

Model tractor was made using paper, cardboard, glue, scissors, nail clippers, and emery boards.



These Model Tractors Are Made Of Paper

Photos of model tractors made mostly from scrap paper recently caught our eye. The 1/8th scale 1934 John Deere A and 1918 Waterloo Boy tractors were donated to PHARM Dog USA for a Sept. 9 auction to raise money for the nonprofit. The artist is an offender with the Crossroads Correctional Facility who made the models through the Restorative Justice Organization as a way to make amends and give back.

The detail is amazing, says Jackie Allenbrand, founder of Pets Helping Agriculture in Rural Missouri, which has paired 22 dogs with farmers with disabilities in several states (FARM SHOW Vol. 39, No. 6).

With children's scissors, nail clippers, and emery boards, the artist glued paper and thin cardboard together, then shaped each part. The John Deere tractor seat is 25 layers of paper, for example. Only a few parts are not paper. Empty ink pen cartridges are shafts and rods. The chain on the Waterloo is tiny pieces cut from a plastic hose and pieced together.

Inspired by his grandfather's farm, the artist spent 3 mos. and 350 hrs. on the John Deere and 7 mos. and 500 hrs. on the Waterloo Boy. Another offender/artist used wood scraps to build the display cases for each tractor.

"This is one-of-a-kind art," Allenbrand says, and she is honored that the model tractors will be part of PHARM's Sept. 9, 2023, fundraising for a facility to train dogs



Paper is layered to create detail using as many as 25 layers of paper.

for farmers. Information for bidding on them will be online and on Facebook sometime in August.

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Little Tractor Delights Three Generations

Michigan resident Wade Poland says his dad could build or fix just about anything, so when he was a tyke just 2 years old, back in 1970, his dad surprised him with a home-built tractor.

Poland says his little red tractor had a battery-powered electric motor that would scoot him around the yard and across the lawn about as fast as a person could walk. A small metal "fake" engine, complete with spark plug wires, was mounted on the block. The tractor's steel frame was made of scrap metal. The heavy gauge sheet metal body was painted red with the word "Farmall JR" on the side for authenticity.

The elder Poland used metal tubing for the axles and installed small lawn mower wheels in front and slightly larger ones in the back. He fashioned a steering mechanism complete with an old lawn mower steering wheel so his son could maneuver the vehicle. Poland says the "operator station" with its bench seat was just large enough for a 2 or 3-year-old to sit, drive and steer.

Poland recalls that his "Tiny Tractor" was fun for him to drive when he was a kid, and



Wade Poland's grandson enjoys riding on the small electric tractor that Wade's dad built for him more than 50 years ago.

over the years, it's brought him even more pleasure. He kept it for his kids, and now, 52 years after it was built, his grandkids are still enjoying it.

"Everyone's smiling when the little ones are driving it around," Poland says, "and I sure wish my dad could see how his little tractor has made it through the generations. He'd be proud, just as I am."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wade Poland (Facebook: Farmall Restorations, Rebuilds and Repairs).

FARM SHOW



Chris Nielsen's "Wheelie Truck" attracts a lot of attention at the entrance to his repair business.

"Wheelie Truck" Slows Traffic Near His Shop

"The township where my repair shop is located doesn't allow business signage, but they don't have anything against yard art, so I built a 'Wheelie Truck' to get some attention," says mechanic Chris Nielsen.

His traffic slower downer is a tricked-out 1958 Ford pickup body mounted at a 20-degree angle on steel I-beams. It's a tribute to the old truck used in the 1970's TV show Green Acres. "Everyone loves a Wheelie Truck, and mine has unbelievable power with a 16-cyl. mill that puts out 1,000 hp.," says Nielsen with a wink. "My son Eddie and I built it with 7-ft. dia. by 3-ft. wide jet-black wooden rear wheels made from utility cable spools. Traction is provided by genuine slicks made from 1/2-in. thick black belting covering the wooden frames."

Passersby might doubt the authenticity of a 16-cyl. engine, so the Nielsen's added eight straight pipes made of 2 1/2-in. tube steel reaching 4 ft. above each side of the engine compartment. Artificial metal flames on the top of each pipe are cut from orange oil cans.

For over 40 years, Nielsen has rebuilt,

restored, and tricked out many different vehicles, but friends say the Wheelie Truck is his most unusual invention. "The old '58 Ford truck sat in a neighbor's woods for years, and I asked about it many times, finally he said I could have it," Nielsen says.

"Surprisingly, the engine was in fairly good shape, so we removed that and will use it to repower a 1954 Mercury hardtop." The replacement "model" engine is just steel framework to secure the straight pipes and a supersized air cleaner made from an old black metal mailbox. The truck's original grill, bumper, and collector plate are still in place. The Wheelie Truck has real front chrome wheels and rubber tires.

Nielsen says kids who see the truck think there's a real driver in the cab because he and his son cut out and painted sheet metal into the shape of a life-size arm on the left cab door and the likeness of a driver behind the wheel.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Nielsen Truck Repair, 25756 Galaxie Ave. West, Farmington, Minn. 55024.

Swather Cab Repurposed Into Bus Stop

Gary and Laura Rentmeester of Denmark, Wis., found a new use for the cab on Grandpa's old swather by turning the cab into a school bus stop for their two girls.

"This idea was essentially the result of a nagging wife - me! - wanting a more comfortable spot to wait for the school bus with the kids," says Laura. "While Gary and I were disassembling the swather to scrap it, he had a vision. He said, 'Why don't we make the cab our bus stop?'"

They first bolted the cab onto two plastic pallets. Gary then added a heater, which is wired to a light switch in their house. "On extremely cold days, we flip the switch to preheat the shelter fore we head out," says Laura.

Cost-wise, the Rentmeesters retrofitted their new bus stop for just the cost of a \$10 can of paint and a couple of roosters that they



Old swather cab was attached to pallets and equipped with a small heater to make a bus stop.

traded to a neighbor for a bus seat. Labor was free, as their daughters were in charge of painting it.