

Custom-Made Hand-Carved Doors

Timber Valley Millwork can sell you a hand-carved exterior door. Pick from 9 classic wildlife designs, 4 special artistic designs, or submit a photo or drawing for a customized carving.

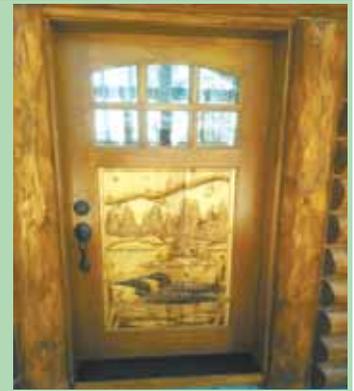
"A local carver produces the carved panels for our doors," says Daniel Schmidt, Timber Valley Millwork. "All of our custom doors are usually done in knotty pine, knotty cedar or knotty alder as we market primarily to log cabin and rustic design homeowners."

Every door made by the sixth generation, family-owned company, whether interior or exterior, is custom-built to order. However, the hand-carved exterior doors are extra special. Pre-hung doors in frames start at around \$3,000. Custom carving is extra.

"People often send pictures and a description with custom carving requests," says Schmidt. "Our carver will do a sketch and send it back for approval. One customer sent a picture of his dog, and the panel was carved just from that."

Double entry doors with continuous scene carved panels are also available. He suggests calling to discuss the image desired or selecting one of the designs available on the website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Timber Valley Millwork, P.O. Box 1868, Fond du Lac, Wis. 54936 (ph 920 922-3689; toll free 800 273-8964; info@timbervalleymillwork.com; www.timbervalleymillwork.com).



Timber Valley Millwork specializes in making custom doors for cabins and log homes. Both interior and exterior doors can be made with carved panels.



Art Purdy converted this Deere 55 combine into a demonstration model to show people how the machine works.

See-Through Combine Designed To Educate

Art Purdy makes his see-through combines to show non-farmers how the machines work, but farmers usually learn a few things, too. The combines have all the sheet metal stripped away from moving parts, revealing details farmers don't normally see.

"My latest one has everything that moves painted yellow and everything else painted green," says Purdy. "It really shows how everything works, and nothing gets in the way of anything else."

Purdy first stripped down a Deere 55 combine for the heritage museum in Beaverlodge, Alta. A Deere 95 went to the Pioneer Threshermen's Museum west of High Prairie, Alta. After he moved to the Clyde, Alta., area he visited the Canadian Tractor Museum near Westlock, Alta., and offered to do one for them.

It is a 1968 Deere 95 that was donated by a local couple, Keith and Gail Sterling. Sterling's brother Brent provided the shop and tools for Purdy to work with.

"I took everything off so I could remove the tin," says Purdy. "It didn't look like much until I spread everything out so I could repaint it. Then you could see what a big job it was."

Putting it back together was like working on a puzzle. Occasionally a piece would go in backward or upside down before he realized it wasn't right. Purdy had help from the Sterlings but did most of the work himself. Donations from area businesses provided tires, paints and some parts.

"Having done 2 previously, it wasn't too bad, but it still took 7 hrs. a day, 5 days a week for about 2 months to do the job," says Purdy.

He notes that although much of Alberta is

ag-based, people only partly associated with farming or even farmers' wives don't know how a combine works.

"The self-propelled combine is really just a threshing machine with a motor," says Purdy. "Both are just glorified fanning mills, and yet the combine is one of the most important machines on the farm."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Art Purdy, P.O. Box 17, Clyde, Alta. Canada T0G 0P0 (ph 780 552-4388; arturdy42@gmail.com); or Canadian Tractor Museum, P.O. Box 5414, 9704 96 Ave., Westlock, Alta. Canada T7P 2P5 (ph 780 349-3353; canadiantractormuseum@telus.net; www.canadiantractormuseum.ca).



A handheld grinder can be used to sharpen the edge on a tractor's loader bucket, making it easier to use the loader to take out groups of problem weeds. It also helps with digging.

Sharp-Edged Loader Bucket Slices Through Weeds, Soil

Larry Markman uses his tractor's loader bucket to take out groups of problem weeds like waterhemp and mare's tail. He grinds a sharp edge onto the loader bucket to cut through the weeds.

"It's nothing revolutionary, but I wish I would have done it long ago," says Markman. "I only thought of it because my Bush Hog was down, and I had weeds at the edge of the field that had escaped my renter's herbicide application."

Markman's bucket had the standard beveled edge. He gave it a knife's edge, working his handheld grinder along the top of the bucket's cutting edge. At the same time he sharpened the outside corners of the bucket.

"Now I can get within an inch and a half of the row or even less," he says.

When dealing with a large patch of weeds at the field edge or along a waterway or roadway, Markman simply tilts the bucket back and lowers it. Dragging it backward through the weeds pulls them into a clump. He says the sharp edge breaks them off at



Bucket's leading edge is sharpened to a knife's edge.

ground level, better than it ever did prior to sharpening.

While Markman made the modification for weed control, he got a bonus benefit. "It also works dirt better," he says. "It slices through the sod and soil instead of having to force the blunt edge through."

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