



Amphibious pickup bends in the middle to steer.

IT RUNS ON WATER, TOO

He Built "World's First" Articulated Pickup

What started as a school project for a 24-year-old Ohio inventor has grown into a one-of-a-kind experiment in truck building.

The "Articulator" may be the first pickup fitted with articulated (bends in the middle) steering. It's also unique in that it floats on water and is fitted with a 22-in. boat propeller that moves it along like a boat for total amphibious travel.

Sidney Curtis, Walbridge, Ohio, began building the truck as a college project. Other students laughed at the idea of converting the 1978 Chevrolet pickup over to articulated middle-pivoting steering but he made it work. The rest of the \$10,000 he's invested in the machine came later.

To convert to articulated steering, Curtis cut the chassis between the pickup box and cab. He then built a new frame which lengthened the original length of the pickup about 22 in. Two 2-way hydraulic cylinders, controlled by valves activated by the steering wheel, control the steering.

"It's patterned after an end loader. I made a lot of trips to look at articulating loaders to see how they're built," says Curtis. The front wheels on the 4-WD pickup are locked in place so articulation provides the

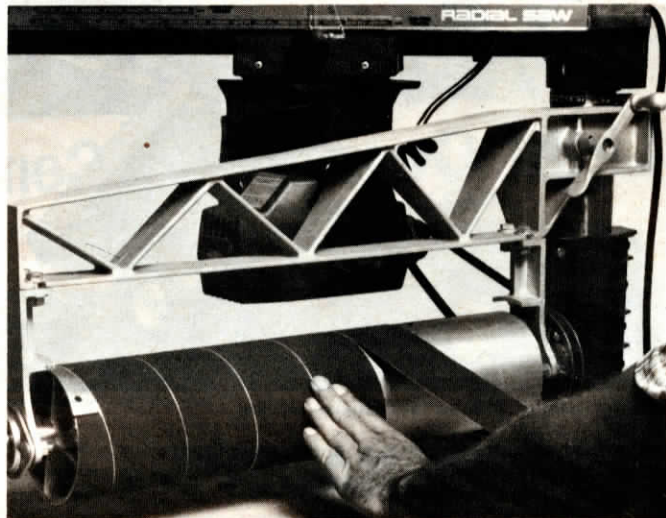
only way to steer. He says it works fine under most conditions but is a bit tight on side streets because of the shorter 26° turning radius.

To turn the pickup into an amphibious vehicle, Curtis modified it to accept big 66-in. tall, 43-in. wide Terra tires. The tires hold so much air they alone are enough to float the big pickup out of the water. He installed a pto shaft off the engine to run a 22-in. dia. boat prop and installed a steering wheel-controlled rudder for control in the water.

"The tires can be used to propel it but because they're more than half buried in the water, they tend to churn up too much water. The prop moves it along slightly faster than you can swim," says Curtis who plans to add a larger, 3-ft. prop next year for more water speed.

The pickup has so much flotation he's carried up to 16 passengers on water. He needs lots of help because the big tires, which can't be driven down the road, require at least 6 men to put on and take off.

In order to operate in the water, Curtis had to equip the pickup with everything required for a boat, including approved marine lighting and gas tanks. He says he can run it in



One of the unique features of drum sander, which quickly attaches to radial saw, is that it uses long narrow strips of sandpaper rather than more expensive drum-length paper.

ADD-ON UNIT COSTS A FRACTION OF THE COST OF COMMERCIAL MACHINES

Drum Sander Mounts On Radial Arm Saw

"I designed it for myself but every wood shop should have one," says Gary Green, Lakeville, Minn., inventor-manufacturer of a new drum sander that attaches to any radial arm saw.

Green says commercial drum sanders, which sell for \$5,000 to \$15,000, can't handle wood as wide as his add-on unit. His sander is 22 in. wide but can handle wood up to twice that width by running wood through a second time. He sells his add-on sander, which requires no modification of the saw, for \$179.

The sander works great for doweled-together table tops and cabinetry but can also be used for any

sanding job. Because of the precision of the mounting arm on the drum sander, you can even use it as a planer on some jobs because it can be used to evenly work wood across its entire width.

To install you simply bolt the drum support arm to the radial saw mast. The drum is belt-driven by a pulley that mounts in place of the radial saw blade. A hand-tightened crank raises and lowers the drum, which is made from lightweight aluminum.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Green, Performax Specialty Products Co., 17065 Judicial Rd., Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 612 435-6780).

waves up to 3 ft. high before water threatens the engine compartment.

"When I first took it in the water, people couldn't figure it out. They figured I'd driven in accidentally," notes Curtis, who'd like to find spon-

sors for the truck to take it to water carnivals and other such festivals.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sidney Curtis, 108 W. Union, Walbridge, Ohio 48465 (ph 419 666-2578).

BETTER THAN A LADDER

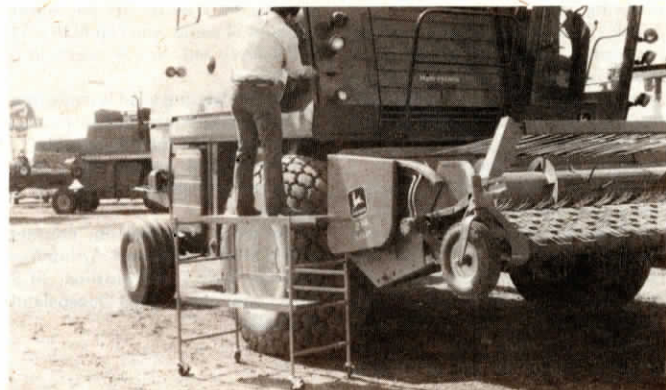
High-Reach Platform Helps Service Combines

If you've ever worked with a wrench standing atop a step ladder, you'll appreciate this new high-reach service platform that makes repairs easier on combines, tractors and other big equipment.

The Genie "Quik-Stand" adjusts in height from 12 in. to 4 ft. for working heights up to 11 ft. Adjusts quickly up and down with two pull pins.

Rolls smoothly on 4 in. dia. casters with locking brakes and folds up instantly to a 6-in. width for easy storage.

Sells for \$149. For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Acme Electric, 1705 13th Ave. No., Grand Forks, N. Dak. 58201 (ph 800 358-3096; in N. Dak., call 800 732-4287).



Platform is easily raised and lowered and folds up quickly for out-of-the-way storage.