A guy just can't have too many tools

s I perused the tool aisles at Canadian Tire recently, I ran into an old friend, Adoing the same.

Doug and I exchanged the usual pleasantries—the weather, the state of our health, and all those inane things one talks about before cutting to the chase. We started to discuss tools.

"I haven't been in here for a bit," said Doug,

"How about you, Ted?"

"Trying to cut down," I explained, "Since the first of September, I only drop by about once a week."

Both of us are longtime members of the Canadian Tire Tool Addicts Anonymous Support Group—we tried to support each other. "You know Ted," he said, matter-of-factly, "A

guy just can't have too many tools."

I agreed, but told him it was tough, cutting back to that once a week visit.

"You hanging in there okay?" he asked, offering the old support line. "Does once a week do it for you?"

"Yeah, it does now," I replied, "But the first couple of weeks were hell- I'd wake in the night in a cold sweat, seeing the Canadian Tire ad for that new Mastercraft screwdriver on HGTV— I just had to go downstairs to my work shop and run my hands over my own screwdriver, just to tell myself I didn't need one."

"Been there buddy, but it's a beauty," he sympathized."In time it'll get easier."

"So what brings you in today?" I asked.

Doug explained how he was in a unique situation—his two-year-old hammer drill had given up the ghost. And since it had a three-year warranty, he brought it back to see what CTC could do for him.

"They gave me a credit for it," he explained, trying to contain his excitement. "I have a credit to replace it."

I was green with envy. A credit for a sizable amount, to be spent specifically on tools at

TED BIT



Ted Brown

Canadian Tire? It doesn't get any better.

As part of the support group, I felt obligated to help him rid himself of the evil credit slip.

"Should I go Mastercraft or Makita?" he asked, peering at the power tools like a kid in a candy shop.

I pointed out how the Makita had a marginally more powerful motor, but Mastercraft had that three-year warranty.

"Think of it Doug, a three-year warranty!" I explained, hiding the emotion in my voice. "That warrant what brought you back here to relive the joy archasing that drill, all over again."

He was smitten, and with a tremor in his voice, he asked the sales guy to get one out from behind the nose-printed glass display window.

Once in his hands, Doug was beyond control—it was on sale! Another 30 bucks off!!!

In keeping with the support group's guidelines, I immediately tried to contain him, and drew his attention away from the drill, so he didn't fall off the wagon by becoming fixated on it.

"Doug, you have more money to spend!" I explained, "Quick! What else do you need?"

Too late, he was gone, beyond immediate help. I knew he'd be back at the meetings, standing up in front of the rest of the guys, saying, "I'm a tool junkie and I need help...."

But he'll be okay, he'll make it— again.

But one fact still remains.

Coleman ()

A guy simply can't have too many tools.

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