

7th Grader Builds His Own Farm Game Simulator

It's not as fancy as the John Deere farm game simulator Kaden Styer saw online, but the 12-year-old is proud of the simulator he built in his family's garage. He's looking forward to sharing it at parties with family and friends.

With lumber left from previous building projects, the seventh grader built a 5 by 7-ft. "tractor cab" to set the mood for playing the video game, Farming Simulator 2015.

The faithful young FARM SHOW reader says it's a perfect blend of his interests in farming, electronics and building from scratch.

"I 3D-modeled it on the computer, got some wood, started building and painted it as close to John Deere green as I could," Styer says. He found an old semi truck seat and set up a hinged shelf on one wall for a steering wheel and joystick. A bracket supports the

monitor on the wall, and foot pedals for the game are bolted to the floor to give a real life feel of driving a tractor.

"The hardest part was getting everything to work together," Styer says. He notes he had wiring/electronic help from his stepdad (including a keyboard, a strobe light, speakers) and construction help from his dad.

Styer spent more than 100 hrs. of free time so far, including adding surround sound and a custom control panel. The area is big enough so that a few friends can stand in back and watch or sit on one of two buddy seats he built.

He shared his project on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlb5DYSs4rk) and explained that his simulator even has a security system. He has a padlock on the outside to keep his little brothers out and a



Seventh grader Kaden Styer built this 5 by 7-ft. "tractor cab" simulator in his family's garage.

cordless drill inside in case his older brother pranks him again.

"I left the padlock open one day, and he locked me in. So I have a power drill to remove the screws on the door," Styer explains.

With a goal of becoming an electrical engineer, he is already creatively solving problems.

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Teen Restores 1941 Farmall H

Helton Vandebush is not like a lot of kids today. Last summer he started looking for a summer project and, instead of trying to get good at the latest video game, he got permission to pull his grandfather's 1941 Farmall H out of storage, where it had been sitting unused for 10 years. His goal? To restore the tractor to like-new condition.

"My dad drove this tractor as a kid and inherited it from his father. So everyone in the family was excited by the project," says Helton, who is 15 years old. "When I pulled the tractor out of storage during the summer of 2013, I found out it was farther gone than I had thought. The gas tank was full of rust, the sediment bowl was shattered, the tires didn't hold air, and the entire wiring harness needed to be replaced. These were only a few of the many issues I had to work on. It took 3 days to get it to fire and about a week to get it running to the point where I could use it. For the rest of that summer, I used it to pull logs and plow the driveway. Although it was

usable, there was still a lot of work to be done. There was no paint left on it, it leaked a lot of oil, and much of the machine was barely holding together. My grandpa used to say, 'If you're not going to do the job right, then don't do it at all so, in the summer of 2014 I decided to do a complete restoration.

"I first disassembled the tractor, stripping it down to the frame and cleaning it off with a sandblaster. Once I got down to the bare metal, I found that the tractor was actually in fine shape.

"I started preparing it for painting, first making necessary repairs, replacing bolts, and welding cracks. First I sprayed on 2 coats of metal primer. Then I ordered industrial grade 'Farmall Red' paint along with the necessary decals and stickers. I finished painting at the end of August.

"Once it had all been painted, I reassembled the tractor in just one day, except for the tires. The rear tire rims were heavily corroded from the calcium fluid inside of them. I was



Helton Vandebush pulled his grandfather's 1941 Farmall H out of storage, where it had been sitting unused for 10 years. Then the 15-year-old restored the tractor to like-new condition.



able to repair one of them but had to buy a replacement for the other one on Craigslist and then painted both of them silver.

"I estimate the entire project cost about \$700, which my parents funded because they knew it was a great learning experience. Also, I take care of the lawn and maintain machines, as well as doing other chores around home. My dad is a do-it-yourselfer

so I learned by watching him. When I was 9 I got a Murray riding mower that always seemed to need fixing. Working on that tractor is how I learned to talk about engines, transmissions and welding."

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When a family friend passed away last summer, 15-year-old Thomas Holzman restored this Farmall H tractor in his memory.



15-Year-Old Restores Farmall In Memory Of Friend

Thomas Holzman isn't afraid to take up a big challenge. When a family friend passed away last summer, the 15-year-old painstakingly restored a Farmall H tractor that was sitting in his shed.

"I wanted to restore the tractor in honor of our friend and display it at a local car and tractor show," says Holzman. "When I bought the tractor it didn't run, but after tinkering with it for a while I was able to get it going.

"Over the last few months many people have told me what a great job I did. I repainted the tractor and tuned up the engine. It took me 2 months and 3 days to finish."

The tractor came with a belly-mounted mower that Holzman used before painting the tractor. He says he also uses the tractor to pull hay racks.

"The biggest challenge was getting the tractor running and getting the old fuel pumped through it. The fuel was so old that it looked like diesel fuel. I plan to switch the tractor's 6-volt starting system to 12-volt, and to buy new tires."

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"It looks nice and was a thrill to build," says 18-year-old Alvin Troyer, who calls his home-built tractor "Rumbling Thunder".

Tractor Built "Just For Show"

"Give me a welder, a cutting torch, and some steel and I can get pretty creative," says 18-year-old Alvin Troyer of Ligonier, Ind., who recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the pulling tractor he built "just for show".

"I don't actually use it to pull, but it looks nice and was a thrill to build," says Troyer, who calls his tractor the "Rumbling Thunder".

"It's equipped with a pair of 18-in. long, 2 1/4-in. dia. galvanized steel exhaust pipes which give it a real throaty sound, much like a Harley Davidson motorcycle when it's idling," he says.

The tractor is powered by an 18 hp Vanguard V-twin engine, which belt-drives a 4-speed manual transmission. "The engine was designed for a generator, but I bought it new so it was never used for that purpose,"

says Troyer.

He built the tractor's frame by welding together a pair of 1-in. dia. steel tubes. Then he welded steel brackets to the frame and bolted the engine on.

The axles and transmission came in one piece and are off a 1970 Deere 212 garden tractor. The 38-in. dia. rear wheels are off a front wheel assist compact tractor. "I had to make special hubs and weld them onto the wheel rims so the bolt holes would match up with the tires," says Troyer.

The front wheels and axle as well as the steering column are off a Cub Cadet garden tractor. The seat is off a Husqvarna riding mower.

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