BILL'S HOME TECH

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Cordless Yard-Tool Battery Platforms — A Plain-English Guide

Pick one battery 'family' and stay in it — the secret to cordless yard tools

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3
The Battery Is the Real Decision 3
How Battery Platforms Work 4
Voltage: Matching Power to the Job 5
The Major Platforms 6
Choosing Your Platform 7
Building Out Your Shed 7
Caring for the Batteries 8
Is Cordless Right for You? 9
Everyday Cheat Sheet 11
A Picture to Follow Along 12
A Second Look 13
A Note From Bill 13
Your Visit — and My Promise 14

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1 The 60-Second Version

The whole idea in a minute.

With cordless yard tools, the battery is the real decision. Each brand builds a 'platform' — a line of tools that all share the same batteries — and those batteries do not work in other brands' tools, or even in the same brand's tools of a different voltage. So the smart move is to choose one platform, buy into it, and then add tools over time 'bare' (without batteries) because you already own the batteries. One set of batteries ends up powering your mower, trimmer, blower, and more.

- Pick the battery family first; the individual tools come after.
- Batteries are locked to one brand and voltage — they do not cross over.
- Once you own batteries, buy future tools 'bare' to save a lot of money.

GOOD TO KNOW

Higher voltage platforms (think 56V, 60V, 80V) deliver more power for demanding jobs like mowing and cutting; lighter ones (around 18–40V) are fine for trimming, blowing, and small yards. Match the voltage to your biggest regular job.

THE REAL DECISION

2 The Battery Is the Real Decision

Not the individual tool.

The instinct is to shop for the tool you need — a mower, say — and grab whichever looks good. But with cordless yard equipment that gets the decision backwards. Because each brand's batteries fit only that brand's tools, the battery platform you choose with your first purchase quietly commits you to that brand for every tool after it, if you want to share batteries.

So the purchase that matters most is really your first one, and the question to ask is not 'which mower is best' but 'which battery family do I want to live in.' Get that right and every later tool is cheaper and simpler; get it wrong and you either rebuy

batteries for a second brand or end up with a shed full of chargers and incompatible packs. This guide is really about choosing that family wisely the first time.

You are not really buying a mower or a trimmer — you are joining a battery family. Choose the family wisely and every later tool gets cheaper and simpler.

HOW IT WORKS

3 How Battery Platforms Work

The idea behind the lock-in.

A battery platform is a brand's promise that all the tools in a given line will accept the same batteries. Buy one trimmer with two batteries, and those batteries will also run that brand's blower, hedge trimmer, and chainsaw in the same voltage line. It is a genuine convenience — and a deliberate way to keep you buying from one brand.

- All tools in a platform share the same slide-on batteries and charger.
- Batteries do not work across brands — a DeWalt battery will not fit an EGO tool.
- Even within a brand, different voltage lines usually do not interchange.
- Some brands offer adapters or dual-voltage batteries, but do not count on crossing lines.

The system works in your favor once you are in it. The batteries slide off one tool and onto another of the same platform in seconds, so two or three packs can keep a whole collection of tools running — you charge batteries, not tools. The catch is simply that this convenience lives entirely within one brand's one voltage line, so mixing brands, or even mixing a brand's 40V and 80V lines, generally does not work. Plan to stay within a single line and the platform is a pleasure.

VOLTAGE

4 Voltage: Matching Power to the Job

More volts, more muscle.

Platforms are organized by voltage, and voltage is a rough guide to power. Higher-voltage tools handle tougher, longer jobs; lower-voltage ones are lighter and cheaper and fine for lighter work. Matching the voltage to your real needs keeps you from both underpowering a big job and overpaying for power you will not use.

Roughly	Good for
18–24V	Trimming, blowing, small yards, light pruning
40V	Mid-size yards; many mowers and most handheld tools
56–60V	Larger yards; strong mowers, saws, heavier work
80V+	Big properties and demanding, sustained jobs

The key is to choose your platform's voltage around your hardest regular job, not your easiest. If you need to mow a substantial lawn, let that set the voltage — the same high-voltage batteries will happily run your trimmer and blower too, whereas a light platform chosen for the trimmer may leave the mower gasping. At the same time, resist overbuying: an 80-volt expedition-grade system is wasted weight and money on a small town lot that a 40-volt line would serve beautifully.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

THE BRANDS

5 The Major Platforms

Who the players are.

Several well-regarded brands run yard-tool platforms. Any of them can serve you well; the point is to pick one and stay with it. These are the names that come up most often, each with its own strengths.

