



Kids love playing on Tom Strasburger's teeter totter because it also acts like a merry-go-round.

Teeter Totter Goes Up, Down, And Around

"I just built it from scrap I had around but my grand kids really like it," says Tom Strasburger, Gordon, Neb., about the teeter totter he built with a unique swivel that allows it to not only go up and down but also to rotate 360 degrees like a merry-go-round.

The teeter totter pivots on a 36-in. dia. spoked wheel off an old pull-type corn picker. A 12-in. length of the axle sticks up out of

the wheel's hub. Strasburger placed a horizontal pipe over the axle, then welded a pair of vertical steel plates onto opposite sides of the pipe. A heavy bolt goes through the plates and the 11-ft. long teeter totter pipe pivots on top of that. There's an old metal implement seat at each end of the pipe. Homemade handlebars at each end of the pipe are welded to a sleeve that slips over the pipe. Both the



A 12-in. length of the axle sticks up out of the 36-in. dia. wheel's hub (left). Homemade handlebars at the end of the pipe are welded to an adjustable sleeve (right).

seat and the handlebars can be adjusted in or out on the pipe by changing the position of a bolt, to accommodate kids of different sizes.

"The merry go round effect really adds to the excitement," says Strasburger. "I built it for my daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Ken Griffith of Broken Bow, Neb. The

swivel point can also be adjusted up or down by changing the position of the bolt that goes through the two vertical plates."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Tom Strasburger, 6010 State Hwy. 27, Gordon, Neb. 69343 (ph 308 282-0236).

Robotic Moose Acts Real, Even After It's Shot

A Quebec man builds and sells life-like robotic moose decoys designed to help catch poachers who take the animals illegally.

Alain Larochelle in Victoriaville, Quebec, makes a full-sized, robot moose that's very convincing because it "acts real" even after it's been shot.

Larochelle makes the decoys in his basement and sells them only to government authorities in the fight against poaching.

"Originally, I started out making only 2-D and 3-D bow and arrow targets (animal forms), but then a Fish and Wildlife officer came and asked me to make decoys," Larochelle says. "I've been making decoys for 15 years now, and it's a fulltime business. I've made about 10 of this latest robotic moose design, and have sold them into numerous areas including Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Maine. I've also sold wild turkey decoys into Ohio."

Larochelle points out that he has also sold 20 "regular" moose decoys that do not fall down when shot. He has also designed and

sold a unique floating moose.

Larochelle's life-like, falling moose decoy is made from a synthetic, hard foam. The finished product weighs less than 60 lbs. and can be assembled in about five minutes. It comes apart into three sections, with the heaviest one weighing about 30 lbs.

Inside the hollow frame, Larochelle strategically positions various remote-controlled electronic motors, so the decoy is actually battery-operated. It is controlled by an enforcement officer hiding in the area, and it can be made to move like a real moose.

When it's shot, the officer simultaneously directs it to fall down. When the hunter begins to approach, the officer uses his remote control to raise the moose's head as though it's looking at the approaching enemy.

According to Nova Scotia's Natural Resources Division director John Mombourquette, eight hunters have already been charged with poaching since his staff started employing moose decoys in "sting" operations.

"The decoy is so realistic that all of the arrests have so far have happened during daylight hours," he says. "The hunters thought they had shot a real moose. It wasn't until afterwards, when an officer was taking their statement, that they found out they had shot a decoy."

The decoy's internal electronics are carefully positioned to decrease the possibility that someone will put a bullet through any of them.

Mombourquette's department began using the moose decoys this year in ongoing investigations of illegal hunting on the mainland.

"We don't set this thing up just on a fishing expedition to see if someone might shoot it. Every one of these operations are long, drawn-out investigations targeting specific individuals in known problem areas," he says. "One officer operates the remote controls, another runs a video camera, and there's also an arrest team to do the take down."

The robotic moose are affordably priced



"Moose" has remote-controlled electronic motors inside. A hidden law enforcement officer directs it to fall when shot.

at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alain Larochelle, Taxidermie & Pro-cible Enr (in English - Taxidermy and Professional Target), 91 Maurice, Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada G6P 7N1 (ph 819 758-3811; tlarochelle@csbf.qc.ca).

1/4-Scale Oliver Tractor Pulls 100-Year-Old Cultivator

"Everything on it is made from stuff I had laying around, but it really turned out cute," says Marlin Swanson, Amery, Wis., who turned a Jacobson 12 hp garden tractor into a 1/4-scale Oliver 1655 tractor.

At shows he uses the tractor to pull a 6-ft. wide, 100-year-old horse-drawn cultivator that rides on dual wheels. It's a conversation piece in itself.

"People think I did a lot of fancy work and tell me I must have spent an awful lot of time making the tractor and cultivator, but I didn't," says Swanson, a retired cabinet maker."

The Jacobson tractor - originally orange and white - was painted Oliver green with white wheel rims. The original seat was replaced by a 36-in. wide one that's big enough for two. The tractor has dual lugged tires on back and lugged single tires on front, with a big floorboard on each side.

"My wife loves riding with me at tractor shows. We get a lot of attention," says Swanson.

In the 1960's, the Jacobson company made garden tractors for Ford, Minneapolis Moline, Cockshutt, and Oliver. "However, the company never made many Oliver's so they've become quite valuable," he says. "For example, an Oliver garden tractor in unrestored condition recently sold for \$4,700. I already

had the Jacobson, which I had bought new in 1966."

He removed the original grill and made his own maple wood grill, adding several coats of paint. The weights on front are just like the real weights and are made from pine and red oak.

He used the apron slats off a manure spreader to make the seat frame, which has 8-in. wings on each side. A professional upholsterer made the seat cushions black and white, just like on a real Oliver. The seat's base was made out of parts from an old Hoover washing machine.

He removed the 30 by 10-in. floorboard from a Cockshutt 30 tractor and cut it in half, then mounted one half on each side of the Jacobson. The floorboard is covered with diamond plate tread.

He made a chrome muffler on top that's just a dummy. It was made from a length of 1-in. dia. chrome pipe with 2-in. dia. thin wall tubing around it. "Sometimes people will gingerly touch the muffler, then ask how the tractor can run so cool without burning any paint off the hood," says Swanson. He made his own air cleaner using a short length of pipe with a PVC cap (off a milk pipeline) on top.

The tractor's tires were bought new at Farm and Fleet. The rear tires were designed for a small manure spreader; the front ones for a



Swanson painted the orange and white Jacobson tractor Oliver green with white wheel rims. It has dual lugged tires on back and lugged single tires on front with a floorboard on each side. He replaced the original seat with a 36-in. wide one that holds two people.

walk-behind rototiller. The front rims are off an old push cart.

The tractor has a pair of tail lights and two headlights inside the grill, which formerly served as the dome lights off a car. "The 1655

was the first Oliver tractor with headlights located inside the grille," notes Swanson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Marlin Swanson, 1221 95th Ave., Amery, Wis. 54001 (ph 715 268-8464).