



Dave Rakers used broken spring shanks off an old field cultivator to make the arched legs on this patio table.

Patio Table Made From Field Cultivator Shanks

Broken spring shanks off an old field cultivator create legs with a flair on this patio table built by Dave Rakers of Ohlman, Ill.

The legs arch gracefully under the 4-ft. sq. tabletop and are painted black. The table itself is lined with off-white, ceramic tile squares on top and includes a firewood burner – the top third of a 30-gal. steel barrel – in the middle.

Rakers used 1-in. flat steel to make the table's frame, then stood the 4 cultivator shanks up at the corners and welded them to the corners. To make the firewood burner he

cut off the top third of the barrel and turned it upside down so the bungee hole is at the bottom. Then he cut a series of holes in a disk blade to form a grate and laid it over the bungee hole.

"It's built nice and heavy and didn't cost much to build," says Rakers. "Also, everything on it can be easily replaced so it should last forever. If the firepot ever burns out I can just replace it with another barrel."

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Custom-made deer gambrel makes a great hanger for slaughtering deer, and also helps preserve memories of the hunt long after the season has ended.

Custom-Made Deer Gambrel Doubles As Wall Decor

"It makes a great hanger for slaughtering deer and also doubles as a beautiful piece of wall decor to display in your hunting den," says Rowan Fay, Summerfield, Fla., about his custom-made, wooden deer "gambrels".

Fay is an evangelist and missionary who's widely known for his public speaking. He's currently pastoring in Summerfield, Fla. He uses a magic marker to sign his name in the middle of each gambrel, and then stains and finishes the wood. Each gambrel also has its own serial number.

The gambrel measures 2 1/2 ft. long and is designed to mount on a 30-in. long, 6 to 8-in. high mounting board (supplied). The gambrel comes with pre-drilled holes for 3 hooks – a shoulder hook at each end and a hook at the center. The mounting board also comes with pre-drilled holes that accept 3 shoulder hooks. Metal clips go on back of the mounting board for hanging on a wall.

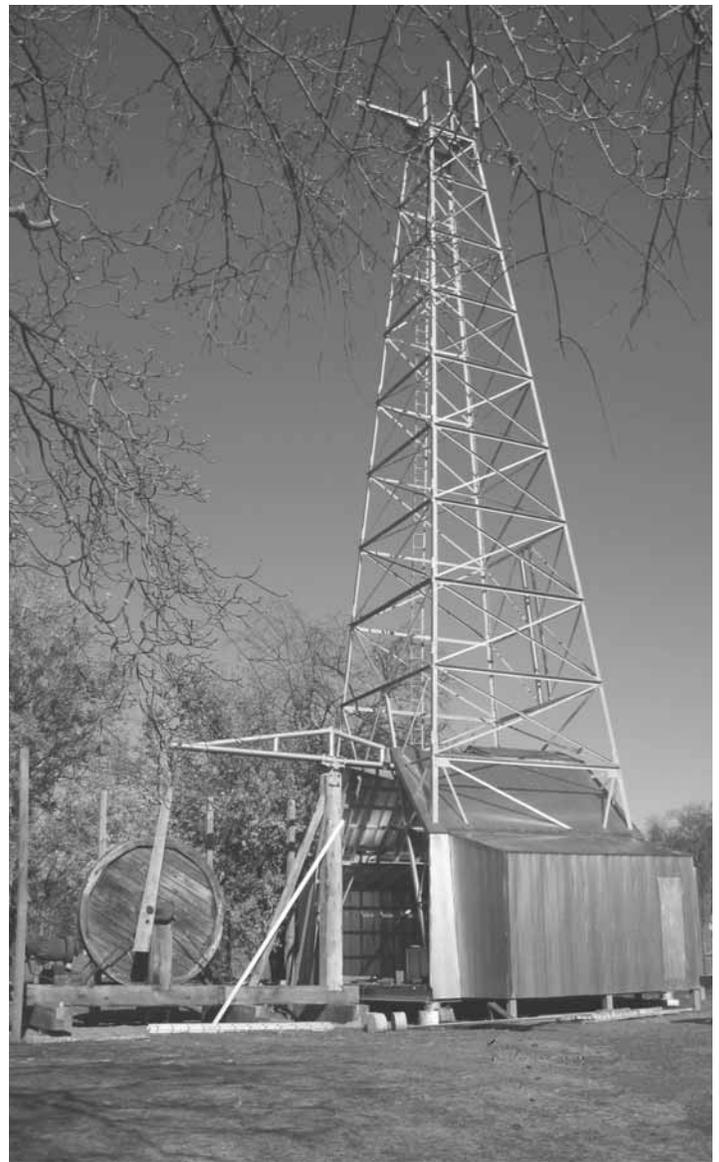
After killing a deer you remove the gambrel from the board and use the center hook to hang the gambrel from a roof beam, and then hang the deer on the gambrel's shoulder hooks. Once the deer has been skinned and cut up, just wash the gambrel and hang it back on the board.

