



Pedal tractor implements created by Tom Snyder include a tandem disk and 6-row planter. Snyder also built a disk chisel and gravity wagon. All implements are made from sq. tubing and sheet metal.

Pedal Tractor Implements For Little Farmers

Kids love these farm implements made just for pedal tractors. They're created by Tom Snyder, a Storm Lake, Iowa farmer.

The implements include a grain cart, gravity wagon, flare wagon, tandem disk, disk chisel, field cultivator, 4-row planter, and 6-row planter. All are made from sq. tubing and sheet metal and are available in red, green, blue, yellow, or your color of choice.

"I try to make the toys as realistic as possible,

with attention to detail. For example, the gravity wagon is equipped with wheelbarrow flotation tires to look like the flotation tires used on a real gravity wagon," says Snyder. "I came up with the idea because my three sons, ages 8, 6, and 5, kept telling me they wanted me to build toys like the real equipment I use in the field. I started with a gravity wagon and have been designing one or two other implements every year. I oper-

ate a body shop and do some of the work there. Customers started noticing them and asked if I would build the toys for them.

"The biggest thing I get out of building these pedal tractor implements is seeing the kids' excitement. It lets farm kids use their imagination so they think they're farming a million acres."

To build the implements, Snyder starts with 1/64-scale toy models and blows them up to

get a pattern before doing the actual metal work. "I have a friend who uses his brake press to bend metal for me."

Prices range from \$125 for the tandem disk, disk chisel, and field cultivator up to \$250 for the 6-row planter. Add \$35 S&H per item.

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Custom-Built Pedal Tractor Implements

"Pedal tractor implements for the little farmer or collector. Miniature straw and hay bales for play or crafts. Custom made in Ridgeland, Wis."

That's what you'll find on Josh Bergmann's business card. FARM SHOW caught up with him at the recent LeSeuer County Pioneer Power Show near LeSeuer, Minn. The pedal tractor implements he had on display included a pull-type John Deere discbine, flatbed hay wagon with a wooden bed, automatic kick bale wagon, round bale hauler, 2-wheeled grain auger, manure spreader with a ground-driven beater, and slant bar feeder wagon. All the implements are made entirely from metal, except for the flatbed wagon and manure spreader which have some wood parts.

"I build these implements on a custom basis, according to the customer's wishes. They're built with close attention to detail," says Bergmann.

Prices range from \$100 to \$300 depending on complexity of the model. "Implements such as the hay wagon and manure spreader, which require a lot of woodworking, take longer to make and are therefore the most expensive," he says.

He also sells just the running gears for standard hay wagons - the tongue and frame minus the wheels. "It's my most popular item,"

he says. "Dad or grandpa can buy just the running gear and then have their son or grandson help them finish building the implement. They buy the wheels and bolt them onto the running gear, then make their own wooden bed and bolt it on, then varnish it and paint the running gear. There's no need to use a welder or metal fabricating equipment. The kids get to take ownership in it and come to feel like it's partly theirs."

He built his own mini baler out of sq. tubing, mounting it on a 4 by 8-ft. sheet of 1/8-in. thick steel. The baler is powered by a 1/2 hp electric motor that operates at 1,725 rpm's. However, the motor is geared down via belts and chains so that the plunger operates at only 75 rpm's.

The bales measure 7 in. long by 3 1/2 in. wide. They are tied with baler twine that's fed up through the bottom by "twine needles" that are connected to a foot-operated pedal. "People are amazed at how real the bales look. Some people use the bales as decorations, some use them to feed their rabbits or as bedding for pets," says Bergmann.

At shows he sells the bales for \$2 apiece. He also sells them wholesale.

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Josh Bergmann has custom-built a variety of pedal tractor implements entirely from metal, except for a flatbed wagon and manure spreader which have some wood parts.



Bergman built his own mini baler out of square tubing. It's powered by a 1/2 hp electric motor.

Mini Tractors That Really Work

After Roy Baker retired from farming, he started building miniature farm toys. They range from 1/64-scale to 1/4-in. scale, and include mini tractors that actually run.

In fact, he got so good at building them that Deere threatened to sue him. Baker, who is 77, began building and selling miniature working Deere tractors in the 1980's. He was a bit surprised when he received a cease and desist letter from Deere. The company threatened to sue Roy and 12 other toy makers nationwide who made and sold Deere tractors without a license.

But instead of suing, Roy was granted the first special license by the company allowing him to build and sell his tiny tractors.

Baker says his working 1937 Deere B tractor can pull up to 100 lbs. He started building it in 1991 and had it operating by 1996.

"If you want to sell something, make a Deere. It sells a lot better than other brands," he says.

As a farmer, Roy had none of the skills that now permit him to mold aluminum and make parts. He searched around until he found someone who could give him guid-

ance. A high school teacher provided some valuable help. He began working with pouring aluminum castings that he first carved out of wood.

Roy says the first aluminum he poured was heated by a coal-fired furnace, which says something for his "can do" attitude.

He has learned some very sophisticated skills along the way. One is to operate a pantograph. He has acquired a couple of these tools. A pantograph permits a skilled person to trace over an existing part to reproduce the same part in a much smaller size.

Before he got into building actual running models, Roy liked to carve out scale models of other tractors. He doesn't limit his carving and model building to tractors. He makes a variety of other items as well. One has to do with implement seats. There's a worldwide club interested in such things.

All of this activity was enough to get Roy elected to the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame which is located at Dyersburg, Iowa.

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Roy Baker's 1937 John Deere B tractor is an actual running model. In the background is a 1955 MTA that he carved out of wood.



Roy with a Cub Cadet under construction (left). He makes a variety of other items as well, including mini implement seats.