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## Small Electric “Truck” Now On The Market

Pickman Classic recently introduced a mini pickup without airbags and is certified as legal for speeds of 35 mph. or less.

The Chinese-manufactured vehicles come fully electric in 2 or 4-door models, with rear-wheel drive as well as a 4-WD option. A choice of single or dual rear-mounted high torque motors is available.

Cabs are fully enclosed for weatherproofing and feature air conditioning, backup cameras, and seat belts. Power steering and disc/drum brakes are also included.

“The easiest way to think of them is as an upgraded golf cart, similar to an ATV or a little truck,” says Joseph Chu, COO at Pickman Inc. “We’re a mix between them all.”

The Classic can carry close to a ton in payload and tow up to 2 tons. A receiver for the front or back is optional although most come equipped with a towing package. A ball mount and 4-pin trailer lighting are also included.

Buyers choose between customized beds, boxes, racks or bench seating.

Pickman offers a choice of three battery packages including a lead acid Absorbed

Glass Mat (AGM) for the single motor models or Lithium 105 Ah or 206 Ah upgrades for the larger units.

A range of 50 to 90 miles is possible before charging is necessary. This is accomplished from either 240-volt or 110-volt power sources depending on outlets and adapters.

“The lead acid batteries take about 8 to 10 hours to charge with a 110-volt outlet,” Chu says. “The 240-volt source will quick charge the batteries in about 2 hours.”

He explains the Classic is popular with universities, farms, construction sites, or any 35-mph. neighborhood commutes. They’ve been available in North America since 2019 from dealers across the nation.

The cost for the standard Classic model is between \$16,000 and \$28,000 depending on battery size, single or dual motor choice, box selection and other options.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Colby Fite, The Pickman, 10366 W. State St., Star, Idaho 83669 (ph 208-971-8368; Colby.ecomotors@gmail.com; www.thepickman.com).



Collectors said that even though Bobb’s custom 190 XT looked like a tractor it was actually “functional art.” Its rear end was from a one-ton Ford truck, and another part of the chassis was from a CO-OP E3 tractor.

## Third “Cash” Tractor Sells At 2022 Auction

When Indiana farmer Dennis Bobb wasn’t figuring out ways to make his and his brothers’ D-21 Allis pulling tractors better, he was often building other tractors from spare parts. He named several of them his “Johnny Cash Tractors” because they were built one piece at a time. The third tractor in that series, a 190 XT that Bobb built 15 to 20 years ago, sold at an Alexandria, Ohio, auction in October 2022 for \$5,355.

A collector at the auction says the price was lower than many bidders expected because of the tractor’s unusual features. Bobb built the tractor frame and the sheet metal work himself to prove his skills were still sharp after years of configuring the Allis Chalmers pulling tractors that he and his brothers Marvin and Danny competed with in the early 1970’s. Their well-prepped powerhouse rigs won a season points championship, 15 National events between 1972 and 1975, and numerous state and local events.

Collectors said that even though Bobb’s

custom 190 XT looked like a tractor it was actually “functional art.” Its rear end was from a one-ton Ford truck, and another part of the chassis was from a CO-OP E3 tractor. Power was supplied by a Ford 400 V-8 engine mated to an automatic transmission. That transmission also had a 4-speed manual mechanism. Vertical exhaust pipes on both sides of the hood mimicked those on larger semi-tractors. Auction bidders said the tractor moved quietly and easily at low speeds with the engine idling. They also speculated it might be able to reach “uncomfortably high speeds” with plenty of noise at full throttle. One article written about it proclaimed a top speed “fast enough to scare the daylight out of you.”

Dennis and his brothers have all passed away and the custom tractors are now in collector’s hands.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Aumann Vintage Power, Nokomis, Ill. (www.aumannvintagepower.com).



Drum processes the straw into twin blowers that shoot wheat or soybean straw, or corn stalks through the rotating pipe up to 50 ft.

## Front Mount Strawblower Gets Into Tight Areas

The VDW Duo Compact Strawblower is a Belgium-built front-mounted processor for skid steers, telehandlers and tractors. It handles both round and square bales with a load rating of 2,800 lbs.

“For mounting and brackets, the skid steers are simple as they have uniform hookups,” says Paul Storey, EMC Agri Ltd. Sales Support. “We make sure of the right brackets and attachments for any equipment.”

All Duo Compact’s components are driven off standard flow, open center hydraulics, one pair of remotes, one K strain, and 12-volt electrical hookups. Everything is controlled from the cab with an electric over hydraulic controller.

To pick up a bale, the tailgate is opened, and the unit is pushed under the bale, after which the tailgate is closed to contain the straw.

The machine comes standard with a remote-controlled hydraulic tailgate, a rotating pipe, and a live chain floor similar to a

manure spreader that helps feed bales into a single feeding drum. The drum processes the straw into twin blowers that shoot wheat or soybean straw, or corn stalks through the rotating pipe up to 50 ft.

The low design of the machine ensures a well-arranged and evenly spread bedding pack.

“Our twin blowers are smaller in diameter than our competitors, but because of that, we get much better front visibility,” Storey says. “Our compact design is perfect for dairies or feedlots that often have tighter alleys and corners. We even sold one to a Texas wild-life sanctuary that’s using it for bedding its outside pens.”

The 2023 VDW Duo Compact retails for \$31,900 U.S. FOB plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Storey, 6895 Line 46, Bornholm, Ontario, Canada N0K 1A0 (ph 519-801-9337; info@emcagri.com; www.emcagri.com).

## Robot “Swims” Through Grain

For farmers taking moisture and temperature readings in their bins or stored grain piles, Crover Grain Storage Monitoring has a family of drone bots capable of “swimming” through bulk solids and powders.

While Lorenzo Conti was completing his Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh, he discovered a concept that allows a moving object to work its way through grain and other granular products.

“I realized this discovery could be used to move objects below the surface of bulk solids and powders, like grain,” says Conti. “We then went through the lengthy process of figuring out what a robot like that would look like in practice.”

The resulting bot uses rotation and friction to create a flow of granular particles which in turn generates a pressure differential from one side to the other, driving and steering an object through grain.

Currently, the bot uses onboard sensors to measure temperature and moisture levels in grain piles, although the company is working on adding other readings in the future.

An operator can drive the robot to specific locations using a remote controller, or in a soon-to-be-released version, the bot will automatically “swim” to pre-programmed locations.

An internet connection isn’t required, although if present, it can automatically send data readings to the cloud for later access through the companion app. If out of internet range, reports can be downloaded from the robot and used as is or uploaded to the web



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app later.

The robots are assembled in the UK. The newer version will soon be available in both the UK and the EU. Work continues to transition them to Australia and North America.

“We’d be happy to hear from organizations looking to pilot it in North America and have the budget to fund a pilot project there,” Conti says.

Conti is offering various robot packages beginning at £5,000 or roughly \$6,125 USD per year.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lorenzo Conti, The National Robotarium, Boundary Road North, Third Gait, Edinburgh, Scotland EH14 4AS (info@crover.tech; www.crover.tech).