



Mike Collins has some 40,000 hubcaps sorted, labeled and ready for sale.

### Hubcap Mike Has the Hubcaps You Need

About 20 years ago, Mike Collins bought 200 hubcaps at bargain basement prices from a car dealer. He took them to a swap meet and came home with more than enough jingle in his pocket to make it worthwhile. That was the day his business was born.

Known to most people today as Hubcap Mike, Collins gradually grew his hubcap business to the point where he now ships all over the U.S. and Canada and just about everywhere else in the world, too.

His slogan is "the right hubcap right away." With some 40,000 hubcaps sorted, labeled and stored, he knows what he has and can usually ship within 24 hours of receiving an order.

He specializes in collectible original caps, mostly '50s and '60s Ford and Chevrolet cars and pickups. "I sell more hubcaps for Chevrolet pickups than just about any other single category," he says.

Collins has hubcaps for cars and trucks from the 1940's on up. Most of his stock is original equipment, but he also carries reproduction hubcaps for several popular restorable models.

Collins says when it comes to original hubcaps, he only stocks those he finds in very good or excellent condition. "Most of what I have has been used, but I do have a lot of brand new original stock that we've found on old dealership shelves and so on," he says.

"I make the rounds of the big automotive swap meets and buy the best of what I find being offered there," he says. "Many of the

people selling there are garage sale buyers who pick up one here, two there, until they have several to sell."

While he has plenty of 1/2 ton pickup hubcaps for both Ford and Chevy, 3/4 and 1-ton hubcaps are harder to find. "I have some on hand for 3/4-ton GMC's but I don't have any for 1-ton Fords. I find them once in awhile but they're usually sold within a few days."

While most of Collins' customers are restoring a vintage car or just trying to find something reasonably priced for a newer vehicle, he also sells to collectors and even decorators. "I got a call from a restaurant owner in Florida who wanted some to put on the walls of a room. He didn't care what shape they were in - he just wanted a hubcap motif. Another customer wanted one of everything I had from Ford. He mounted them in a display, with brass plaques below identifying the vehicles they were made for and the years they were made."

Prices start around \$20 per cap for early vintage reproductions. "Most of what I sell is priced from \$30 to \$40 each. The most I ever got for one hubcap was \$500, for a 1956 Lincoln Mark II. Those are extremely rare."

Whether you need hubcaps or have some vintage ones to sell, you can contact him.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hubcap Mike, 2465 North Batavia Street, Orange, Cal. 92865 (ph 714 685-8801 or toll-free 800 774-6637; fax 714 685-8804).

### Heat-Saving Shop Divider Curtains

You can lower your shop heating bills with this new shop divider curtain from Rainbow Industries, Inc., S. Vienna, Ohio.

The curtain lets you heat a particular work area instead of the entire building. A wide variety of configurations are available so you can design a layout that meets your needs.

The curtain is made from 13-oz. vinyl-coated nylon. The ends are fitted with pressure sensitive velcro, allowing you to seal the curtain up against the walls of the building. Windows made from transparent vinyl designed into the curtain.

"We can custom make the curtains according to your shop's size and type of

ceiling," says Joe Schmidt. "Larger curtains come in sections which eliminates the need to pull the entire curtain, and also provides openings to walk or drive through. The curtain is made of flame retardant material so if a welding spark lands on it, it won't ignite."

A solid curtain sells for about \$1.75 per sq. ft.; a windowed curtain for about \$2.50 per sq. ft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rainbow Industries, Inc., Box 506, S. Vienna, Ohio 45369 (ph 800 388-8277).

### Easy Way To Make PVC Brackets

Steve May, Prairieville, La., wanted extra lights on back of his Massey Ferguson 26 hp tractor so he could work better at night. The tractor has a rollbar, but he couldn't drill holes in it because that would have weakened it. Instead he came up with an easy way to make brackets out of PVC pipe to support lights spaced about 1 1/2 ft. apart.

He cut off a 3-in. wide PVC pipe and made a slot down one side. Then he heated it to 280 degrees in an oven until the plastic became soft. The soft hot plastic was then wrapped around the rollbar to make a clamp with two ends that are spaced about 1/4 in. apart. Once the material had cooled and hardened he drilled a pair of holes in it. A single bolt pulls the two pieces together



Steve May used PVC pipe to make brackets for lights that he mounted on his tractor rollbar.

tightly around the rollbar.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steve May, 41464 Ratcliff Dr., Prairieville, La. 70769 (ph 225 622-2246).

### Low-Cost Pickup-Mounted Crane

"It didn't cost much to put it together and it can be easily removed when it's not needed. There's not much on it that can go wrong," says Leonard Seltzer, Manhattan, Ill., about his "made it myself" swinging crane that mounts in the bed of his 1978 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup.

The crane extends about 13 in. beyond the side of the bed and swivels 270 degrees. It consists of a 1 3/4-in. dia. vertical pipe about 5 ft. 3 in. long, with a 3-ft. long boom made out of 1 1/4-in. dia. pipe welded to it at a 45 degree angle. The vertical pipe rests inside two welded-on angle iron brackets that bolt to the side and floor of the bed. A block and tackle, which hangs off a 3-in. I-bolt that's welded shut and is equipped with a nylon rope, is used to raise and lower a load.

"It works great for moving small loads up to 200 lbs.," says Seltzer. "I use it often to load 5-gal. pails loaded with dirt or sand in and out of the bed. I also use it to lift a 120-lb. gas engine-operated soil-packing machine as well.

"I already had most of the materials and spent a total of only about \$5, compared to commercial hydraulic-operated cranes that sell for hundreds of dollars. Commercial cranes bolt permanently to the pickup bed, which can be a problem if you want to drive under a low ceiling. To remove the crane all I do is pull the unit out of the bracket and lay it on the bed or off to the side."



Leonard Seltzer made this swinging crane that mounts in the bed of his 1978 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup.

He welded two lengths of 3/8-in. dia. rebar at the top to help support the horizontal part of the boom. He also welded a piece of 1/4-in. by 1-in. flat strap iron on the boom's back side for additional strength.

The pickup box that Seltzer uses was originally set up as a portable welding rig, which he converted to a more user-friendly unit. "With some minor adjustments, my homemade crane would work equally well on a standard pickup bed," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Seltzer, 16040 W. Elmwood, Manhattan, Ill. 60442 (ph 815 478-3578).



Shop divider curtain is made from 13-oz. vinyl-coated nylon and has ends fitted with pressure sensitive velcro, allowing you to seal the curtain up against building walls.