

## Working Scale Model Of IH 2 Plus 2 Tractor

"It looks and works just like the real thing," says Alex Squanda, Reese, Mich., who used parts from a pair of Cub Cadet garden tractors to build a 3/8-scale model 1978 International Harvester 2 plus 2 row crop tractor.

The tractor is powered by a Kohler 14 hp single cylinder engine and has two hydrostatic transmissions. It rides on 7.50 by 15 tires. The rear end is off a 1982 Cub Cadet 1450, as is the engine, and the front end is the rear end off a 1982 Cub Cadet 782. The tractor has two hydrostat systems, so the power steering and 3-pt. hydraulics operate independently. The steering column is off a street sweeper, and a steel pipe serves as the muffler.

The tires are 8 in. taller than the garden tractor's original tires. The front pto that originally belt-drove the mower deck, now belt-drives an automotive fan that pulls heat away from the engine.

"It really looks nice. People sometimes stop by and ask if they can take pictures," says Squanda. "It'll go about 15 mph. I came up with the idea because my dad subscribes to FARM SHOW, and he kept showing me stories about home-built tractors. So I decided to build my own. I sold Case IH tractors for a few years, and I thought the 2 plus 2 would be relatively easy to make because its motor is out front and can be easily hooked up to the drive train.

"The tires that I used are the same ones used on back of a sugarbeet topper and are about eight inches taller than the garden tractor's original tires. I had to rework the wheel rims off an old Ford pickup to get the tires to fit correctly. I cut the centers out of the wheel rims and flipped them inside out in order to get the tires farther away from the tractor," says Squanda.



Alex Squanda used parts from a pair of Cub Cadet garden tractors to build this 3/8-scale 1978 International Harvester 2 plus 2 row crop tractor.

The tractor's cab is handmade from sheet metal. "I used a toy 2 plus 2 tractor as a model," says Squanda. "I had a local vinyl shop that does lettering make new decals that are about half as big as the

real tractor's original decals."

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## 1/2-Scale Deere 530 "Near Perfect In Every Detail"

"It's built to look as real as possible and even has authentic controls for the driver, including the throttle, shift lever, and hydraulic lever," says Patrick Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn., about the 1/2-scale Deere 530 tractor he built.

This is the tenth 1/2-scale tractor Prom has built over the years, along with six pedal tractors.

The mini 530 is equipped with a 4 hp Kohler 1-cyl. engine and a 4-speed Peersless transmission off a Deere 110 series garden tractor. The 7.50 by 16 rear wheels came off the front of a combine and mount on the wheel rims off a Chevy 3/4-ton pickup. Prom cut the center out of the rims to make new centers, then made an adapter plate and welded it to the center of the rim to make it look like a cast iron wheel. The single 3.50 by 8 3-ribbed front tire, from Miller Tire, is off a wheelbarrow, as is the rim. "The wheelbarrow originally had a 4-

bolt wheel, but the Deere 530 had six bolts so I welded all the bolt holes shut and drilled six new holes," notes Prom.

He used channel iron to build the frame and bent sheet metal to form the body. To make the radiator grill, he bought a section of screen and then used a homemade jig to bend it back and forth to produce the ripples in the screen. The hood was made from sheet metal.

"To make the headlights I went to Menards and bought some pvc cups, then inserted plastic lenses - normally used as ceiling grid lights. I used rubber rings from some cheap lights I bought on clearance to mount the lenses to the pvc cups," says Prom.

The seat looks just like the original one and is made from vinyl over a metal frame. The steering wheel is made from conduit. He made the exhaust muffler by squeezing 4-in. dia. pipe until it was oval. There



"I had to figure out a lot of different things, but I'm happy how it turned out," says Pat Prom about the 1/2-scale Deere 530 tractor he built.

wasn't room for an electric start so he installed a recoil rope that comes out from under the flywheel cover.

"It took about a year to build, but I'm happy how it turned out," says Prom. "I've driven it in parades while pulling a Deere dump trailer.

"Both the fan and pto turn whenever the

engine runs, just like on the real tractor. I installed a right angle drive from a walk-behind snowblower to chain-drive the fan belt and pto. It even has a pair of air couplers on back that look like hydraulic couplers."

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## Cub Cadet Turned Into Mini Deere D Tractor

When Percy Meredith decided to turn a Cub Cadet riding mower into a Deere D mini tractor, he didn't have a real tractor around to use as a model.

"I used to have a 1927 Deere D, which I later sold. So when I built my mini tractor I went mostly from memory," says Meredith who also built a 3-bottom moldboard plow to go with the replica.

The mini tractor measures 5 ft. long by 3 ft. high and is powered by a 3 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine with a 3-speed transmission. The lugged rear wheels are 20 in. high and were built using the 16-in. wheel rims off an old car. Meredith cut off the hubs and welded in flat iron spokes. The front wheels measure 16 in. high and were built the same way.

He used sheet metal to make the hood and radiator, and bent pipe to make the steering wheel, welding in spokes. The seat is off an old tractor, cut down to size. The fenders have ridges on them much like the real tractor. The tractor has an imitation flywheel that spins but isn't hooked up to the engine.

Meredith also went by his memory to build the plow, with help from some photos. The plow goes up and down but is set so the moldboards won't dig into



Percy Meredith went mostly by memory when he built this mini 1927 Deere D, along with a 3-bottom moldboard plow.

the ground.

"The plow shares and moldboards aren't built real heavy - they're just for looks," explains Meredith. The plow has a trip rope just like the real plow. As the driver goes forward he trips the rope to make the plow go down into the ground.

"There are two levers on front of the plow. One lever is used to set wheel depth and the other to keep the plow level," notes Meredith.

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## Mini Tractors Keep Retired Farmer Busy

George Rush of Griswold, Iowa, never got over his interest in farm machinery. The 77-year-old retired farmer uses his spare time to build miniature replicas of older International Harvester farm tractors. He builds the tractors in his garage in town.

Because Rush has no fancy tools in his garage - only a welder and cutting outfit - he had to learn how to bend sheet metal using a variety of pipe and vices. Using scrap yard metal, he built two engine-powered tractors and two pedal-powered units, modeling them after 1206, 966 and 856 IH tractors.

He equipped the mini 1206 with a salvaged 8 hp Kohler gas engine, installing a straight pipe through the hood, just like the real tractor. He used a hydrostatic transmission from a Cub Cadet.

The other gas-powered model - an 856 - has a salvaged 8 hp Briggs and Stratton engine. Both of the engine-powered tractors have 12-volt electrical systems for their headlights.

Rush built pedal-powered versions of IH 966 and 1206 models.

He uses the gas-powered tractors to tow small floats in parades. He also uses



George Rush uses his spare time to build miniature replicas of older International Harvester farm tractors.

them to show off a few small pieces of machinery he's built such as a 6-bottom plow and an anhydrous ammonia tank and applicator.

Rush builds one mini tractor each winter and says they cost only about \$250 per unit.

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