

Half-Scale Baler Looks Like The Real Thing

R.W. Prinkey built a half-scale bale wagon but it didn't look right without a baler to match. So he built one to match with an electric motor that powers the flywheel-driven pickup, plunger, and more.

"When I finished the wagon, I joked to my dad, a former Deere dealer, that the scaled down hay wagon needed a hay baler to go with it," recalls Prinkey. "I started thinking about a rough imitation baler with a ground drive chain turning the flywheel. One thing led to another."

As Prinkey got into the project, he decided to try and make it as detailed as possible. It went from a kid's toy to something close to an exact working replica. With the exception of the knotters, all major parts and drives work as they would on a real baler, powered by a 12-volt electric gearmotor. The biggest difference is that 60 percent of the materials are wood.

Prinkey first used 2 identical gearmotors powering different portions of the baler. However, that created timing problems between the feeder forks and the plunger head. One motor proved sufficient, using a hidden jackshaft to transfer power.

"This change created a phenomenon that I am probably most proud of," says Prinkey. "The timing of the plunger head and feeder forks is now accomplished by using the exact procedure described in the operator's manual and dividing that measurement in half."

Prinkey used steel for the main frame, tongue and wagon hitch. The remainder is mostly wood with some plastic and aluminum. The current knotters are wood and accurate enough that people ask him what machine they came from. Miniature straw bales in the bale chute and on the wagon make it look even more authentic.

"At shows, I enjoy when the older crowd ask if I really baled those bales with it," he says.

All major dimensions were taken from a Deere 24T manual and downsized 50 percent. Prinkey attaches the baler to the 110 for shows or pulling around his yard. However, he admits the scale is not quite right.

"I'm now considering building a half-scale 10 or 20 series tractor built from a 140 Deere garden tractor," says Prinkey.

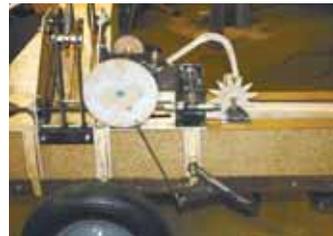
Other miniatures planned include a combine and a hay loader. He has already built a stagecoach for his 2 young grandchildren.

For more details on the baler and the estimated 400 hours of work over 6 months, see Prinkey's article in the May 2015 issue of Green Magazine (www.greenmagazine.com).

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After R.W. Prinkey built a half-scale wagon, he decided he needed a baler to match. An electric motor powers the flywheel-driven pickup and plunger.



With the exception of the knotters, all major parts and drives work as they would on a real baler, and are powered by a 12-volt electric gearmotor.



Jim and Mary Jensen carry an inventory of more than 60 horse-drawn wagons, buggies, sleighs and more. Shown above is a new 4-seat surrey.



In addition to used and restored vehicles, they offer new rigs as well as specialty items. Photo above shows a new farm ranch wagon.

They Specialize In Horse-Drawn Wagons

Jim and Mary Jensen scour auctions for quality horse-drawn vehicles to resell. Their Oxbow Wagons & Coaches business generally carries an inventory of more than 60 wagons, buggies, sleighs and more. In addition to used and restored vehicles, they offer new rigs as well as specialty items. Oxbow maintains a store in Oregon, as well as a website store.

"I've been interested in horse-drawn vehicles since I was in high school," says Jim Jensen. "If I could, I would never sell any, but a person has to eat."

"I once had a rare horse-drawn livestock wagon," recalls Jensen. "I shouldn't have sold it, but I did. I also had a Raleigh home products wagon for door-to-door sales."

A quick visit to the company website shows the variety of vehicles available. They vary from simple carts, wagons and sleighs to stagecoaches and hearses. Recent rigs included an original farm grain wagon priced at \$4,800, an army escort wagon in excellent shape for \$16,500, and an antique Portland sleigh for \$1,650. While some are ready to go, others require restoration.

New vehicles vary considerably in price, from \$1,880 for a Meadowbrook cart for 2 to a 4-seat people mover sold to a Civil War park for \$13,800. A wedding carriage can run from \$7,800 to \$8,400, depending on carriage lamps and other options. Buckboards are available for less than \$4,000.

Oxbow Wagons sells much more than just

vehicles, according to Mary Jensen. "We sell a lot of parts for vehicles of all kinds and sizes, as well as Amish-made harnesses for singles and teams of horses of all sizes," she says. "We also sell unusual collector items in our shop such as antique guns, wheels and more. We're always looking for unusual items we can resell."

With auctions less prevalent than in the past, the Jensens are buying and selling more online.

"If someone has a horse-drawn vehicle for sale or is looking for one not on our website, give us a call or send an email," says Jim Jensen. "We take a lot of vehicles on consignment, depending on what they are and if reasonably priced. If customers are



This new Meadowbrook cart sells for \$1,880.

interested in buying something different, we either have it or can likely find it."

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