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## Barn Doors Catch On For Home Interiors

Barn doors are no longer just for outbuildings. Dutch doors, sliding doors and tack doors are now finding their way into homes as well.

“We started seeing interest in barn doors for use inside homes three to four years ago,” says Kelly Bridges, Woodstar Products. “People would contact us and ask if they could use our doors inside as well as in their barns.”

Woodstar was happy to not only give permission, but to provide special-built doors. Since 1977, the company’s main business has been horse stalls and barn related accessories. So the demand for interior products opened a whole new market.

“Our doors have been used in bathrooms, for dividers between a living room and dining room, and in many other areas,” says Bridges. “We custom make doors for each customer, so odd dimensions are no problem.”

Doors are available finished or unfin-

ished and with glass or without. Bridges says the company has a large selection of styles with sizes ranging up to 12 by 12 ft. (a single panel split vertically into two separate 6-ft. wide doors.)

The structural frame of the doors consists of extruded aluminum vertical rails. If a split door is required, one of the vertical rails has a built-in H closure to assure a well-sealed tight fit.

Prices on the custom doors range from \$19 to \$25 per square foot. Sliding door hardware is not included in the price. The standard wood is southern yellow pine, but Bridges says the company has also used white oak, red oak and cedar when requested.

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Bob Crowell assembles and sells a variety of table lamps and interior/exterior wall fixtures.

## Gas Station Stuff “As Good As Old”

Bob Crowell’s hobby for many years was collecting old gas station pumps, signs, and other memorabilia. He finally decided to start making his own reproduction “collectables” using some parts he already had and producing others as needed from scratch.

“Air towers like mine were used in the early 1900’s to light the gas pump area and also to provide air and water to customers,” says Crowell. “I found a guy to do the metal spinning needed to make the shade. Customers use them to decorate offices, rec rooms and around collections of antique cars and motorcycles.”

The standard air tower is 7 ft., 8 in. tall but can be customized to any desired height. The tower comes in a powder-coated finish or can be left unfinished

for those who want to do their own.

The towers have a cast aluminum base with an aluminum pipe and cast harps (braces that support the shade and light fixture). The shades are spun aluminum, a process where a disc of aluminum is pressed against a spinning form to create the perfectly round, thin shape.

The towers are equipped with brass air and water elbows, hoses and hose hangers. A cast plate held in place with brass screws on the column provides access to interior plumbing and wires.

Crowell also offers a custom designed air-only light tower that’s topped with a glass globe. It can also be topped with a shade if desired.

“The towers are built to be used, so they can actually provide water, air and light,” says Crowell.



This 1935 Deere 5A combine was restored by the Boone County Antique Tractor and Machinery Club in New Ross, Indiana.

## Club Restores 70-Year-Old Combine

A 70-year-old combine that hadn’t been moved for about 50 years but still had air in its tires was recently restored by the Boone County Antique Tractor and Machinery Club in New Ross, Ind.

Because it was well maintained and stored inside, the 1935 John Deere 5A combine was in very good condition when club members purchased it last spring. In September, they pulled the combine with a 1947 John Deere AR tractor to the delight of the crowd at the Farm World Expo in Lebanon, Ind.

“It’s just amazing that it still runs so well,” says Dan Tyler, who worked on the combine along with a dozen other club members. Few people knew the combine existed just three miles from Lebanon, and club members were pleased they could buy it from the heirs of the farmer who owned it.

After starting the combine, they discovered the head of the Lycoming 4-cylinder engine was cracked, so they had it fixed. Most of the work focused on cleaning up the combine and loosening parts. Among the few parts that needed replacing were

tires, a pan under the auger, and a new canvas (which is being custom-made in Ohio).

The 12-ft. cutterbar comes off and rides on a cart behind the combine when it is being transported. There is a rotary weed seed cleaner on top of the hopper, and the combine was likely a quality one in its time, Tyler says. While mostly pulled with tractors, the combine was also used with horses.

“It’s amazing that they figured out in the 20’s and 30’s how to make something like this,” he adds, noting that the basic combine design remained the same until rotary combines came out in the 1970’s.

Tyler stores the 14-ft. tall combine in one of his sheds, but the antique club plans to combine wheat with it this year and relive a piece of history.

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He also makes reproduction “collectables” such as these air towers, used in the early 1900’s to light the gas pump area and to provide air and water to customers.

Once he had the casts and suppliers in place to provide castings and spun shades, Crowell decided to use some of the parts to make a “gas station” table lamp for himself. When a friend asked him to make one with an Esso Oil logo, Crowell decided to sell them as well. Today he assembles and sells a variety of table lamps and interior/exterior wall fixtures. The original reproduction air tower sells for \$975, the custom built 7-

ft. air-only light tower sells for \$685, and the 38-in. table lamp sells for \$385.

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