

“Queen Carrier” Fitted With Bucket Seats

“My dad and I built this 3-pt. mounted Queen Carrier so that when we go on tractor rides, my wife and a friend or 2 of hers can come along. They ride in comfort because the cart is equipped with a pair of power bucket seats out of an old Buick minivan,” says Gary Kilburg of Bellevue, Iowa.

He uses a John Deere 3010 tractor to haul the cart, which measures 5 1/2 ft. long by 5 ft. wide and 3 ft. high. It has plywood sides and a plank floor mounted on an angle iron frame. The two power front seats are spaced about 2 ft. apart and bolted to the floor. Kilburg removed both seats with their power base intact and wired them to the tractor’s battery. One of the seats came with a large side-

mounted cup holder. “I can fold the cup holder out of the way and place a small table between the seats, and then put a carry-on stadium seat on top of the table to make room for a third person,” says Kilburg. “I mounted a 12-volt cigarette lighter on front of the cart and wired it to the tractor’s battery. It serves as a power outlet that can be used to charge cell phones and other 12-volt devices.”

The Queen Carrier weighs 756 lbs. without any riders. “The seats are large so they’re fairly heavy, and with 3 riders on back of the cart it can get light up front,” says Kilburg. “I have to be careful not to let the clutch out too quickly or the tractor’s front wheels might come off the ground. I mounted small caster



Gary Kilburg’s wife and friends ride in comfort in his 3-pt. mounted cart. It’s equipped with a pair of power bucket seats wired to the tractor’s battery.

wheels on the cart’s legs so I can roll the cart by hand into my shed.

“I enjoy making use of things that would otherwise get thrown away,” notes Kilburg.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Kilburg, 30771 Country Lane, Bellevue, Iowa 52031 (ph 563 599-1628; gkilburg@gmail.com).



Kilburg turned the middle seats from a Chevy Venture van into a pair of swiveling bar stools, which he keeps next to a bar in his garage.



He fitted this Farmall H with 2 leather middle seats out of an Oldsmobile Silhouette minivan.

He Finds New Uses For Minivan Seats

Kilburg used the middle seats from a Chevy Venture minivan to come up with a pair of swiveling bar stools that he keeps next to a bar in his garage.

“Both seats mount on a tire base so they’re very stable. They generate a lot of conversation,” says Kilburg.

He made a metal pedestal that bolts onto the quick-release base of each seat, and then attached the front wheel hub off the minivan to it. The wheel hub allows the chair to swivel.

“The wheel rim is dished out on one side, so if I want to lower the seat I can just unbolt

the hub from the rim and flip the rim over,” says Kilburg.

He also fitted a Farmall H tractor with 2 leather middle seats out of an Oldsmobile Silhouette minivan.

The seats mount on a 2-in. angle iron frame that’s welded and bolted together and braced

to the tractor’s hitch and rear axle housing for support. “If I want I can unbolt the frame and bolt the tractor seat back on,” says Kilburg.

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Fiberglass Creations Continue To Amaze

FAST Fiberglass keeps pumping out traffic stoppers. From giant animals to Viking warriors to the ever popular frog slide, the Wisconsin company continues producing tourist attractions for display all around the country.

“We are still doing fiberglass molds, but now we use laser scanning and 3D printing to build models,” explains Dean Webber, FAST Fiberglass. “We used to do everything by hand. Now we are getting more computer-driven, which will expand our capabilities. We are also doing more and more custom work.”

What hasn’t changed is the popularity of some key creations, in particular the Frog Water Slide. One of 73 water slides in the company catalog, it has remained a best seller since the mid to late 1980’s.

“We estimate there are 500 or more water slides in use around the country,” says Webber, a 16-yr. veteran with the company. “I grew up going down one in my hometown in Illinois.”

A tour of the company’s outdoor warehouse offers a showcase of past creations. It includes more than 650 molds, from which the end products are made. There are 6 Holstein cows, and 46 other farm animal shapes in the catalog.

“We build a model from which one or more molds are made,” explains Webber. “Each mold is then lined with an 1/8-in. thick blend of 60 percent resin and 30 percent fiberglass as a reinforcing agent.”

Once the individual pieces are cured, they are assembled and a finish applied. With proper maintenance, such as an annual coat of automobile wax, a finish is expected to

last up to 20 years. The structure itself has an expected lifespan of 25 to 30 years.

“We can repair or refurbish a statue, depending on how far it has deteriorated,” says Webber. “They are quite strong. We recently had 2 survive a hurricane, even though one was ripped out of its concrete base.”

Ordering a custom statue is simple. Webber describes starting with as little as a verbal description. “We definitely like to make a computer model to begin with,” he says. “That can run from \$500 to \$1,000. The price of a final statue is based on size. A rough estimate would be about \$2,000 per foot of the longest dimension. However, final price





FAST Fiberglass designs and builds a wide variety of tourist attractions, everything from giant animals to big bowling pins and frog water slides.

has more to do with surface area. When you get into quadrupeds like cows, it gets complicated.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, FAST Fiberglass, P.O. Box 258, Sparta, Wis. 54656 (ph 608 269-7110; www.fastfiberglass.com).

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