"It adds to a hunter's home atmosphere and helps preserve memories of the hunt long after the season has ended," says Fay. "I started making gambrels many years ago because I needed something to hang my deer on. My first ones were ugly, but functional. Then some of my hunting buddies started asking me to make gambrels for them so I added my signature. Over the years I've made a total of 575 gambrels, shipping them all over the U.S. and to foreign countries."

No two gambrels are alike. "I consider each one a work of art, like an artist putting his signature on a photo," says Fay. "The board is always made from spruce, but the gambrel itself can be made from a variety of wood types. My favorite is sea grape, which can only be found in Florida. I look for tree limb wood because the bend in it shows up in the curvature of the grain."

Each gambrel comes in a kit that includes the gambrel, mounting board, and all necessary hooks. Sells for \$50 plus S&H.

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Ron and Janie Grosjean have one of the biggest backyard lawn ornaments you'll ever see – a 92-ft. tall, antique oil derrick.

Antique Oil Derrick Stands Tall In Rural Yard

A 92-ft. tall oil derrick isn't what most people would call a lawn ornament, but don't tell Ron and Janie Grosjean, who have one in the backyard of their Wooster, Ohio, home.

Ron purposely erected it there to honor his father-in-law, as well as to preserve a piece of history that he hopes will educate future generations.

Grosjean has a 700-acre farm and is a supervisor for his now deceased father-in-law's company, Ken Miller Supply, which supplies pipe and equipment and provides services to oil companies.

Over the past 40 years, Grosjean estimates he has torn down 50 out-of-production derricks that Miller bought and sold for scrap. Grosjean hired a couple of friends to help him move and restore the rare 1926 derrick, which was about 30 miles from Wooster, sitting in woods on a hillside. A road had to be bulldozed through the trees before they could get started.

"We rented a high lift and started at the top, letting it down piece by piece, with a rope and pulley," Grosjean says. The crew loaded and transported all the parts on farm wagons within 10 days. The longest angle iron pieces were 22 ft. long near the bottom. The heaviest item was the 3,000-lb. bull wheel.

Grosjean and his crew secured the 24 by 24-ft. base on deep concrete pads. They wire-wheeled the galvanized pieces before

applying top-quality silver paint.

"It was in really good condition considering how old it is," Grosjean says. "We were able to reuse 70 percent of the bolts."

They assembled the top 40 ft. of the derrick on the ground, and Grosjean hired a crane to lift it in place. He mounted a lighted metal cross on top.

"People thought I was building a cell tower for awhile. Nobody here had ever seen one," Grosjean says. "Most were torn down in the 1970's."

Grosjean built a shed to replicate the shanty that once protected equipment and workers who drilled the well.

The derrick isn't operable, but visitors can see all the parts, including the one-cylinder gas engine and a section of 12-in. well casing to get a good understanding about how hard it was to work the oil fields in the early 20th Century. It fits well with Grosjean's restored Oliver tractor collection and other collectibles in his private museum.

"I give private tours. People who are interested can call ahead to look at the derrick and all my equipment," Grosjean offers.

The tower with its lighted cross can be seen from miles away.

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