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Retired farmer Allen Durst built a comfortable passenger cart that mounts to the 3-pt. hitch of his Ford tractor.



3-Pt. Attachments Made For Vintage Ford Tractor

Retired Minnesota dairy farmer Allen Durst says, "When a guy quits milking, he just can't sit around and do nothing, so among other things, I made two custom attachments for my 1955 model 960 Ford tractor."

Although the 960 was never intended to have a front 3-pt. hitch, Durst built one to carry a snowblower. His design includes two lift arms and a horizontal stabilizing bar bolted to the tractor frame. Hydraulic cylinders raise and lower the arms simultaneously, lifting his 800-lb single-auger, double-stage Renegade blower. He says it's just the right size for his 50-hp vintage tractor, which spent many

productive years on their dairy farm.

To power the blower, Durst ran an extended PTO shaft from the back of the tractor to the blower's gearbox. Because the gearbox was designed to mount the blower on the rear of a tractor, he had to reverse the gears for his front-mounted application. He did so by installing four bevel gears in the gearbox and connecting them with #80 roller chain. Engaging the tractor's PTO runs the blower and auger in the correct direction.

"The blower had an adjustable spout I didn't want to turn by hand," Durst says. "So I bought a small battery-powered pump with

a self-contained 2-quart reservoir for about \$150. Now I can rotate the head from side to side right from the tractor seat."

Durst also used his creative skills to build a carry cart that mounts to the 3-pt. hitch on the rear of his tractor.

"For the frame, I used an old double-wide cab from a Kubota commercial mower that I bought for \$100," Durst says. "I tore the frame apart, and my neighbor, who owns a body shop, used parts from old car bumpers to build a new roof. It's probably the only roof in the country made out of car bumpers!"

Durst also installed a new floor and built new sides and a rear wall. The custom-reupholstered bench is wide enough for two people.

"The only comfort feature is the original cab fan, which runs with power from the tractor battery," he says.

"It's a great little parade vehicle and a lot easier for my wife to get into than a carriage or buggy. I just lower the 3-pt. so the floor is nearly ground level. She gets in, I raise it up, and off we go! It's a popular parade attraction because she throws candy to kids along the route."

Durst says he's seen similar ideas written up in FARM SHOW, but he says his is probably different because it's made from an old mower cab and uses car bumpers for a roof.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Allen Durst, 25896 565th St., Mantorville, Minn. 55955.



Nolan designed and built a battery-powered scale-model skid steer and a dumper pushcart for his two sons.

Kids Love His Shop-Built Toys

Steve Nolan says he's been building useful tools, equipment and leisure items for the past 25 years.

"I got my first arc welder for my 13th birthday, and just like my dad, I've been designing and building ever since."

Nolan's a talented engineer who envisions ideas and builds them, rarely drawing up plans.

"When my two young boys were tired of pushing their floor toys around, I decided they needed actual wheeled toys to burn up energy," Nolan says. "I studied the kids' toys, then put them on a workbench and started to create. I didn't use any scales or measurements, just eyed them up real close to get the dimensions correct."

Nolan built a skid-steer body based on a toy CAT machine, using 18-mm and 12-mm marine-grade plywood. To power it, he installed drive motors from a working wheelchair and controlled them with the chair's joystick through its wiring loom. The wheels are from an old quad bike.

"I put one motor on each side between the wheels, then linked the wheels with a small chain. Each wheel has an independent axle,

so the vehicle has 4-WD, just like a real skid steer," Nolan says.

The completed vehicle measures 5 ft long, 2 1/2 ft wide and about 3 ft tall. Inside, there's a padded bench seat so both of his boys could ride together. It took him about 3 mo to complete.

"With a 24V electric system, it has some serious power, and the kids really enjoyed driving it," Nolan says.

Nolan's other powered toy project was a dumper pushcart. He built the body from 18-mm and 12-mm marine plywood. The center pivot is reinforced with 6-mm aluminum plate. He used nylon bushings on the center pin.

"I used a fully working shop-rider mobility scooter for the chassis," Nolan says. "The rear axle and the quad wheels mounted nicely to the scooter's hubs. The steering mechanism uses a handcrafted wheel and a shaft geared down

with sprockets, leading to a push rod. That made the steering lighter, so the kids could manage it easier."

Nolan made the vehicle fully functional in forward and reverse using the scooter's thumb throttle. He mounted the throttle under a pair of homemade pedals, one for forward and the other for reverse.

"As an extra safety bonus, the drive system uses the scooter's built-in electric brakes that engage when the feet are off the pedals," Nolan says.

The pushcart measures 6 ft long, 4 ft wide and about 3 ft tall. Without its battery, the cart weighs a hefty 175 lbs, making it very stable. Nolan says the dumper cart took him about 5 mo to build because it required more engineering than the skid steer.

"The cart has a 24V electrical system, just like the skid steer, so it can handle just about any terrain. Because of its weight and low profile, it doesn't tip easily, a big plus for young drivers."

Nolan says the vehicles were great fun for his boys when they were younger, "but now they're aging up and just want to drive my tractor."

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Dumper pushcart is made of marine-grade plywood with an aluminum-reinforced center-pivot.