



Ben Rudolph has 60 years of experience making 1:12 scale wooden replicas, including this tractor and threshing machine.

Detailed Wooden Models Are A Labor Of Love

Ben Rudolph takes his handmade wooden models pretty seriously. He has 60 years of experience making 1:12 scale replicas of tractors, locomotives, threshing machines, and the like, but he still hasn't tired of it. In fact, since he retired from dairy farming, Rudolph says it's become a full-time hobby.

Rudolph recreates antique tractors he sees in books, calendars, and even just from

memory. He makes the plans himself, which is the most difficult part of his work.

"Cutting out the pieces is less time consuming than putting them together," he explains. "On average, I finish one per month."

Rudolph sells his creations at various antique tractor shows in Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as by mail order.

Rumley tractors, Case separators and Hart

Parr tractors are just a few of the makes that Rudolph has built.

"I've made about 500 different models in my lifetime, but I always keep one of each series that I've made for myself," he says. "This is still a hobby and I go to shows because I enjoy it. I like to sell them because it feels good to know others think they're good enough to pay for."

Prices range from \$125 to \$1200, plus shipping.

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Horse-Powered Hydraulics Drive Ice Cream Maker

Using a horse to make homemade ice cream is a great attention-getter at any gathering or event.

Scenic View Freezer Units started selling ice cream units powered by "hit and miss" engines a decade ago. They recently developed horse-powered units at the request of customers, according to Ervin Miller, owner of the Millersburg, Ohio, company.

Amish craftsmen at Country Freezer make the 20-quart ice cream freezers with stainless steel parts and rustproof zinc alloy gears. Miller puts the freezers on small wagons and sets up a V-belt pulley to crank the machine.

The horse travels in a circle turning a gearbox that drives a 600-rpm hydraulic pump, which turns the ice cream freezer.

"A 20-quart (5-gal.) freezer is too big to crank by hand," Miller says. It takes about half an hour when powered by horse. A hydraulic pressure gauge indicates when the ice cream is hard enough.

Horse-powered units sell for \$4,950.

"Hit and miss" powered units are all on one wagon and can churn two 5-gal. freezers at once. They start at \$4,990 with one freezer.

While he hasn't sold them for other applications, Miller says the units would also work for other uses such as powering a gristmill or



Traveling in a circle, horse drives a gearbox that powers a 600 rpm hydraulic pump which connects to the the ice cream maker.

apple press.

Miller's business also sells dry powdered ice cream mix and restores and repairs hit and miss engines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Scenic View Freezer Units, 5673 C.R. 59, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 (ph 330 674-2450; www.country-freezers.com).

"Hay Tool" Collecting Catches On

Dave Wilson is a hay tool hunter, whether on eBay or at flea markets, swap meets or antique shops. He will ship them half way across the country or make the trip himself if need be.

"The search is a big part of the fun when you are collecting anything," says Wilson. "Of course, with eBay, it's easy to travel the country."

Wilson's hunting has been successful. In less than 12 years, he has collected nearly 500 hay carriers. He also has more than 500 barn pulleys, not to mention hay forks, spears and grapple forks. It's the variations in style and design that get his attention.

"There are certain ones that I like," he says. "I keep getting new favorites, something about the design, something that is different. That's what attracts me."

Wilson started collecting hay tools in 1998 when he bought a set of old carriers from his brother. He reports paying from \$10 to several hundred dollars for carriers, shipping them from as far west as Oregon and driving as far east as New York and Pennsylvania to pick some up.

"It's more fun to go look at something than to simply have it delivered," says Wilson. "Once in a while a good one comes around,

and you can get pretty wound up about it. That's when collecting can get pretty expensive."

The annual national hay tools swap meet is a highlight of the year for collectors. Next year's meet is in Ashville, Ohio. People bring stuff to sell and also just to show.

"Everybody gets together and has some fun," says Wilson. "It gets bigger every year. There are more collectors than ever."

Collecting has changed, he adds. "In the past you could find a lot of good stuff in the scrap yards, but now they often worry about liability and won't let you in."

He suggests that people interested in collecting locate an older collector. He notes that many have spent a lifetime collecting.

Wilson notes that the recently formed National Hay Tool Collectors Association is a great source of information for collectors (ph 402 510-8845; haytoolcollector@yahoo.com).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Wilson, Box 26, Van Meter, Iowa 50261 (ph 515 681-8559).

He also has more than 500 barn pulleys, as well as hay forks, spears and grapple forks.



Photos courtesy National Hay Tool Collectors

In less than 12 years Dave Wilson has collected nearly 500 hay carriers.

