Do It Yourself -- Save Time and Money?

A little before Christmas, our dryer started messing up... it wouldn't shut off, and the timer knob no longer moved. Being a true household-handyman, I did a little research using Google and YouTube, and before long I knew exactly what the problem was. We needed to replace the dryer timer!

I removed the back of the dryer, and then I removed the timer from the dryer -- just like the videos said. I found the model number on the timer, got on eBay and found the exact part that I needed. Everything was proceeding according to plan!

I tried to price the part locally (unfortunately it was a Saturday right before Christmas and not much was open). I found a place in Huntsville that had the part, and I could possibly drive down there, get the part for \$120, and install it that day. But on eBay, I found the same part -- a brand new one -- for \$62 with FREE shipping! The only catch was that it would take a few days to get here. I made an executive decision, and I ordered the part from eBay... what could possibly go wrong? This was a slam dunk! We would just be without a dryer for a few days -- no problem.

The part arrived AHEAD of schedule! The cardboard box the part came in had the correct part number on it -- just like in the ad's picture on eBay! Everything was great -- but then, I opened the box. I noticed pretty quickly that the part inside the box wasn't the same part number that I ordered -- or that was shown on the outside of the box. But it looked very similar... could it be that they sent me the wrong part? Or is this just an alternative part that works the same as the original part that I ordered? More internet research... and more... and more. Finally, after a few days of research, I come to the conclusion: they sent me the wrong part!

I emailed the seller. No response. After a day or two, I tried again. No response. I tried again. Nothing. Finally, I got eBay involved -- I explained the situation, sent them pictures, and made my case. After 7 days of trying to work it out with the seller (they never responded at all), eBay stepped in and ruled in my favor! I got my money back, and I sent the wrong part back to the seller.

But our dryer was still broken. Not being one to give up easily, I got back on eBay -- what could possibly go wrong, right? I found an even BETTER deal, ordered the part (from Macksville, Kansas) and waited... and waited... I used Post Office tracking to see where the part was being held up. Tracking showed it had left Macksville, Kansas, and after 6 DAYS it arrived in Des Moines, Iowa! What in the world? After a couple of days in Des Moines, it started moving toward my house. All in all, it took 11 days (January 8th to 19th) to get to my house! This was about 6 days longer than they had said it would take -- and all this time our dryer was out! For the last few weeks, our house has looked like a clothes line!

After I got the new timer out of the box, It took all of about 10 minutes to install -- and the dryer now works fine. Looking back, this little 10 minute job actually took me almost a month to complete! Yeah, for a do-it-yourself project, that sounds about right...

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