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**5. Issue 9, Folding Utility Knife
Sheffield Quick Change**
\$14.99 sheffieldhardware.com

We picked up the Sheffield Quick Change after stopping in at Autozone and seeing what types of utility knives they carried. Its \$14.99 price was the highest of the group, and quite honestly we didn't know much about the Sheffield tool line, not giving it much consideration. Once we opened the package, however, we instantly became fans of the rubber handle, ingenious blade storage, belt clip, solid blade grip, and easy blade changes. Featuring a lockback safety device, the Sheffield felt great when cutting into 5/16-inch-thick particleboard. Our favorite feature of this knife was its thumb rest on top of the blade, which made the knife both comfortable and safe. This was definitely a dark horse, but the numbers don't lie.



**6. Issue 10, 3/8-inch Drive Ratchet Comparison
Husky 14-inch Extendable 45-Teeth, PN: 69563**
\$19.97 homedepot.com

Several months of testing tools have taught us one thing: Husky makes a pretty darn good tool. Winning a few of our tool shootouts, Husky proved it hasn't been a fluke, as they handily won our ratchet test. For less than \$20, the 14-inch extendable ratchet features a lockable flex-head, relatively low-profile head design, and extra torque always on tap from the extendable handle. As a bonus, the kit also included a six-piece standard socket set. During our torque torture test, it was the only ratchet in the group that busted loose the 1 1/4-inch nut that was torqued to 120 lb-ft. That's serious power in a 3/8 package. It isn't flashy, nor the best feeling ratchet in your hand, but it does everything we asked of it at a high level, and without compromise.

**7. Issue 11, Multi-Tool Shootout
Leatherman Wingman with Pocket Clip**
\$29.97 leatherman.com (at homedepot.com)

As the originator of the multi-tool, it was no surprise that the Leatherman Wingman was well built, offered handy tools, and was the easiest to carry, but what did surprise us was the value. For less than \$30.00, the Wingman offers precise, spring-loaded pliers, a 420HC knife blade that topped our sharpness test, and a high-quality screwdriver that finished in Second Place. Add to that liner locks for the knife and scissors for added safety, a compact ruler, and removable pocket clip, and you have yourself an incredible multi-tool you can carry every day. This tool can easily tackle most projects that arise at work, while camping, or fishing with buddies. The Leatherman is proudly made in Oregon, and proves America builds it best.



**8. Issue 12, Top Magnet for Mechanics
Harbor Freight 15-Pound Telescoping
Magnetic Pick Up Tool (PN: 95933)**
\$4.99 harborfreight.com

Anyone familiar with Harbor Freight knows their reputation for making inexpensive tools. Although some people we've talked to consider Harbor Freight tools cheap and flimsy, our seven months of tool testing has shown them to be surprisingly high quality for the money. This month's Truckin Tough reinforced that belief, with their 15-pound pick-up placing first in our testing. The first indicator that Harbor Freight doesn't mess around was the scientific 10-pound plate steel test. Not only did this magnet lift the 10-pound plate with ease, it even lifted an additional 5 1/2 pounds stacked on top. Unlike most other magnets in our test, Harbor Freight actually exceeded its advertised lifting power. This tool also did well in our real-world lifting test, had the second longest reach, and the third lowest price. While others may discount Harbor Freight as "that cheap tool place," the numbers don't lie—this tool delivers excellent bang for the buck.



**9. Issue 13, Best Mechanic Tool Set for Under \$200
Pittsburgh Professional 301-Piece Mechanic's Tool Kit**
PN: 45951 \$189.99 harborfreight.com

Harbor Freight calls the Pittsburgh 301-piece tool kit a "comprehensive professional mechanic's tool set," and we find no fault in that claim. We'll start with the impressive data: full socket sets (shallow and deep) for 1/4-, 3/8-, and 1/2-inch drive that go all the way up to 1 1/4 and 32 mm, full screwdriver set, plier set, full array of U-joints for each drive size, as well as extensions, adapters, and 10 combo wrenches. In addition to the commonly used tools, the Pittsburgh set also includes SAE and metric hex bit sockets, Torx sockets, external Torx bits, a precision screwdriver set, and long-arm hex key set. That's 50 pounds worth of tools, and the cost was \$189.99. After factoring in duplicated tools, our "tool per buck" came in at an amazing 72 cents per tool. Those tools are covered by a lifetime replacement warranty (with receipt), and the toolbox itself is well made with metal clasps and individual storage trays. Working on a project truck using only this tool set, we never needed to search anywhere else for the required tools. From the get-go, there was no doubt this was the best tool set under \$200.

