

Flag-Raising Sculpture At Base Of Flagpole

When Hartington, Neb., farmer Scott Kinkaid began remodeling his home, the project took an unexpected turn.

"The flag pole needed to be moved and I thought it would be nice to put something else with it," Kinkaid says.

After searching the internet for ideas, Kinkaid came across pictures of Iwo Jima. He began considering how to re-create that famous scene.

Measuring his own arms and legs gave him an idea of how long to make his "men's" body parts. Made with sq. tubing, the men he created are erecting a 20-ft. flag pole. The height of the sculpture is around 14 ft.

"When I made the sculpture, we had a

blacksmith close by so I was able to use his plasma cutter to cut the flag out," Kinkaid says. "He helped me design the flag with stars and wavy lines for stripes so it really looks like a flag."

Kinkaid used real military helmets, complete with chin straps, which he found on the internet, and powder-coated the entire sculpture to make it black.

"The helmets add reality," Kinkaid says. "Hopefully, it's a reminder of the sacrifices people have made for our country."

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Scott Kinkaid made a sculpture that recreates the famous Iwo Jima photo of men erecting a flag. He used sq. tubing to make the "men" who erect the flag pole.



Air-powered doorbell combines the sound of an antique car horn and a homemade train whistle.

Air-Powered Doorbell Made From Train Whistle, Car Horn

A few years ago Jean Peacock read a story in FARM SHOW about a vacuum-powered doorbell and decided to build one himself.

The handy Rocheport, Mo., man set about building his own modified version, combining an antique car horn and a home made train whistle to simultaneously herald the arrival of visitors.

He bought the old horn at a flea market and uses a portable, compact shop vacuum to power it. The vacuum sits in his basement, with a 1 1/2-in. dia. pvc pipe connected to the "blow end." The pvc pipe brings the air up from the basement, through a hole in the porch floor, and to the home-built whistle through a manifold made from a 2 by 2 by 3-in. block of wood with holes drilled in it.

The whistle consists of four pieces of 1/2-in. dia. copper pipe with notches in them, and plugs in the ends to restrict the air.

"It took a little bit of adjusting to get it to work right," Peacock explains. "The old car horn takes a lot more air than the train whistle does, so I had to saw a small slot in the pvc pipe and make a little metal gate (a sliding valve) to restrict the train whistle's air. Otherwise, the train whistle went real shrill because it got too much air."

Just outside the front door, there's a pull chain with a walnut wooden handle, so visitors can ring the doorbell just like an engineer would pull the whistle chain on a locomotive.

Peacock put a spring on the chain so it has some give when it hits the stop, preventing people from breaking the switch (which consists of a lever that pushes a micro-switch inside a weatherproof electrical box.) The box is mounted outdoors,



A whistle built for a friend consists of four pieces of 1/2-in. dia. copper pipe with notches in them, and plugs in the ends to restrict the air.

under the porch roof overhang.

The system runs on 110 volts.

"The car horn and the train whistle both blow, and although we can hear it in the house, it's not too loud," he explains. "It's the people outside ringing the bell who get the full benefit of its loudness. We've had delivery people scared out of their shoes with it. Anybody that comes and pulls it is really intrigued. Scaring people... that's part of the fun."

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Robert Hesse built this model of the old Townsend gas engine tractor to look and sound just like the real thing.

Gas-Powered Tractor Looks And Sounds Like Old Steam Tractor

When gas engine tractors started replacing steam engine tractors, Townsend Tractor Co. decided to help transition farmers by building tractors that still looked like they had steam engines. That fascinated mechanic Robert Hesse, so he decided to build his own model of the Townsend with scrap materials he had accumulated through the years.

"People not real familiar with them would swear it's a steam engine. There's just no wood fire smell," says Robert's son Kevin Hesse, of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Robert started with the "boiler," a 16-in. piece of natural gas pipe, and a 6 hp Economy engine, adding spare parts he had on hand. He hid a heater core from a large truck inside and a washing machine water pump in the pipe, with a steam dome on top used as a water reservoir. Engine exhaust is piped forward and creates airflow up the smokestack, which draws air past the heater core and cools the engine.

"All of the electrical wires, spark plug and other items that would reveal it is a gas tractor and not a steam engine have been hidden or disguised to look like something else. He did a better job of hiding stuff than Townsend," Kevin says. He's still amazed

how his father managed to hide so many of the mechanical parts in the "firebox" behind the "boiler." The 2 by 2-ft. box holds a Deere drive gear, Model A differential, a Ford Falcon clutch and transmission, and an air-cooled engine converted to an air compressor to blow the whistle. Fuel and air tanks are hidden in "water tanks" in front of the wheels. The battery and electric fuel pump and tools are hidden in the "wood boxes" on the back that also serve as seats.

Another interesting thing about the tractor is that Robert can show people the difference between a hit-and-miss engine and a throttle-governed engine, by turning water valves, which are actually electric switches that control a flyball governor and the original governor. To make smoke, Robert uses a small, pressurized tank of kerosene that is injected into the exhaust.

"It just amazes me the stuff he's accomplished and how he's figured this all out over the years," Kevin says.

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Boiler is a 16-in. piece of natural gas pipe, with power supplied by a 6 hp engine.