



John Eilers mounted an old Deere tractor cab, on the chassis of a Chevy S-10 pickup. Note 1930 Ford Model A pickup radiator on front.



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By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Home-Built "ATV" Fitted With Tractor Cab

Visibility is amazing on the "Farm Rat" that John Eilers built for use around his Pana, Ill. farm.

Eilers has a reputation for putting "the unusual" to work, such as the dog house he made out of an old Deere tractor cab, featured in FARM SHOW's Vol. 34, No. 5. This time he made use of another Deere tractor cab,

mounting it on the chassis of an S-10 Chevy pickup.

Fitted with big truck tires and running boards made out of wood planks, the Farm Rat is mostly used as a "command" vehicle around Eiler's place. However, it's licensed for road use and can often be spotted in the local McDonalds parking lot.

"People tell me I should give it a coat of paint and put a hood over the engine. But I tell them that if I painted it, I couldn't call it the Farm Rat anymore," Eiler's jokes.

He was amazed at how well the tractor cab fit onto the truck chassis and over the front edge of the truck box. "It almost looks like it was meant to be there," he says.

To give it a different look up front, the truck is fitted with a 1930 Model A Ford pickup radiator. And the engine cover on top is a cooking pan he sneaked out of his wife's kitchen.

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Gator Look-Alike Built From 2 Garden Tractors

Tim Fisher built a Deere Gator-type utility vehicle out of 2 MTD riding mowers. It's 8 ft. long, painted Deere green and yellow, and powered by an 18 hp V-twin Briggs & Stratton engine.

"I call it the N-Tim-a-Gator," says Tim. "It has a fabricated hood, deck, seats and bed. Some people who see it think Deere built it years ago and only realize it's a one-of-a-kind after they take a closer look."

He started with one MTD riding mower in good shape and one that was junked out. He stripped the good mower down to the frame, rear axle and engine. He used 16-ga. sheet metal to build a new floor and also to build the bed. Then he cut off the front half of the junked out mower, including the wheels and axle and steering column, and welded it on front. He used 16-ga. sheet metal to make a new hinged hood and moved the gas tank under it.

He made 2 new vinyl-covered seats and mounted them inside homemade frames fabricated from 1-in. tubing. "I cut out plywood in the shape of the seat and bolted it to the frame, then put foam on and wrapped

vinyl around that. The seat cushions are from the mattress off an old pop-up camper that happened to be yellow," says Tim.

He left the mower's original hydrostat shifter handle in place but bent it forward at a 90 degree angle and then slipped 3/4-in. dia. tubing over it. A linkage system runs from the handle under the floor and up to a homemade gas pedal, which is shaped like a pocket at the toe and has a tow hook mounted on it. "It shifts much like a golf cart. Instead of moving the hydrostat shift handle back and forth by hand to go in forward or reverse, I push my foot down to go forward and pull it back to go in reverse," says Tim.

"I use it to haul fertilizer and lime in my peach orchard and also to do various garden projects. It really comes in handy," says Tim. "The bed doesn't dump but instead has a fixed tailgate that fits inside a slot and is held in place by 2 pins."

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"I use it in my peach orchard and for garden work. It really comes in handy," says Tim Fisher about the Gator-type utility vehicle he built out of 2 MTD riding mowers.

Chopped Festiva Converted To Off-Road Use

Brandon Perry turned his old Ford Festiva into an off-road trail truck. The short truck is just right for ATV trails, but is still legal to drive down the highway.

"I have a cabin on 22 acres of woods with no road, just an ATV trail to get to it," says Perry. "When I complained to a friend about not having a four-wheeler, he gave me back an old Festiva I had sold him 10 years earlier."

Perry's friend had turned the Festiva into an ice-fishing rig by cutting holes in the floorboards. Now Perry and Ray Frahm, another friend, turned the front-wheel drive car into an off-road truck.

"We removed the rear seat, cut off the back hatch and replaced it with a framework of angle iron and tube steel," says Perry.

Perry and Frahm then used the frame to enclose the cab with a removable window. They also fabricated a mini-pickup box, complete with fenders and tailgate. They

pulled the gas tank and mounted it against the front panel of the box, which left room to rearrange the exhaust system to create more clearance. Skid plates of 18-gauge steel were mounted front to rear to protect against trail debris.

"We installed a collapsible back rack on the tail gate to make a mobile shelf for working on chainsaws and other tools," says Perry. "We also attached removable boat seat mounts to the box for use off-trail."

They added a roof rack with four front and two rear driving lights and an air horn and painted it camouflage style. "We had a major storm this past year with lots of downed trees, so we loaded it up with chainsaws and went to work," says Perry. "It's awesome on our trails."

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Brandon Perry converted an old Ford Festiva into this off-road trail truck. It's short enough for ATV trails, but still legal to drive down the highway.

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