- EGO (around 56V): a popular higher-power homeowner platform with a wide tool range.
- Greenworks (24V, 40V, 60V, 80V lines): a broad range across price and power levels.
- Ryobi (ONE+ 18V and a 40V line): a wide, budget-friendly ecosystem with a huge number of tools.
- DeWalt and Milwaukee: known for power tools, with yard lines (DeWalt 20V/FlexVolt; Milwaukee M18) that share batteries with their drills and saws.
- Others include Toro, Craftsman, Husqvarna, and more.

Which brand is 'best' matters less than picking a capable one that makes all the tools you will want in a single voltage line. Ryobi, for instance, is beloved for the sheer breadth of its affordable ONE+ range; EGO and the higher-voltage Greenworks lines are favored for stronger mowers and saws. Any of the major platforms will give you years of good service — the costly mistake is not choosing the 'wrong' good brand, but scattering your purchases across several brands so no batteries are shared.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> If you already own cordless drills and power tools from a brand like DeWalt or Milwaukee, choosing that brand's yard tools lets the same batteries serve both your workshop and your yard — a real convenience.

CHOOSING

6 Choosing Your Platform

A once-and-done decision.

Because switching platforms later means rebuying batteries, it is worth choosing thoughtfully up front. A few questions settle it, and answering them honestly steers you to a family you will be happy in for years.

1. Size up your yard and list the tools you will realistically want — mower, trimmer, blower, saw.
2. Identify your most demanding job, and pick a voltage that handles it comfortably.
3. Check that your chosen brand actually makes all the tools you want in that voltage line.
4. Consider any cordless tools you already own, to keep batteries shared.
5. Buy a starter tool with a couple of batteries and a charger, then expand.

Before committing, it is worth confirming that your chosen brand and voltage line actually offers every tool on your wish list — a platform that makes a wonderful mower but no chainsaw is a poor choice if you need both. Starting with a kit that includes a couple of batteries and a charger gives you the foundation; from there you expand by buying the tools alone, which is where the savings live.

> **TIP**
>
> Buy batteries in a couple of good sizes — a smaller one for light tools and a larger one for the mower — and you will rarely be caught waiting for a charge mid-job.

BUILD IT OUT

7 Building Out Your Shed

Where the savings come.

The real payoff of committing to a platform comes as you add tools. Because you already own the batteries, each new tool costs far less — you are buying just the tool, not another battery and charger every time.

- Buy future tools 'bare' — without batteries — once you have a couple of packs.
- Keep batteries charged and stored out of extreme heat and cold for long life.
- Within a platform the chargers are interchangeable, so one charger serves all your tools.
- Resist the urge to grab a cheap off-brand tool that needs its own separate battery — it breaks the whole advantage.

This is the quiet brilliance of the platform system, and why the first tool feels expensive and every one after it feels like a bargain. A bare trimmer or blower, bought without batteries, costs a fraction of the full kit, and it springs to life on the packs you already own. Over a few seasons you can build a whole shed of matched tools — mower, trimmer, blower, chainsaw, hedge trimmer — all sharing the same two or three batteries and one charger, with no gas, no fumes, and no tangle of incompatible packs.

There is real satisfaction in a shed organized this way. One wall of matched tools, a shelf of identical batteries that fit every one of them, a single charger always ready — it is simpler and tidier than the old jumble of gas cans, oil, and pull-cords, and it means any tool you reach for is ready to go the moment you snap a battery onto it.

The discipline of staying within one platform is what delivers that, and it pays back every single time you step out to work in the yard.

The first tool feels expensive because you are buying batteries too. Every tool after that is a bargain — which is the whole beauty of picking one platform and sticking with it.

BATTERY CARE

8 Caring for the Batteries

Make them last for years.

The batteries are the valuable, long-lived heart of a cordless platform, and a little care keeps them healthy for many seasons — which protects the whole investment, since the tools are nearly worthless without good packs.

- Store batteries out of extreme heat and cold — a garage shelf is fine; a sun-baked shed or a freezing one is hard on them.
- Do not leave a pack fully drained for long stretches; top it up before long storage.
- Let a hot battery cool before charging it after heavy use.
- Keep the contacts clean and dry, and bring packs indoors for a deep winter if your storage is unheated.

Lithium batteries dislike extremes of temperature most of all, so where you store them matters. A moderate indoor or garage shelf keeps them happy; a shed that bakes in summer or freezes solid in winter shortens their life. Bringing the packs indoors over a hard winter, keeping them somewhere between fully charged and fully drained for long storage, and letting a hot pack cool before recharging will all help your expensive batteries last the many years they should.

