

Want a reminder of a favorite hunting trophy or perhaps even a treasured show animal or pet? Why not preserve the animal skull for display, says taxidermist Dennis Rinehart.



## Do-It-Yourself Display Skull

Animal skulls can be turned into attractive displays that act as reminders of a favorite hunting trophy or perhaps even a treasured show animal or pet.

Taxidermist Dennis Rinehart of Boulder Junction, Wis., says nearly everything you need to prepare a skull for display is probably already in your kitchen or laundry room. You'll need a sharp knife, a scrub brush, a boiling pot large enough to hold the skull, liquid dish washing detergent, Tide laundry detergent, 20 Mule Team Borax, chlorine bleach and some white Elmer's glue.

Here are the six steps to follow:

- 1) Trim as much tissue from the bone as possible.
- 2) Place the skull in the pot and submerge it in clean water, measuring the water as you add it. For each gallon of water, add 2 tablespoons of dishwashing detergent and 1/2-cup Borax. Bring the water to a boil and simmer for two hours. (Larger skulls may need more time, smaller ones less.)
- 3) Carefully remove the skull from the pot and cool it. Loosen and remove any remaining meat and fat with a sharp knife. Be sure to clean out the brain cavity.
- 4) Repeat steps 2 and 3 as many times as necessary to get the bone completely clean. (Rinehart says it's important to use clean water each time you boil the skull to avoid discoloration of the bone.) Once the skull is completely clean, proceed to step 5.
- 5) Clean the boiling pot and submerge the skull in clean water again. This time, add 1/4 cup Tide and 1/4 cup bleach for each gallon of water. Bring to a boil and simmer for about 1 1/2 hours; a little less for smaller skulls.
- 6) Give the skull and jawbone one last



After boiling the skull, loosen and remove any remaining meat with a knife.



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cleaning with a scrub brush and set it aside to dry.

Rinehart suggests boiling the skull outdoors to keep the odors out of the house. He notes that teeth may come loose or fall out during boiling. These can be replaced easily while the skull is still moist by putting a small amount of Elmer's glue into the cavity and pushing the tooth back into place," he says. The skull may change shape during drying, making it difficult to replace the teeth later."

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"Mini stripper" consists of a custom-built, 8-ft. Shelbourne Reynolds stripper header mounted on an articulated, 4-WD Case ditcher.

## Mini Stripper Combine Built In Kansas Shop

Jared Barker runs a self-supporting religious mission in the Phillipines that raises its own crops for income. The mission is in an area where rice can be grown continuously throughout the year.

After harvesting crops by hand for years, Barker finally decided the mission farm needed a way to harvest rice by machine. And he knew just who to call – Red Decker, who runs a machine shop thousands of miles away in Galva, Kan.

Decker had been supporting Barker's mission work for over 40 years so he was familiar with the operation. When Barker told him what he wanted, Decker set to work building a mini harvester that would do a quality job.

Decker found nearly everything he needed in his junk pile, except for the stripper header. Barker had seen a stripper operating on a

Kansas farm and thought it would be a good solution to his situation. The men ordered a custom-built 8-ft. header from the manufacturer, Shelbourne Reynolds in England. The stripper harvests grain "dirty" by pulling the heads off the stalks, and then you run it through a thresher-cleaner back at the farm.

The base of the combine is an articulated, 4-WD Case ditcher while the grain tank came off an old Baldwin combine.

The 80-year-old Decker doesn't know how many hours he put into the project but it was shipped to the Phillipines after a few months of work. Now a job that used to take weeks can be accomplished in hours, freeing workers up for other tasks.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jared Barker, Box 7982, Karonadal, South Cotabato 9506 Phillipines.

## How This Iowa Farmer's Oliver 1655 Ended Up In England

When Vernon Stemler bought a brand new 70 hp Oliver 1655 back in 1975, the Waterloo, Illinois, farmer never dreamed the tractor might eventually end up across the ocean in England.

Chris George of Winford, England, grew up on a small farm and has always been fascinated by Oliver tractors, especially the 1655 which he calls "the last of a famous name".

"I had seen pictures of 1655's in magazines but there were none in our country," he says. "The Oliver brand is fondly remembered here because of the model 80's and 90's that were brought over during the second World War to help increase domestic food production."

Back in Illinois, Vernon Stemler was cutting back on farming and the Oliver was

really more tractor than he needed. His wife, Brenda, mentioned to a friend that they were selling it. Not long after, that friend was working at the Hart-Parr Oliver collector's exhibit at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Kentucky, when she was approached by Chris George from England. He asked if she knew where he could buy an Oliver tractor.

George, a three-time British national champion tractor puller, was in Louisville with his wife, Kate, for the tractor pulls. After the show, the Georges went to visit the Stemlers in Illinois where they negotiated a deal to take the old 1655 home to England.

George says buying a tractor in the U.S. is easy. Getting it home is the challenge. "I had two choices in shipping," he says. "I could either pay the roughly \$3,000 it cost to load

it up and ship it direct, or I could wait for someone to have an open space in a shipping container and share the cost of shipping with them. I chose the latter. I contacted a number of people all over the country and finally got a call from a friend not far from where I live who's been buying used pickup trucks and parts in the U.S. and shipping them to the U.K. He said he had room in a container coming over from the U.S. and, as the price was about half the cost of the other way, I took him up on it."

George put the 1655 on display at his business, where he makes parts for tractor pullers and also does machinery repair and rebuilding. He says when people climb aboard it he gives them a history lesson. He says people tell him it "looks American."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Vernon



A British tractor puller bought this tractor from an Illinois farm family and shipped it across the Atlantic.

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