

He Turned Chopper Bikes Into Double Ride

The "four-wheeler" Cecil Piper built turns heads when he and his wife, Marion, bike around Oshkosh, Wis. It appears they're riding side by side in perfect synchronization. The bike is actually one unit, with two 20-in. chopper bikes connected.

Piper drilled holes in the bikes' frames to join them with four 1/2-in. threaded rods, two in the front and two in the back.

"Going over bumps the threaded rod helps because it gives a bit," Piper explains.

The one-speed chopper bikes only have rear brakes, so Piper threaded the pre-drilled holes for optional brakes on the front, screwed in studs and mounted a tie rod from a garden tractor to connect the steering.

He used a small propane torch to heat and bend the handlebars up so they wouldn't touch each other. For comfort, he removed the banana seats, straightened the metal plates that held them and bolted on boat seats.

"I moved the seat way back over the back axle," Piper says. "It's just like a chair in your living room."

Piper spent less than \$200 for everything including two new bikes at \$59 each and \$29 for each new seat.

The Schwinn bike collector says the chopper style worked well for the double bike. He got the idea from a man in Florida who makes double bikes out of many styles of bikes.

The only thing Piper would change is the 24-in. width between the bikes.



Cecil Piper and his "four-wheeler", which he made by connecting two 20-in. chopper-style bikes.

"I'd add another 4 inches," Piper says for more room between riders. Though he's not interested in building them, he's willing to advise others who want to make a double bike. It's very stable, he says, and he's ridden it with an 85-year-old.

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"Deere" Lovers Like This Aluminum Elk

"I like unusual things with eye appeal. I have an eye for attention-getting items along the highway," says Dennis Hensley, owner of Wagonmaster Antiques in Bennington, Kansas. He sells full-size elk made out of aluminum.

Painted to look like bronze, the statues make a dramatic impression, but weigh just a few hundred pounds and can be handled easily by two men. Though sturdy enough to stand on its own, tabs welded at the base can be used to secure the statue to a cement slab.

Because the elk looks similar to John Deere's early logo of a European stag, many of Hensley's customers have been Deere dealers and collectors. But the elk statue is popular with Elks Lodges and rural customers as well.

The elk sells for \$2,500. Hensley will deliver for a fee.

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Full-size elk is made out of aluminum and looks similar to John Deere's early logo of a European stag.

Tractor Seat Shop Stool

"I keep it in my workshop where it makes a great conversation piece," says Bob Kemp, Pulteney, N.Y., who made an adjustable Deere barstool that mounts on a horseshoe base.

The seat and horseshoes are painted Deere green while the telescoping pipe that holds the seat is painted yellow.

Kemp started with an unpainted antique cast iron tractor seat from a 1947 Deere tractor, which his son-in-law had bought on eBay and given to him as a Christmas present. He sandblasted, primed, and painted the seat. He welded some old horseshoes together for the base and then used two pipes that slide inside each other for height adjustment.

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Adjustable Deere barstool mounts on a horseshoe base.



Smooth, round rocks in Bud Williams's collection range from pea to softball size.

Round Rock Collection

Bud Williams has a sharp eye, and the size of his round rock collection is a testament to that fact.

The Bowie, Texas man has collected an impressive variety of smooth, round rocks, ranging from pea size to softball size. He accumulated them over 11 years while living near Lloydminster, Alberta, where he was employed at a large feedlot.

"Most of the smaller rocks came into the feedlot on gravel trucks when they were graveling the alleys," explains his wife, Eunice. "The bigger ones, we found naturally out in the fields. Someone once told me that these smooth, round rocks were created by moving glaciers and that they kind of became ball bearings formed by the mass of ice moving and rolling them along, but I don't know if that's true."

Round rocks aren't "all that uncommon" if you're in the right area, she claims, but everyone who sees Bud's collection gets quite a charge out of them. There are 89 in his display.

"The rocks in the collection were chosen because they were all a little different in size and Bud can line them up in graduated order. I brought another 50 (or so) golf ball sized ones with us when we moved from Canada, which I have in flower pots. I'm not sure how many we left behind at our place in Alberta - probably another 100 or so. I don't remember seeing any larger than a softball."

Eunice says some people think they're geodes and if you break them open there'll be crystals, but they're not - they're just plain old rocks, through and through.

Bud, who is a world-famous teacher of livestock handling methods, likes to joke about how valuable his collection is and says he will probably donate them to some big museum someday.

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Satellite dish flower bed is part of the Glebe's farmyard mini golf course. Golfers have to hit the ball up a chute that runs up the front to a hole at center of dish.

Satellite Flower Bed Part Of Mini Golf Course

Bill and Lilley Glebe of Pickardville, Alberta found a creative and decorative use for an old satellite dish, turning it in to a raised flower bed, which serves as an integral part of their farmyard mini golf course.

The couple used recycled stuff to turn their front lawn into a 9-hole mini golf course so that they can enjoy with their grandchildren.

Bill made a stand to hold the dish up at an angle, filled it with dirt, and planted marigolds. Golfers hit the ball up a chute that runs up the front to a hole at center of dish.

A few of the other obstacles in Glebe's mini-golf course include: hitting the ball through the teeth on their antique horse-drawn hay rake, through the wheels on their

horse-drawn hay mower, and under the pedals of an old bike.

"We wanted to make something out of nothing and I think we succeeded," Lilley says. "We sure had lots of fun doing it. The only thing not recycled is the flowers."

To officially open the course this summer, the family is planning to hold the first "Glebe Masters Cup," with their two sons and daughter-in-laws and two grandchildren. They will vie for a recycled trophy (one of their son's old ones), and add a new engraved plate to it each year.

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