



Dean Kennedy's "grain bin house" consists of two 36-ft. dia., 22-ft. high corrugated bins, placed side by side, partially buried and connected by a tunnel. Upper 8 ft. of the south sides of both bins is covered by brick. Each bin has its own entrance covered by a canopy built from the top of smaller bins. Storage bin and deck adjoins one bin.

MADE FROM TWO 36-FT. DIA. BINS PLACED SIDE BY SIDE AND BERMED WITH DIRT

He Built His Own "Grain Bin House"

Two 36-ft. dia., 22 ft. high corrugated bins, placed side by side, partially buried and connected by a tunnel, make a dandy "grain bin house" for North Carolinian Dean Kennedy.

Kennedy has lived in his "bin house" for 10 years. "It's very economical and less expensive than other earth-sheltered home designs. It's rat and mouse proof and the round bin design and corrugated sides withstand pressure from soil to prevent cave-ins."

About 75% of the sides of each bin is covered by dirt. The upper 8 ft. of the south sides of both bins is covered by brick. Each "bin house" includes a central hallway and three pie-shaped sections divided into rooms. One bin contains a family room, kitchen, pantry, dining room, bathroom, and prayer room. The other bin contains three bedrooms, walk-in closets, two bathrooms, and a utility room. Each bin has its own entrance covered by a canopy built out of the top portions of 8-ft. dia. bins. A 15-ft. dia. storage bin and a carport are connected to the house.

Exposed exterior walls are covered by polyurethane insulation and brick while interior walls are covered by sheet rock that was bent to fit the curve of the walls and nailed to 2 by 4 studs. A skylight covers the top opening of each bin. The ceilings were formed with 6-in. sq. wood beams which arch upward toward the skylight, creating an umbrella effect. Inside each bin is a spiral staircase which leads to a balcony. One staircase overlooks the family room and is used as extra living space for large gatherings. The other staircase leads to a balcony containing an office that's complete with a built-in desk



This view shows the north side of bins before they were covered by earth and cabinets.

Both bins are heated by one wood stove set inside a 9-ft. wide granite stone hearth that reaches to the ceiling. The stove heats rocks which radiate heat that's recirculated by overhead vents. "Hot air collects near the ceiling, is sucked through the vents, and redistributed through ducts to other parts of the house," says Kennedy. "Overhead ceiling fans keep the house uniformly cool and hot."

Hot water is provided by 12-gal. electric hot water heaters placed directly above each bathroom and kitchen. The heaters are operated by electric switches on the walls. "It's an economical system," says Kennedy. "We can heat 12 gal. of water in less than 15 min. We turn the heaters on shortly before we need hot water and turn them off when we're done."

To build the "bin house", Kennedy excavated two round 36-ft. dia. holes in a hillside, stopping 2 ft. above the water table. He poured concrete foundations and set the bins on them, then installed drain fields around the bins to keep water from seeping into them. He used 4 in. of polyurethane foam to waterproof and insulate the exterior of the bins.



View of the family room. Interior walls are covered by sheet rock that was bent to fit the curve of the walls and nailed to 2 by 4 studs. The ceilings were formed with 6-in. sq. wood beams which arch upward toward a skylight, creating an umbrella effect.

ROTATES TO BRING "HIDDEN" BIRDS INTO VIEW

"Rotating" Bird Feeder Is Remote-Controlled

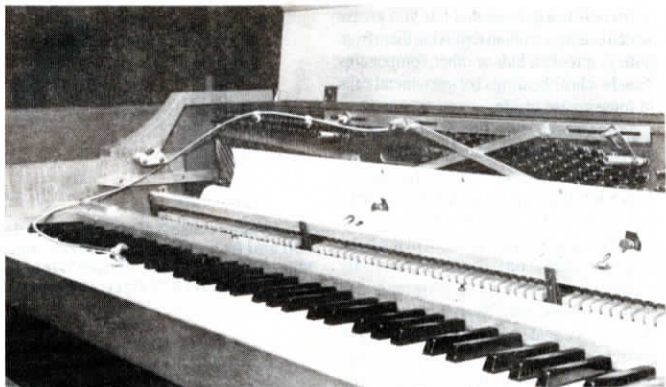
By flipping a switch inside his house, Denis Desjardins, Alcouve, Quebec, can rotate the bird feeder mounted just outside his living room's picture window to bring small songbirds into view, and to scare away larger undesirable birds.

"My wife and baby daughter really like it because they can turn the feeder to see birds that would otherwise be hidden on the far side of the feeder," says Desjardins. "Small songbirds aren't afraid of the slow rotating motion of the feeder but larger birds are spooked and fly away. The feeder is easy to move and inexpensive to build. My only

cost was \$26 for the motor."

Desjardins welded a flat 6 by 6-in. steel plate to the top of a 1-in. dia. steel pipe and bolted a 110-V rotisserie motor (the type of motor used to barbeque meat) to it. He replaced the long rotisserie rod with a 2-in. long rod. The rod attaches to a second steel plate that bolts to the bottom of the feeder. A wire runs from the motor down through the pipe and then underground to the house.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Denis Desjardins, RR 1, Alcouve, Quebec, Canada J0X 1A0 (ph 819 459-2548).



Quiet Keys kit lets you turn a knob under the keys (shown here resting on the keys) to reduce the volume of the piano without changing its touch or playability.

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What do you do when the children should be practicing their piano lessons but can't because Dad's taking a nap?

With the new Quiet Keys kit, you simply turn a knob under the keys to activate a noise damper that works on all pianos except grands.

"A piano fitted with Quiet Keys will function normally in every way and no change can be seen in its appearance," explains Laurence Langowski, inventor.

"An on/off knob mounted out of the way under the keys permits the pianist to reduce the volume of the piano without changing its touch or playability.

Comes with instructions for do-it-yourself installation and sells for \$59.95.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quiet Keys, c/o Laurence Langowski, Rt. 3, Box 179, Austin, Minn. 55912 (ph 800 777-5397).