

# Made It Myself

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## "Pint-Sized" Combine Really Works

"I started working on it 10 years ago, building my own parts or searching junkyards for whatever I needed," says Carroll Neuhalfen, Coleridge, Neb., who built a pint-sized version of a John Deere 4400 combine that works just like the factory versions — only not quite as fast.

The combine features a 6-ft. header, a 7 bu. grain tank, an unloading auger, hydrostatic drive and steering, and a cab. The header raises and lowers and is controlled with an electric clutch, just like the big machines. The combine is powered by a 2-cyl. Wisconsin engine.

"I have over 3,000 hrs. in it and I wouldn't trade it for a new

full-sized combine if someone offered me one," states Neuhalfen. "I will probably use the machine for harvesting clover and alfalfa seed but it can harvest any small grain. Mostly, though, the machine will be used for parades and shows."

To build the concave and rasp bars, Neuhalfen cut down parts from other combines and made some of the parts himself. The machine is authentic even down to the half-size grease gun used for lubrication.

Neuhalfen is building other miniature equipment besides the combine. In fact, he has plans to build an entire "pint-sized" farm. "I've started on a small-sized corn planter, a small dozer, a half-size tandem disc, a half-size John Deere 4020 tractor, and some other equipment," he notes. Besides his hobby, Neuhalfen builds much of his own full-size farm equipment, including a 4-wheel drive tractor. He also builds power tools, including a power hacksaw, metal turning lathe, a milling machine, and a hydraulic break, which he used to bend tin for his small-sized combine.

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## Lawn Mowing Car

"For less than \$200, I built a lawn mower that's better than machines selling for \$5,000 or more," says Ruel Dowlen, Pleasant View, Tenn., about the king-size lawn mower he made using parts from a junked 1960 Ford car.

Dowlen says his car mower is so maneuverable that he doesn't have to trim around trees or other obstacles, by hand — the big mower gets close enough. And he says it's economical, too. "I can mow my 2½ acre lawn on about 3 gal. of gasoline in 1 to 1½ hrs. A garden tractor would use at least that much and probably more to mow the same area," he says.

Dowlen took the 6-cyl. engine, 3-speed transmission, rear end, and other miscellaneous parts from the car, and mounted them on a frame he built out of channel iron. He says the frame of the car would have been too heavy to be practical and rebuilding let him tailor the frame exactly to the purpose of mow-

ing. The unit has a Vega steering gear and a 60-in. mowing deck off an International Cub Cadet.

"There are 14-in. "mud grip" tires in back and standard 14-in. tires in front that are mounted on a solid axle front end that flexes over rough ground. To gear it down, I mounted a small sprocket on the transmission output shaft and a large one on the differential and made it a chain drive. The mower runs at only 1,200 rpm's or less even in heavy grass," says Dowlen.

The brake and clutch are combined in the same pedal — you push half way down for the clutch and all the way for the brake — for quick shifting. The blades are powered off a pulley on the engine. An idler pulley acts as a clutch. Dowlen mounted one of the bucket seats on the 4-ft. wide frame, which rides just 1 ft. off the ground.

Dowlen says he used to mow with a tractor-mounted mower but there was always another piece of equipment on the trac-

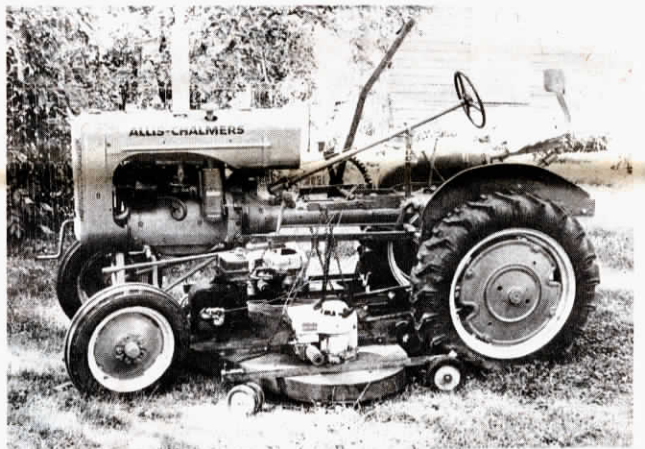
## Tractor Mower Has Its Own Power

"I bought this 'B' Allis Chalmers last fall and restored it last winter, before building this 6-ft. mower for it," says Carroll Neuhalfen, Coleridge, Neb. "Because the tractor had no pto, I mounted a motor on each blade. It does a beautiful job."

The center mower has a Tecumseh motor with a 28-in. blade, while the two outside

mowers are Briggs & Strattons with 26-in. blades. Neuhalfen built the deck from scratch.

"One big advantage is that, with it's own power source, the mower mows at the same speed even when you slow down, back up or shift gears. The motors are all muffled so that when all four are running it sounds like a B-29 passing by overhead," he notes.



tor when he wanted to mow. His new car mower is always ready. He says at least one neighbor already has plans to build a car mower of his own.

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