

Garden Tractor Turned Into "Mini" Bulldozer

A "mini" bulldozer made from a junked out 1975 Cub Cadet 1250 garden tractor lets Art Pascale, Monson, Mass., handle snow and gravel on his driveway.

The mini dozer is equipped with a 14-in. high, 48-in. wide blade. Its steel tracks measure 4 in. wide, 13 in. high and 54 in. long.

"It works great and outperforms the original wheeled Cub Cadet. Improved traction is the key," says Pascale, a retired machinist. "Everything unbolts, and the tracks are fully adjustable."

He discarded the Cub Cadet's wheels, front axle, steering wheel, steering column and tie rods, keeping the rear axle, hydrostatic transmission, gas tank and starter. He installed a new front axle made from 2-in. sq. tubing. Then he used more tubing to build an undercarriage for the Cub Cadet.

Inside the frame on each side he installed 3 idler wheels to support the tracks. Then he lowered the Cub Cadet chassis into the undercarriage and bolted them together. To drive the tracks, he installed two 12-in. sprockets side-by-side on the end of each rear axle.

The tracks were made by a fabricating shop and consist of interlocking, 8-in. long by 4-in. wide steel plates. A total of 124 plates were used to make both tracks. Track tension can be adjusted by tightening a bolt that runs through a slot cut into a telescoping tube.

Pascale steers the dozer by pulling forward or backward on 2 levers which control the hydraulic disc brakes.

"I designed it myself without using any blueprints, and just building it as I went along," says Pascale. It took about 6 months and \$800 to construct.

The blade can be raised or lowered electronically by an electric motor, which was originally used to raise or lower the 3-pt. hitch on a Bolens garden tractor. Or, I can pull a lever to bring the blade up or down more quickly. I can set the blade at 3 different positions by changing the position of a pin.

"I kept the fenders but cut them down and welded a 2 1/2-ft. long steel plate under them."

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"It has great traction," says Art Pascale, who turned a junked out 1975 Cub Cadet garden tractor into this "mini" bulldozer.



Made in China, the 4-WD, 4-door mini pickup is powered by a 4-cyl., water-cooled gas engine that gets 35 to 40 mpg.

4-Door Mini Pickup Meets New Import Standards

We spotted this new 4-WD, 4-door mini pickup at the recent Farmfest Show near Redwood Falls, Minn.

Made in China, the LZ970-3 is powered by a 4-cyl., water-cooled gas engine that gets 35 to 40 mpg.

"It's competitively priced with ATV's and utility vehicles, but you also get a secure cab, air conditioning, 4-WD, and a quiet ride," says dealer Randy Nilson. "One big factor is that as of Dec. 8, 2010, all imported mini pickups have to meet new federal emission standards. The Lil' pickup meets those EPA standards, and it's a new vehicle."

Top speed is 62 mph. It has a 55-in. sq. bed with 13 1/2 in. high sides. The base model

comes with air conditioning, steering on the left, a roomy cab with bench seats in back and bucket seats in front, off-road wheels and tires, and a rear winch receiver. A deluxe model is available and includes leather seats, front and rear winch receiver, front and rear tube bumper, rollbar, Baja lights, and a CD player. Both models are available with either a short or long bed.

The base model sells for about \$12,000.

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Additive Turns Paint Into Energy-Saving Radiant Barrier

A paint additive developed to protect NASA space shuttles from the extreme temperatures of space travel is now available to help lower heating and cooling costs of homes and other buildings.

The product is a fine, white powder called Insuladd that can be mixed into any type of paint to create a heat-reflecting barrier. When mixed into interior paint it'll reflect heat back inside during the winter. The powder contains hollow, microscopic ceramic spheres that are coated to create a vacuum that reflects heat.

"This truly is a way of saving on heating costs, especially in northern climates," says Gene Grabiec, national marketing director for Resource Partners, which has the worldwide rights to Insuladd. It's a good fit with another of the company's products, EdenPURE infrared heaters.

The product was developed in 1996. Since that time, Grabiec notes it has been sold both nationally and abroad with excellent satisfaction. Tests of the American-made patented Insuladd indicate energy savings starting at 12 percent.

It comes packaged for different-sized jobs (\$14.95/gal., \$64.95/5 gal., etc.).

Simply pour the powder in any type of

paint — acrylic or oil — mix and paint. It can be brushed on or sprayed (with the filters removed).

Savings apply to rural and commercial buildings as well. Storage silos, livestock and poultry buildings and other agriculture buildings can be made warmer or cooler with Insuladd in the paint.

"You can test it by painting a piece of metal with Insuladd, and it will stay cool enough to touch when you heat the metal with a torch on the other end," Grabiec says.

The radiant characteristics last as long as the paint does, Grabiec says. Primer paint with Insuladd is also available.

While there are other paint additives on the market, Insuladd is the only one developed in conjunction with the NASA Product Exchange Program (www.nasa.gov and search "Insuladd").

Besides NASA, the additive is in paint that has been used by Pratt & Whitney Aerospace, Hyundai, Samsung, The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gene Grabiec, Resource Partners, 7584 Whipple Ave., NW, North Canton, Ohio 44720 (330-494-5504, ext. 5125; www.insuladd.com).

Self-Locking Hitch Pin

You'll never lose a wagon again due to a lost hitch pin, says Dick Kluge, Groton Enterprise, Groton, S. Dak., distributor of the Lockease safety hitch pin.

The hitch pin comes with a large hinged handle that doubles as a safety latch to keep the pin securely in the drawbar. The bottom of the handle fits into a hole in the pin. To remove the pin, the operator pushes down with his thumb on a patented lock mechanism on top of the pin and then pulls back on the handle. A large collar prevents pin damage.

"The large handle provides a lot of leverage for easy removal, and the safety latch keeps the pin from ever popping loose in the field," says Kluge. "The handle is easy to grab, even if you have mitts or gloves on."

The Lockease is available in 9 different sizes, with pins from 5/8-in. dia. by 4 1/2-in. long (\$17.75 plus S&H) to 1 1/2-in. dia. by 8-in. long (\$35.75 plus S&H).



Hitch pin comes with a large hinged handle that doubles as a safety latch to keep pin securely in drawbar.

Cab Added To Farmall M Tractor

"I use my 1949 Farmall M tractor for snowplowing. The cab I made for it makes the work much more pleasant," says Don Bogardus, Sloansville, N.Y.

His cab is made from 3/4-in. dia. pvc pipe, 1/4-in. thick plywood, and clear vinyl. It disassembles in about 20 min. using wingnuts and hairpins, and stores flat in 5 pieces. The cab's rear panel serves as the door and hinges on 3/4-in. pvc pipe tees. A bungee cord serves as the door latch.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Don Bogardus, 3375 Hwy. Rt. 20, Sloansville, N.Y. 12160.



Don Bogardus used pvc pipe, plywood, and clear vinyl to make this cab for his 1949 Farmall M tractor.