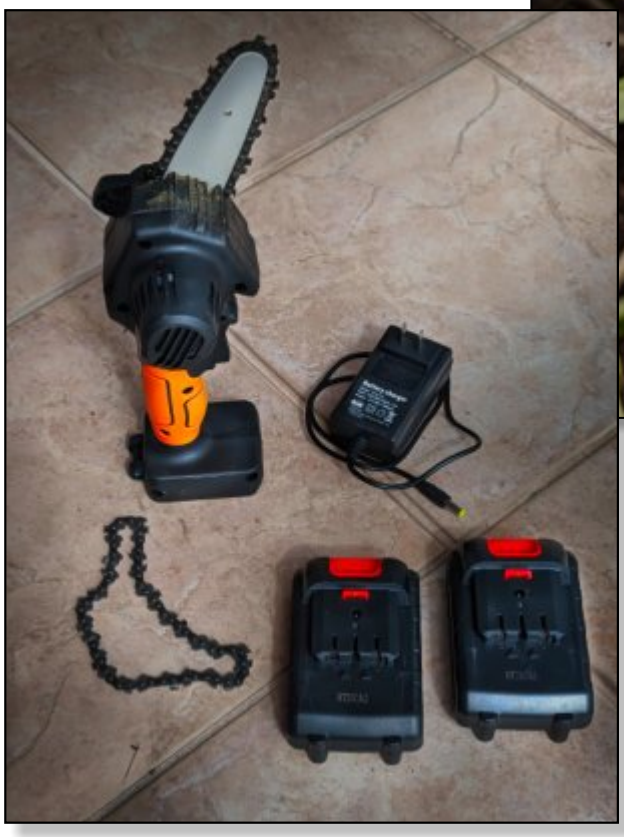
TOOL TALK



Sometimes, only a chainsaw will do. But you loathe getting one out just for that quick, *smaller* job. But then, what would the reason for **'Tool Talk'** be, if not for those miraculous new, low-cost and very capable 'mini' tools so popular lately? And, true to form, this month's installment not only delivers on those pint-sized jobs, but also punches way above its weight should you linger in your personal Outback, with an eye towards bringing in a project, just a little *bigger* than 'small'.

While I haven't had mine in continuous use, the chain has held up very well so far. With this particular deal, a second chain was included; the replacement chains are available online in this length, if needed.



The saw's small size doesn't mean you get a pass from the demands of lubrication. The physics of bar-wear doesn't change with the size, and the absence of a lubrication system makes attention to this detail even more important. Don't fool around: get genuine chainsaw bar oil, which has 'tackifiers' that prevent it from slinging off, instantly. In a pinch, clean 30W engine oil will work, but don't make it a habit. ***Don't use any sprays, silicone or whatever!***

Apply a few drops of (genuine) bar oil every 10 to 15 cuts, or before every work session. Drip the oil directly along the top run of the chain and into the guide bar groove, then briefly run the tool for 2–3 seconds off-wood to distribute the oil evenly.

Check and adjust the chain tension before every use, and now and then during use, same as the big boys: pull the chain upward from the middle of the guide bar The drive links should stay engaged in the groove with roughly 1/8 inch of give. After every 2 or 3 uses, remove the chain and clean debris from the bar groove.

Finally, inspect the chain teeth periodically, check for dullness or chipped edges, and sharpen as needed. You can find round chain cutter files online typically 5/32" (4.0 mm) for these mini chains. Last step: flip the guide bar upside down periodically to ensure even bar-wear. Verify sharpness by checking that the saw produces thin wood chips rather than fine dust during cuts. Then, *let 'er rip!*

- STORY, PHOTOS: EDITOR