

## These Ride-On Toys Keep Kids Busy

We recently spotted an ad featuring Georgetown Sales' kid-pleasing toys - a wooden pedal cart with horse and a forklift that really works.

The ride-on toys are best-suited for children ages 4 to 12, says David Beiler, owner of Georgetown Sales.

"The horse and cart has pedals and operates like a tricycle," he explains. "When you pedal, the 4 legs move. What's really cool is there are actual reins to guide, like steering a real horse."

Built of wood and powder-coated steel with pneumatic tires, it is suitable for outdoors. Roller chain makes it go forward and backward, and it has a front metal plate that acts as a safety feature to avoid the horse head from hitting anything. The 43-in. long, 44-lb. horse and cart sells for \$349 (plus \$35 shipping).

The forklift relies on leg power to move and turn.

"It has a swivel caster on the rear end to

turn very sharply," Beiler notes.

The part kids like is turning the crank to raise and lower the forklift mast. With three 6 by 8-in. pallets, they can load and transport all kinds of things to a wagon or shelf. The seat also opens up for storage. The 32-in. long, 24-lb. forklift comes in yellow, orange or stain finishes and sells for \$149 (plus \$15 shipping.)

"They have been selling well as people find out about them," Beiler says. "A lot of grandparents buy them for their grandkids - as well as parents." They are available through the company's catalog and at stores they supply throughout the U.S.

Beiler adds that sales of the toys support Green Pastures Rest Home in Lebanon, Penn. The toys are made by residents dealing with mental health issues. Call for more information or to order a catalog.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Georgetown Sales LLC, 375 Old Dam Rd., Christiana, Penn. 17509 (ph 888 593-7009).



Ride-on wooden cart operates like a tricycle. When you pedal, the horse's four legs move. Reins are used to steer.



Forklift with rear caster wheel relies on leg power to move and turn. Turning a crank raises and lowers the mast.



Aluminum forklift has 24-in. forks and is designed to attach to a child's wagon or pedal tractor. Operator hand-cranks forks up or down.



## Toy Forklift Makes Work Fun For Kids

With the capacity to lift 45 lbs., a forklift designed to attach to a child's wagon or pedal tractor is more than just a toy.

"The idea behind it is to turn work into play for 6 to 12-year-olds," says Norman Stoltzfus, who markets the forklift designed by his brother, Ben Stoltzfus.

Ben made one for his son a couple years ago and then Norman made one for his son, too. The boys, 8 and 10 years old, use the forklifts to help with chores such as hauling harvested potatoes and corn from the garden.

The aluminum forklift has 24-in. tines and a bracket that bolts to the wagon about 2 1/2-3 in. off the ground. It adjusts for different model wood and steel wagons. The operator stands in the wagon to crank the forks up and

down up to 2 1/2 ft. The forklift comes with a 20 by 24-in. pallet to hold boxes or items.

"We're hoping to do wholesale to go into stores - probably mostly for Plain communities," Stoltzfus says. He is still working on pricing, but estimates it will be about \$320.

He also hopes to add an 18-volt motorized option to operate the forklift using a cordless tool battery. There may also be attachments like a snowplow. The business that manufactures the forklift may also make mini tractors to mount the forklift on.

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## Build A Mini Dozer With DIY Kit

If you are of a certain age, you may remember seeing a mini bulldozer featured on the cover of Popular Science magazine more than 50 years ago. Today the DIY kit for building a MINI-DOZER® is still available from Struck Corporation, says Ben Prochnow, head of marketing.

"We've seen a definite resurgence in interest. There's lots of nostalgia," he says. "Many people remember seeing us on the cover of Popular Science, and thought it was cool as a kid. Now they want to build one with their grandkids, at the same time passing down their DIY skills."

Many updates through the years include: zero-turn technology, stronger track chain, and Tandem Chain Path. The little dozer is a powerhouse and useful for hobbyists and homeowners to landscape, level driveways, create a garden bed, pull logs or plow snow.

Some contractors use it for backfilling trenches in tight spaces.

The MINI-DOZER MD196K is about the size of a lawn tractor, and the DIY kit contains all the parts needed, including: tracks, decals and a Briggs & Stratton 250cc engine, for just over \$4,000 (sale price through March 31, 2020). Buy it for less if you supply your own engine. Struck uses U.S. steel, and the company designs, fabricates and welds the parts in its Cedarburg, Wis., factory.

Customers buy the paint in the color they want, then clean, prime and paint the pre-cut pieces. The kit comes with a spiral bound, step-by-step assembly manual, and only basic tools are necessary to assemble the dozer. Generally it takes about 36 hrs. to complete.

People who want more information can order the assembly manual for \$39, Prochnow suggests. It comes with more than 240 photos,



For more than 50 years Struck Corp. has been marketing a DIY kit for its MINI-DOZER. Kit contains all parts needed including tracks, decals, and engine.



Olan Bentley has a collection of 147 seed corn toppers popular in the 1930's and 1940's. The toppers promoted companies big and small.

## Hard-To-Find Seed Corn Toppers

License plate toppers with seed corn company names are getting hard to find and going up in price. Popular in the 1930's and 40's, the toppers promoted companies big and small, according to Olan Bentley. His collection of 147 seed corn toppers is believed to be the biggest out there.

"Their small size and the small number made are the main reasons they are hard to find," says Bentley. "A couple of the larger national corn brands are still fairly common, such as DeKalb and Pfister."

Bentley got his start in 1986 when a friend sold him a McAllister Seed Co. topper for \$10. Today toppers from smaller regional companies can sell in the \$200 to \$300 range. He does recall seeing a topper sell for \$500 and a second one go for \$1,000 at an auction.

He didn't even place a bid and suspects the buyers were friends of the seller and bidding for sentimental reasons. He has paid as much as \$325 for a topper, which remains his personal record.

He continues to pick them up when he can, sometimes at auction, more often on eBay. Authenticity can be a problem. "The original corn toppers were made of metal," he says. "Beware of reproduction toppers made with a heavy porcelain coating instead of painted metal. As with many collectibles, when they start to bring high prices, someone starts producing fakes."

If FARM SHOW readers have toppers they are interested in parting with, Bentley asks they give him a call. As a member of the Corn



Olan Bentley has a collection of 147 seed corn toppers popular in the 1930's and 1940's. The toppers promoted companies big and small.

Items Collectors Association since the mid 1980's, if he doesn't want it, he may know someone who does.

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