



Brad Doane built this 16-ft. long, 10-ft. tall and 2-ton life-size replica of an old Tonka Wrecker tow truck. It's set up with a hand-cranked winch.

He Built A 2-Ton Tonka Toy Tow Truck

As a kid, Brad Doane loved playing with Tonka Toys. A few years ago Brad's mother found an old Tonka Wrecker at a garage sale and gave it to him as a gift. "When I saw that it was like 'bingo,' I decided to build one just like it that I could drive."

Over the next year, Doane labored nearly 1,000 hours to build a 16-ft. long, 10-ft. tall and 2-ton life size wrecker replica. The chassis is a 1984 Chevy short box pickup he bought from a private party for \$700. He stripped the body and kept the motor and transmission. Then he carefully calculated every piece of the original toy and built life-size enlargements. Every detail, down to the headlights, bumper, cab details and hand-operated winch are in exact proportion to the toy wrecker. Even the steering wheel, placed flat and next to the driver's seat rather than at an angle in front of the driver, matches the toy truck details.

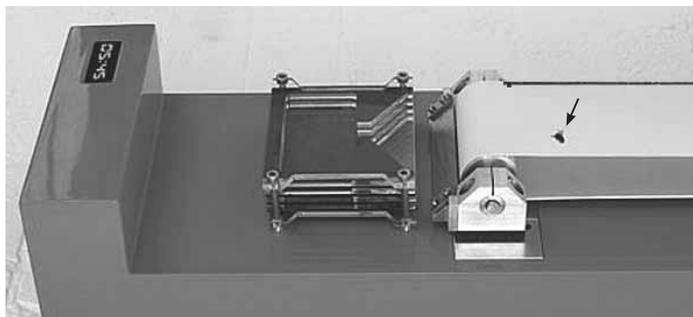
The framework for the platform and sides is made of 1 by 2-in. and 2 by 2-in. tubing bolted onto the original truck chassis. Formed

sheet metal sides and front attach to the frame. Diamond plate steel is used on the floor and a sturdy 18-in. tall metal fabricated bumper reinforces the back and front.

During the summer of 2013 Doane's classy wrecker has kept him busy. He drove it to the Wisconsin Towing Association's Annual Convention and he drove in a parade in Mound, Minnesota, where Tonka trucks were originally manufactured.

Doane says people don't just look at his truck when he drives by—they stop what they're doing. "The truck weighs about 2 tons, so it's big enough to actually tow something if I wanted to," says Doane. That might be a little difficult, since it's only set up with a hand-crank winch, not a fancy electric or hydraulic version like real wreckers. The hand crank was essential, says Doane, because it's a replica of the original toy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Brad Doane, Irvington Garage, N4351 410th St., Menomonie, Wis. 54751 (ph 715 235-7439).



Flypaper mounts over 2 rollers with a scraper at one end. As the rollers slowly turn, any flies that land on the paper are scraped off and fall into a small microbial fuel cell. Arrow points to fly ready to be scraped off.

Clock Powered By Dead Flies

You've never seen anything like this Flypaper Clock made by James Auger and Jimmy Loizeau.

Flypaper mounts over two rollers with a scraper at one end. As the rollers slowly turn, any flies that land on the paper are scraped off and fall into a small microbial fuel cell.

The electricity generated by the flies is used to power both a motor turning the rollers and a small LCD clock. Can dead livestock powering generators be far behind?

Another project was a Lampshade Robot that attracts moths and flies. Once they enter, they can't get out, and eventually fall into a fuel cell. The electricity powers the LEDs in the shade.

The two designed an even larger Mouse

Trap Coffee Table Robot. A hole in one of the table legs makes it easy for mice to climb onto the table where crumbs attract them to a mechanical trap door. A motion sensor triggered by the mouse opens the door so the mouse falls down into a fuel cell beneath the table. This generates the energy to power the sensor and an LED graphic display on front of the tabletop.

