



Rototiller with a Honda engine and a Volkswagen starter pulls Don Bragdon around his farm.

Rototiller Pulls Wheelchair

Being in a wheelchair doesn't stop Don Bragdon, London, Ark., from getting around his farm thanks to a rototiller he converted to tow him anywhere he wants to go.

"My friends and family kept after me to get an electric wheelchair. I didn't want one because they're heavy, clumsy and expensive. Besides, I'm too stubborn," he admits.

He found the perfect solution at a neighbor's farm in an old Sears rototiller with a seized engine.

Using its frame, gears and clutch, he replaced the dead engine with a 5 1/2 hp Honda vertical fitted with an extra long shaft engine with 2-in. spacers between the engine and tiller base. This let him put a 6-in. V-belt pulley between the engine base and clutch.

Then, he put a Volkswagen starter on the side of the engine and replaced the starter drive gear with a 2-in. V-belt pulley.

The starter mounts on a spring-loaded swivel. He pushes on a lever which expands back to this wheelchair to tighten the belt when starting the engine, and then it loosens the belt again when the engine's running so the starter's not turning.

For starting the engine, he has a button wired to a safety switch. The starter drive belt has to be tight before the starter engages.

The rotor's worm gear type transmission

means no brakes. "When going down the hill, it doesn't get away from you. You don't need a brake because when you stop the engine, it stops right there," he says.

He replaced the tines with two 13-in. rims and tires. Two 6-in. swivel castors fit the back of the tiller.

A 1-in. sq. tube that's 14 in. long mounts on the back of the castors that hook to the wheelchair's floor plate with a pin welded to the bottom. This pin drops into a 1/2-in. dia. hole previously drilled into the wheelchair floor plate which pulls the chair around. A 1/4-in. dia. by 20-in. long round lever welded vertically to the top of the tube allows him to hook and unhook the tube easily.

Later, he added a draw bar on the back of the wheelchair to pull a small utility trailer when spraying for weeds or insects. He also pulls a lawn sweeper with it.

A 12-volt battery powers lights so he can use it at night.

"It takes me all over the place. If I didn't have that thing, I don't know what I'd do," he says.

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"Western Rocker" has wheels from an IHC press drill and seat from a horse-drawn mower.

Rocking Chair Made From "Junk" Parts

Other people have made chairs out of old tractor seats but we've never seen a rocking chair as nice as this one made entirely from junk parts by Loron Skretteberg, Carson, N. Dak.

"It's made from junk pile parts yet it looks very good in every setting, whether it's a sun room, living room or patio," he says, adding that he calls the chairs "western rockers."

The seat is from a horse-drawn mower, the wheels are from an IHC press drill, and the rockers are leaf springs from an antique pickup. The backrest was made from two antique fence posts with an old sickle bar cross-

bar that supports the wooden backrest. The harness hames on the side came from an old harness his dad used on the farm. He put the toolbox from an IHC grain binder on one side and two horseshoes on the other to hold newspapers and magazines.

"I have so many people that want them I could never find enough parts to build one for everyone. To keep the peace, I just make them for family," he says.

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Two ponds on Joe Leihgeber's land hold Largemouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Flathead Minnows, Golden Shiners, Redear Sunfish and a few Japanese Koi.

He Dug His Own Fish Ponds

When Joe Leihgeber of Williamsburg, Ohio, wants to go fishing, he doesn't have far to go. Two ponds on his land are stocked with Largemouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Flathead Minnows, Golden Shiners, Redear Sunfish and a few Japanese Koi.

To build his first 3/4-acre pond, Leihgeber rented a bulldozer and dug it out himself. He hired a friend to dig the second one-acre one. Because the dirt is clay and holds water well, he didn't line them with plastic. This year he plans to connect the two.

One area in the ponds is 2 to 3 ft. deep and covered with pea gravel so bass can spawn.

Another area is deeper and has a number of large pipes and barrels laying on their sides with gravel inside where channel catfish go to spawn.

Another section is 10 ft. deep and the fish live there during the winter thanks to an aeration system Leihgeber created by laying rolled up coil of drip irrigation on bottom. Weights hold the hose down. Then he hooked

the hose to his air compressor. "When the compressor is pumping air through this drip hose, tiny beads of air come out putting oxygen in the water," he says, adding that the aeration system runs all year.

Leihgeber also put rock ledges along the sides and stacks of concrete blocks so little fish can hide from big fish. "This gives the little fish a chance to multiply and it keeps the bass busy trying to catch them," he says.

Every evening, he stands on one of two docks he built and feeds the fish in a 12-ft. dia. circle made by a piece of floating plastic pipe. It keeps the wind from blowing the food away.

Neither pond has dried up because when the water gets low, he pumps water from two nearby wells. "I only pump clean water that filters through hay fields, which is the best and works well," he says.

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Leihgeber put barrels, stacks of concrete blocks, and other obstacles in ponds to protect little fish from big fish and to provide breeding grounds.