my 2016 **Kobalt** line trimmer to you, the battery wouldn’t take a charge. So I went to **Lowe’s** (where I bought it) to see if I needed a new battery or charger. It was the battery. The salesperson was so nice—they gave me a new battery and charger. Wow, can’t beat that!”

Melvin Graves, Speedwell, Tenn.: “I’ve used **Milwaukee** tools for years and have always liked them until now. In 2022, I purchased a battery-powered M18 weed eater and pole saw combo. It would only run 5 to 10 min. from the first use. I couldn’t even trim around my house without having problems. I’d start it back up, and it would quit again.

“I sent the product back for warranty repair. It was sent back to me with the same problem. It still wouldn’t run. I sent it in for repair two more times with the same results. Finally, the fourth time I called, they sent a new power head, which did the same thing. It’s obviously made in Mexico, not America. It’s nothing but a high-priced piece of junk. I just wish it worked or that I got a refund.”

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Robert L. Fisher, Burlington, W.Va.: “**The Better Bungee™** is the worst bungee. They stretch and lose their elasticity. I used them to hold the tarp covering the operator’s area of my dozer. I contacted the company about the lifetime warranty. They responded and wanted to know when I purchased them and what I used them for. They said I had to mail the defective ones to them. The cost to package and ship them back to the company exceeds the price of a few bungee cords. I don’t recommend them.”