GAS VS CORDLESS

9 Is Cordless Right for You?

An honest comparison.

Cordless yard tools have improved enormously, but it is fair to ask whether they suit your property. For most homeowners they now genuinely do; for some demanding uses, gas still has an edge.

- Cordless wins on quiet, clean, fume-free, instant-start convenience, and no fuel to store or mix.
- It suits small-to-large residential yards very well with the right voltage platform.
- Gas may still edge ahead for very large acreage or all-day commercial use on a single tank.
- Battery run-time and a few spare packs cover most homeowners' sessions comfortably.

For the typical home yard, the cordless advantages — pressing a button instead of yanking a cord, no gas cans or oil, far less noise, nothing to winterize — have made them the sensible default, and a couple of spare batteries cover a normal mowing or cleanup session with ease. Only for very large properties or sustained all-day work does gas still hold a clear advantage. For nearly everyone else, choosing a good

battery platform and building into it is the quieter, cleaner, simpler path.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task.

I want to…	Do this…
The real choice	You're choosing a battery family, not just one tool
Batteries are locked	A brand's battery fits only that brand's matching tools
Voltage matters	Higher voltage generally means more power for bigger jobs
Buy 'bare' tools	Once you own batteries, buy tools without them to save
Major families	EGO, Greenworks, Ryobi, DeWalt, Milwaukee, and more
Match to your yard	Small yard: lighter platform; big property: higher voltage
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

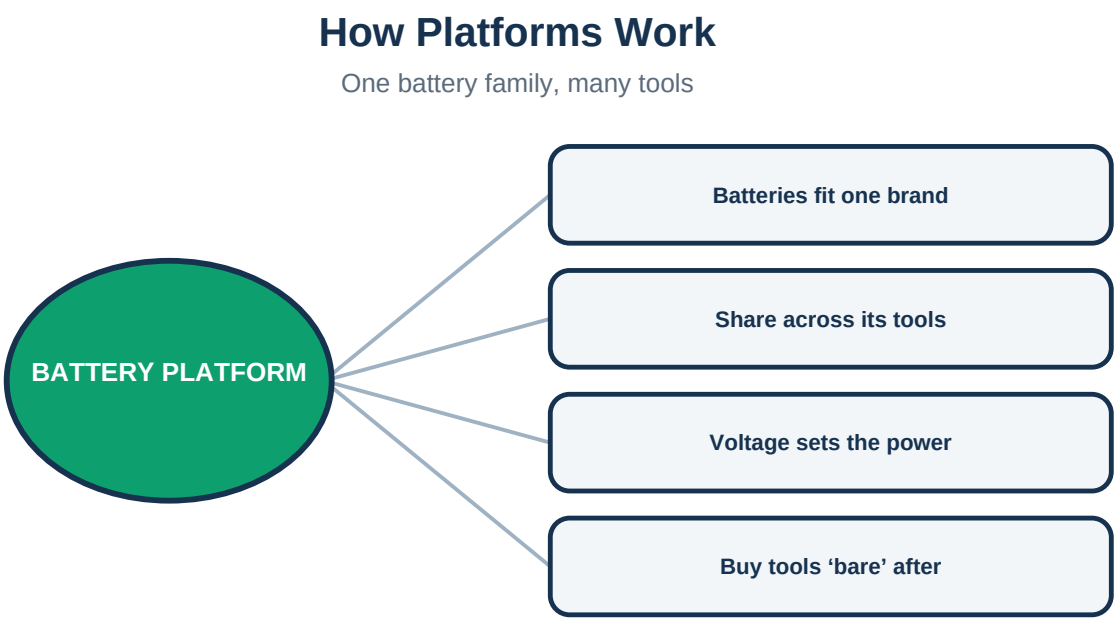


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

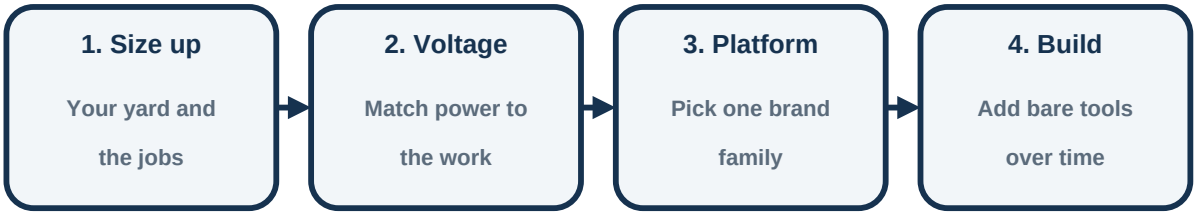


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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