

One-Of-A-Kind Rigs Make Show-Going More Fun

At nearly every antique tractor show our editors attend there's someone with a home-built rig for getting around. Here's a sampling of machines we spotted at shows last summer.

This antique garden cultivator is powered by a geared-down 5 hp Kawasaki engine that propels it at walking speed.



Garden Cultivator Pulls Four Riders

Cast iron seats mount on a 4-wheel frame that pulls behind an antique garden cultivator.

"It makes for quite a sight. Kids get excited when they see it and ask if they can ride with me," says Stein, of Lindstrom, Minn.

"The cultivator's 5 hp Kawasaki engine has plenty of power and is geared down so I can go at a walking speed."

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Bus Seat Behind Garden Tractor

Little guys and gals can walk only so far at a show before they tucker out. When 7-year-old Mitchell Jacque gets tired, he just hops onto the 2-wheeled bus seat trailer his dad Mike built to pull behind a 1967 Deere 112 garden tractor.

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Mike Jacque's son rides on a bus seat trailer pulled behind his 1967 Deere 112 garden tractor.

Ed Rupp built a cart to pull behind an old Ariens snowblower. It's fitted with a bus seat with a swivel-type boat chair behind it.



Snowblower Cart With Bus Seat

We caught up with Ed Rupp last summer at an antique tractor show near LeSueur, Minn., where he and a friend were driving along in a field on a self-propelled cart that Ed built to pull behind an old Ariens snowblower. The cart rides on a pair of motorcycle wheels and is equipped with a school bus seat with another swivel-type boat seat behind it.

"I take it to a lot of shows where it saves a lot of walking. It's a cheap way to get around - I spent only about \$75 to build it," says Rupp.

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David Irely built his "Auto Buggy" working from photos of 1896-1902 horseless carriages.



Replica "Horseless" Carriage

David Irely of Edina, Minn., built a 1900 replica "horseless carriage" that's powered by an 8 hp gas engine with an added exterior flywheel. The body is made from wood and is his own design. The seat is upholstered in fake leather. An antique 1900's bicycle light mounts on front.

"I've always had an interest in very early automobiles, so a few years ago I decided to build this replica," says David. "I went to our public library and copied photos of 1896-

1902 horseless carriages."

He used schedule 80 steel pipe to make the front axle. The king pins are high grade 3/8-in. bolts. Band brakes are on the rear only. The tiller steering is his own design. "It will cruise up to 25 mph and is a lot of fun to drive and ride in. We named it the Auto Buggy," notes Irely.

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Quadricycle replica is powered by an IH 1-cyl. engine.

Replica of a 1896 Ford Quadricycle

Gary Lund, Redwood Falls, Minn., built his own replica of a 1896 Ford Quadricycle. It's powered by an International Harvester single cylinder, 1 1/2 by 2 1/2 hp gas engine built in 1940. The engine belt-drives a countershaft which belt-drives a 3-speed Peerless transmission off a riding mower. The radiator is from a snowmobile and is located off to one side. The wheels are off a Suzuki motorcycle. The front axle is from a Model T Ford with 6 in. cut out of the middle.

"Top speed is about 20 mph on a tar road. The car has no electrical system so every-

thing on it operates mechanically. Whenever I take the car to shows I always enjoy visiting with all the people who come up to me and ask questions about it. It's also interesting to stand back and listen while others talk about the car, when they don't know that I'm the one who built it," says Lund.

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There's a toolbox under the bus seat on this 1965 Cub Cadet garden tractor.

Cub Cadet With Bus Seat

Victor Olson, Atwater, Minn., replaced the original seat on his 1965 Cub Cadet garden tractor with one off a school bus. The seat can be tipped up, revealing a toolbox underneath.

"My wife and I ride it around a lot at shows. It works a lot better than a golf cart because it has more traction," says Olson.

He wanted to use the tractor at night, so he mounted a pair of big lights on front as well as a tail light on back. To provide power for the lights, he mounted a big 12-volt battery on one side of the tractor and a 70-amp alternator on the other side. The alternator is belt-

driven by the same pulley that originally drove the mower. The tractor's original battery and starter-generator are still in place, but they're used only to start the tractor.

"It really works slick. Sometimes at shows I use it to drive alongside big antique tractors as they pull moldboard plows through the field. I can run up and down the field and follow right along with them even on wet ground, whereas a golf cart would have tough going."

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Bus Seat Behind Garden Cultivator

Marlin and Nancy Twingstrom of Isanti, Minn., ride in style whenever they go to shows or flea markets on the 2-wheeled trailer they built. It's equipped with a school bus seat and hooks up to a Simplicity walk-behind mower. An umbrella above the seat provides shade, and there are interchangeable cup or can holders on both sides of the seat. A squeeze-type bicycle horn mounts on the handlebar.

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Marvin Twingstrom mounted an umbrella and a bicycle horn on his 2-wheeled "get-around" machine.