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## BEAUTIFUL CHESTS MADE FROM GRAIN-FINISHED WOOD

# He "Sands" Old Wood With Flowing Grain

After spending 20 years as the manager of a big grain terminal, Arvid Lyons, Clarkston, Wash., knew what flowing grain could do to wood. So when he started building furniture as a hobby it's no wonder he decided to use wheat as his sander.

Tons of flowing grain creates a weather-worn look on lumber which Lyons then uses to make chests that are 40 in. long, 19 in. high, and 16 in. wide.

"People like the smooth feel the grain produces," says Lyons, who makes 3 to 4 chests per year. He has exhibited some of them in galleries throughout the Pacific Northwest.

He positions large pieces of wood at a 45 degree angle under unloading chutes on rail cars. He often uses wood salvaged from old barns for his projects.

"It takes about 10 rail cars or 30,000 bu. of wheat to sand a 4-ft. long board. I use 4 boards per chest so it takes about \$300,000 of 'sandpaper' to finish each job," says Lyons.

"Most of the wood I use is from barns 50 to 80 years old. The boards are 12 to 15 in. wide and are from old growth trees so it's a different type of wood than you see on modern chests. We get only about 15 inches of rain per year in this area so the boards are still pretty sound. The abrasive action of the flowing grain removes the rotten or softer wood faster than the harder wood, producing silky smooth boards with a 'wavy' texture."

Joints are hand cut with chisels and saws. Boards are run through planers on one side so that the inside of the chest is clothing friendly with no splinters.

To build the chests Lyons uses an Oriental-style woodworking method that makes use of Japanese tools. He learned it from his father. There are no nails. Instead, he uses "dovetail joints" that are glued together. "I make the joints during the winter and assemble the chests, then let them sit for about two months so they can 'relax' into place," says Lyons. "The following spring I take the chest apart and put glue on the joints, then put it back together. It's easier for glue to do its job if the board isn't fighting against it."

"The saw I use has a narrower blade and



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finer teeth than a conventional saw. It also has a different type of cutting action - I pull it instead of pushing it."

Lyons sells the chests for \$700 to \$1,000. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arvid Lyons, Asotin Creek Furniture, 2333 5th Ave., Clarkston, Wash. 99403 (ph 509 758-3408).

9,500-MILE TRIP TOOK 126 DAYS

# They Drove To Alaska On 1950 Deere "A"

It took 126 days altogether, but a Dalton, Ohio, couple last fall returned safely to their farm after driving their 1950 Deere "A" 9,500 miles to Alaska and back.

Glen and Betty Martin made the arduous trip to raise money for worldwide missions.

To prepare the tractor for the trip, they went over the engine, installed a home-built cab, and gave the tractor a fresh coat of paint.

The Martins started their trip last June 5, traveling through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and the Dakotas, and then headed up through the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon Territories. Traveling at 13 mph and averaging about 100 miles per day, the couple arrived in Alaska on Aug. 1.

After spending six days at King Jesus North Pole (KJNP) AM-FM and TV, the Martins moved on to the state fairgrounds in Fairbanks where they stayed for three days.

On Aug. 10, the couple started the 4,502-mile trip home. They arrived at on Oct. 8, just in time for the birth of a new grandchild.

The "A" pulled a camping trailer, which the Martins used as living quarters. Of their 126 days on the road, only 30 were spent visiting relatives, new friends and doing tractor maintenance, which included replacing the "A"'s front tires at 1,900 miles.

As the trip progressed, donations to the Miles for Missions trickled in slowly. Betty



Glen and Betty Martin drove this 1950 Deere "A" 9,500 miles to Alaska and back to raise money for worldwide missions. Note home-built cab.

says they're still praying for more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glen and Betty Martin, 18029 Jericho Road, Dalton, Ohio 44618 (ph 330 833-2451). Or visit the Miles for Missions Website at: [www.milesformissions.org](http://www.milesformissions.org).

## "Southern Canada Cactus"

With two children still at home, Leslie Bonnett and his family aren't able to "snow bird" to Arizona for the winter, as many of their older neighbors do. So the Gravelbourg, Sask., farmer decided to bring a little piece of Arizona to his farm.

"My folks winter in Mesa, Ariz., and I've been there often enough to know what a cactus looks like," Bonnett says. "So I built my own 'Southern Canada Cactus' for our farm."

He used scrap 2 in. sq. tubing to build the seven-armed cactus that stands 12 ft. tall and is painted green. It's located in the yard next to the house.

Out-of-pocket expense was practically nothing since he used scrap.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,



Leslie Bonnett, Box 504, Gravelbourg, Sask. Canada S0H 1X0 (ph 306 648-2815).

Some of the best new ideas we hear about are "made it myself" inventions born in farmers' workshops. If you've got a new idea or favorite gadget you're proud of, we'd like to hear about it. Send along a photo or two, and a description of what it is and how it works. Is it being manufactured commercially? If so where can interested farmers buy it? Are you looking for manufacturers, dealers or distributors? Send to FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 or call toll-free 800 834-9665. Or you can submit an idea at our web site at [www.farmshow.com](http://www.farmshow.com).

Mark Newhall, Editor

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"Made It Myself"