

Reader Letters



I built this garden cart out of a bicycle wheel and some metal tubing. It carries a 5-gal. bucket and a tray for plants. I fill the bucket with water for use as I transplant plants carried in the tray. It's easy to roll around because it's lightweight and rides on the big bicycle wheel. Most of the weight is on the wheel, which is quite a long way from the operator. **(Lyle Rawn, RR 3, Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada NOG 2L0 (ph 519 323-1537))**

Here's a photo of a little truck I built that started out as a 3-wheeled electric golf cart. It's powered by a 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine off a riding mower. A right



angle gearbox reverses the rotation of the engine, which pto-drives a 3-speed standard transmission off a Chevy pickup. A pto shaft off a Bush Hog mower hooks up to the cart's rear end. The rig has a tilt steering wheel out of an Oldsmobile car, as well as a chrome grill, headlights, and tail lights. Its seat is a piece of plywood covered by foam rubber padding. Top speed is 25 mph.

My grandchildren enjoy driving it. We live in the country and often drive it to a local country store to have a cup of coffee with friends. **(Richard Ellis, 4758 County Road 4450, Pomona, Mo. 65789)**



I built the walls on this horse shelter out of old mining core boxes. It measures about 10 ft. wide by 14 ft. long. The boxes are 10 in. wide by 5 ft. long and 2 1/2 in. high. I used a brad nailer to fasten the boxes together. It took only about four hours to build the walls. **(Gordon Fuller, P.O. Box 988, Barriere, B.C., Canada V0E 1E0 ph 250 672-0167)**

I made this 10-in. high ornamental mouse by welding together parts off a 350 cu. in. engine. The legs are made from intake valves, the ears from exhaust valves, the head from a pair of rockers, the tail



from a push rod, and the eyes from rocker balls. The eyes have floating pieces of round black plastic in them which are free to move around.

I made a jig to hold the mouse's feet straight up and down, so that the mouse stands level and won't tip over. When I was done with the welding work I sandblasted the mouse and painted it silver. **(Ron Gellert, Gilligans Autobody, P.O. Box 151, Bowden, Alberta, Canada T0M 0K0 ph 403 224-2551)**

My son Bradley enjoys riding this 1/4-size Deere B tractor. Bradley's uncle Michael Peters and great uncle Bill Orr built it and



gave it to him four years ago when Bradley was just six years old.

The tractor is powered by a 3 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine, which belt-drives the transmission off an old Moto Mower riding mower. The tractor also uses the Moto Mower's frame, rear end, and rear wheels. It's equipped with a hand clutch and homemade brake pedals, just like on the real Deere B. The hood, grille, and steering wheel are handmade, while the seat is off a riding mower. The Briggs & Stratton engine has its own muffler, so the air intake and exhaust muffler on the hood are just for show.

Bradley has driven the tractor in local parades and often pulls a mini peanut wagon built by his grandfather Murry Peters. One time we filled the wagon with peanuts and let Bradley haul the wagon across the weigh scales at a local peanut processor, and they gave him a check right on the spot. **(Bobby Dykes, 303 Oak Hill Road, Newton, Alabama 36352 ph 334 701-6913)**

After restoring a real 1945 McCormick W-4 tractor, I made a miniature version of the same tractor. It measures 5 ft. 3 in.



long by 3 ft. high and is powered by an 8 hp Wisconsin rope start engine. A 12-volt generator mounts alongside the engine.

The mini tractor is built around the frame and 3-speed transmission of a garden tractor. The 760 by 15 rear wheels are off a self-propelled swather while the front wheels were store-bought.

The hood and grill are off a McCormick Farmall A. I cut three inches off the hood and three inches off the grill. The fenders were made by cutting a full-size tractor fender in half. I often drive both tractors together in parades. **(Joe Kardos, 800 Agnew St., Prince Albert, Sask., Canada)**

I made a cup holder for my tractor by bolting a large cup to one of the fenders. I use it to hold my water bottle. Simple but handy. **(Steven Daniels, 10140 Hwy. 493, Bailey, Miss. 39320)**



I planted my "bowling ball" flowers early this spring. Neither frost nor wind will bother them because they're made from real bowling balls and pins that I picked up cheap at auctions and bowling alleys. Each "flower" stands on a car brake ro-

tor. I welded 18-in. long 3/8-in. rods to them to make stems, which are covered with yellow plastic hose. They're pretty striking - great for conversation. When I mow I just move them over a couple feet. **(Jerry Siegel, Sebeka, Minn.)**



About six months ago I started noticing that the waist band on my Wrangler pants seemed to automatically shrink by about one size. I have about 20 pairs of Wrangler pants that fit good except the waist band is too tight so I decided to do something about it. I made a "pants stretcher" out of two pieces of tubing, a piece of Redi Rod nuts, and a length of tailpipe



cut in half. I put marks on the tubing so I can make my pants the right size every time.

I just moisten the waist band a bit and insert the stretcher, then clamp a vise grip on the pants button hole so as not to damage it. Then I tighten the Redi Rod to the desired size. It works great. I stretch out one pair of pants every morning so I have a fresh, clean pair every day. I put gray tape on the tailpipe pieces to keep any rust from getting on the pants. **(Loron Skretteborg, Carson, N. Dak. 58529 ph 701 622-3261)**



To keep my mind occupied during winter months, I built these sculptures with scraps of drainage tile. The largest one is about 12 ft. long. They mark the location of our roadside produce stand - one of the few remaining self-service stands around. Come visit and enjoy the outrageous quality and our low, low prices! **(Paul Burrett, 62 E Rt. 36, Atwood, Ill. 61913 ph 217 578-3399)**

If you ever have trouble with people driving through gates or pasture fence at night, then nail up old car license plates to the fence posts or hang them from the fence. They glow when headlights shine on them so they won't be missed. **(Dale Ingram, Altoona, Alabama)**



Here's a 21-ft. paddle boat I made a few years ago on the frame of a pontoon boat. It has an 8-ft. paddle wheel that looks like a wheel on an old riverboat. The wheel is hydraulically-driven. There's also an authentic-looking pilot house. The boat goes 6 mph. **(Fred Vine, 7201 Reinertsen Dr., Britt, Minn. 55710 ph 218 749-5388)**



Six years ago I wrote a story for FARM SHOW on a trick horse owned by Johnnie Cox, Virginia, Ill. Johnnie recently contacted me to say that for health reasons he's going to have to sell his horse, which is named Flash. Flash is famous for being able to add and subtract. He also does physical tricks like sitting down with his front legs outstretched, rolling a barrel with his nose, waving the American flag, and lying down and then pulling a cover over himself. He puts on shows for kids and adults at numerous events all over the country. Contact: Johnnie Cox, 21795 Garner Road, Virginia, Ill. 62691 (ph 217 452-3509) **(C.F. Marley, Nokomis, Ill.)**