

Wood-Like Art Made From Metal

"I've been a welder for more than 30 years and can work with any type of machine or metal," says Malcolm Sullivan, who gets a lot of satisfaction out of working on clever projects in his spare time.

One of his specialties is creating a perfectly natural looking block of wood with a stainless steel axe embedded on one end. Sullivan made the first one for his grandpa, who passed away in 2015. He posted a photo of the log on his Facebook page as a memorial, and since then it has taken on a life of its own. The British welder set up an Etsy account so people across the U.K. and other countries can now buy various items priced from \$120 to about \$340.

A craftsman since he became interested in welding at age 13, Sullivan has a long history of clever projects to his name. "Some of the things I work on are all stainless, and now

I'm looking into building animals."

Sullivan says one of the keys to a clean finished product is working slowly and never cutting corners. If he makes a mistake in the middle of a pass, he starts over and doesn't attempt to fix it. Most of his smaller projects he gets done in 3 days and some of the larger ones require 3 weeks.

"My day job welding stainless earns a living, and the things I build at home are for fun. The exciting thing is watching whatever I'm working on growing before my eyes. Welding still fascinates me as much today as it did when I was 13 and just an observer. I don't think I'll ever stop unless I get arthritis and my hands won't work anymore."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Malcolm Sullivan (malcolmpsullivan@yahoo.co.uk).



Malcolm Sullivan has a long history of clever projects to his name, including this natural looking block of "metal wood" with a stainless steel axe embedded at one end.



Cecil and Patty Brock of North Carolina converted 4 grain bins into handy storage and extended living space.

Old Bins Used To Add Extra Living Space

Cecil and Patty Brock transformed 4 grain bins into handy storage and extended living space. Linked by stepping stones and landscaped with perennials and flowers, the bins stand near the mobile home on their Mount Olive, N.C. property.

"Cecil used to build houses and cabinets. I'm his sidekick and work with him," Patty Brock explains.

Armed with hydraulic jacks and cordless impact wrenches, Patty worked on the inside and Cecil worked on the outside to unbolt and dismantle the bins, and then they repeated the process to reassemble them. Rusted rings from the bottom of the bins were repurposed into awnings over the doors.

After buying the first 2 bins and converting them, the Brocks found 2 more.

They poured round concrete pads to anchor the bins and then scrubbed them clean with vinegar so paint would adhere. They painted the walls silver and the roofs white. They added a patriotic flair by painting the caps in different colors - red, white and blue.

"The 9-ft. dia. bin is my husband's workshop, and the rest are mine," Brock laughs.

The one they spent the most time on is the one she uses for her pantry. It's 14 ft. wide, has insulated 2 by 4 walls, an insulated ceiling, and rows of shelves for Brock's canned goods. It stays cool in the summer and

never drops below 42 degrees in the winter.

For church auxiliary lunches and get-togethers, the Brocks turned one 18-ft. dia. bin into a dining area with tables and a rug. Utensils and pans Brock uses for cooking and canning are organized on pegboards. The other 18-ft. bin takes care of their need for closet space. Instead of cramming (and wrinkling) her clothes in a tiny mobile home closet, Brock washes, irons, bags and hangs them along the roomy rack that wraps around the inside of the bin. It's also the perfect place to preserve and display quilts she and her mother and grandmother have hand-quilted, along with treasures on she's picked up over the years.

Though they paid a fair price for the bins, the cost for all the extra storage space was nominal compared to putting up a new structure, Brock says. And with ramps, railings, landscaping and stepping stones, the recycled bins are more interesting, too.

Brock adds that they have 2 more dismantled 18-ft. dia., 7-ring bins available for sale to anyone interested in creating their own storage spaces. Call for more information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Cecil and Patty Brock, 1035 W. N.C. 403 Hwy., Mount Olive, N.C. 28365 (ph 919 738-6129).



Bins are linked by stepping stones and landscaped with perennials and flowers. They stand near a mobile home on the Brocks' property.



Patty uses one bin for her pantry. It's 14 ft. wide, has insulated walls and ceiling, and rows of shelves for canned goods.



Another bin serves as a big closet. Clothes hang from a roomy rack that wraps around inside of bin.