Each system requires an initial outside energy source to start. However, once switched on, they're designed to operate as long as they have biomass in the fuel cells to generate electricity.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, James Auger/ Jimmy Loizeau (info@auger-loizeau.com; www.auger-loizeau.com).

Home-Built Tower Provides A Great View

"Everyone who sees it wants to climb up for the view," says Errol Borsky, Kamloops, B.C., about the 45-ft. tall concrete tower that he constructed "for fun" on his property.

The tower stands alongside a gravel road about 1/4 mile from his house and has a cage at the top with enough room to fit 2 people comfortably. It measures 4 ft. sq. by 5 ft. tall, with a castellated top edge added "just for fun". A ladder built from 1-in. sq. tubing bolts to the top 24 ft. of the tower.

"I originally built it because I wanted some kind of camera tower for security after vandals raided my property. I had some rock sculptures built for me but they were smashed to the ground, and when I built 2 more the same thing happened again. I added the cage on top as an after thought. I figured that with all the time it took to build I may as well put something up there to stand on," says Borsky.

"It makes quite a conversation piece. I left the bottom 14 ft. bare for liability reasons so no one can climb to the top without me knowing about it. When someone wants to climb it I place a small aluminum ladder against the pole.

"The project took a lot longer than I thought it would because no one I knew had ever put up a 3,000-lb. concrete pole. I worked on it on and off for about one month, a lot of the time scratching my head on how to go about it. A lot of people told me I must have hired someone to set it up and can't believe that I did the work myself."

He started out by building the cage and ladder and then securing them to the pole. He used 1-in. sq. tubing to frame up the sides of the cage and used plywood and old sheet metal roofing for the sides, leaving a hole for the ladder. He screwed the plywood to the tubing and then bolted on sheet metal around the walls. Metal braces on the cage and ladder were welded to brackets that bolt onto the pole, and metal braces extend from the cage to the pole and ladder.

"The ladder bolts onto the pole at 5 different places, with 5/8-in. dia. redi rod bolts going all the way through pre-cast holes to the other side," says Borsky. "I built the cage and ladder so that I could unbolt them and drag the pole to the installation site. If I had welded everything solid it would have been too unwieldy to drag across the ground. Once I dragged the pole out to the work site, I reassembled everything."

He says the trickiest part of the project was putting the pole up. "I used my Cat 12 road grader as my pulling machine. I welded a bracket on top of the ROPS on the grader and chained a 30-ft. long wooden pole down across it. I then had two 7/16-in. dia., 60-ft. long choker cables made up by a logging supply company and attached both chokers to the ends of the wooden pole, and also to the top end of the concrete pole. I attached another choker line from the concrete pole to my dump truck as a safety measure, so in case the pole over-centered it wouldn't come down on top of me.

"I used my excavator to dig a 7-ft. hole and a trench leading into it. Then I used a tractor equipped with a grapple fork to lift the top end of the pole and move it sideways into the hole. The pole went up as slick as a whistle. I had my wife hold a nut on the end of some old baler twine for a plumb bob. She gave me directions as I



Errol Borsky's 45-ft. tall concrete tower has a cage at the top with enough room to fit 2 people comfortably. A ladder bolts to the top 24 ft. of the tower.



He used an excavator to dig a 7-ft. deep hole, then used a tractor equipped with a grapple fork to lift the pole into the hole.



He chained a 30-ft. wooden pole down across the top of a road grader, then attached choker cables to both ends of the pole and pulled the tower up.

used the excavator to 'plumb' the pole vertical. Once the pole was all the way up I used a front-end loader to backfill the hole.

"The toughest part for me was climbing to the top because I have a fear of heights. It took me a long time to get up there, that's for sure. I'd think a concrete pole would be solid, but they move around quite a bit when you're up there."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Errol Borsky, 1005 Barnhartvale Rd., Kamloops, B.C., Canada V2C 6Y1 (ph 250 573-2164; eborisky@gmail.com).