

Jacobsen Garden Tractor Made Into Deere G “Parade Tractor”

“My son Lanny and I converted an old 1970’s Jacobsen garden tractor to look like a 1941 Deere G. It makes a great parade tractor,” says Danny Reese, Goodhue, Minn.

The tractor rides on 31-in. high lugged rear wheels and is used to pull a homemade 2-wheeled “people hauler” that’s fitted with a comfortable bench seat at parades.

They removed the hood from the Jacobsen and replaced it with one made by modifying the hood off a 1943 Deere B. They also modified the air cleaner off a Deere A and mounted it opposite the Jacobsen’s exhaust muffler. The tractor’s fenders were cut down to make room for big 31 by 15 lugged rear tires off an old Deere self-propelled swather. The lugged front tires, purchased new, were made for a walk-behind snowblower.

Weights made from sq. steel tubing were added on front. “The weights serve as a

bumper so if the tractor hits something the grill won’t get smashed in,” says Danny.

The people hauler’s bench seat is out of an old 1972 Chevy Blazer and mounts on a home-built frame. There are foot rests made from 2 by 10’s in front of the seat, and on back is a platform also made from 2 by 10’s.

The wheels and axle are off either a riding mower or a snowmobile trailer. “I’m not sure which because I bought them piecemeal at an auction,” says Danny.

The tractor worked overtime a couple of years ago at a nearby fair in Zumbrota, Minn. “The fair was supposed to have a carnival, but the carnival didn’t show up and the fair’s manager didn’t know until the first day of the fair,” says Danny. “He immediately called us for help. We ended up hooking a homemade ‘barrel train’ behind the tractor and spent 5 days in a row, 12 hrs. per day, giving kids



Lanny Reese and his father Danny converted an old 1970’s Jacobsen garden tractor to look like a 1941 Deere G. Tractor rides on 31-in. high lugged rear wheels and is used to pull a homemade 2-wheeled “people hauler” at parades.

rides. Lanny did most of the driving, and by the time the fair was over he was exhausted. But the kids had a lot of fun.”

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He Built His Own Paddle Wheel Windmill

Don Shepherd operates a windmill museum near Shattuck, Okla., with more than 50 rare windmills. But when he went looking for a simple paddle wheel-style mill – the kind used by early homesteaders in the West – he couldn’t find one. “So I built one using materials that I already had,” says Don Shepherd.

The 4 paddle wheels measure 32 in. wide and are made from lumber from an old hay loft. The wheels are contained inside a 3 by 8-ft. wooden box and fastened to a horizontal axis set squarely across the direction of the prevailing wind, with the lower half boxed in. A hand-operated water pump is located

just outside the box. “It’s all hooked up to pump water but I don’t have it over a well,” says Shepherd. “Most of the pumping parts are off a junked Hesston swather.”

The swather’s driveshaft serves as the axle for the paddle wheels and is connected to the swather’s sicklebar drive system. The sicklebar drive gear mounts on one side of the box and drives the sicklebar shaft, which runs horizontally at ground level and is attached to the pump.

“I enjoyed building it, and people seem to think it’s a good addition to our windmill museum,” says Shepherd. “I got the lumber that I used to build the box from an old

hayloft. It doesn’t take a lot of wind to move the paddles, so they turn a lot of the time. If it was installed over a well it would definitely pump water. The big limitation to a paddle wheel is that the wheels don’t swivel into the wind, so you just get the benefit of the wind from 2 different directions.”

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Don Shepherd went looking for a simple paddle wheel-style windmill but couldn’t find one. So he built one somewhat similar to the one in this photo using materials he already had.

More “Pallet Furniture” Ideas

There seems to be an endless supply of ideas for turning wood pallets – which can usually be obtained for free – into buildings, furniture, planters, and much more. We’ve featured some in the past (Vol. 32, No. 3 and Vol. 36, No. 4) and several websites specialize in pallet ideas, such as www.99pallets.com, www.101pallets.com, and www.1001pallets.com.



John Adams, Permaculture magazine (www.permaculture.co.uk), showed readers his design for a bench made out of 2 1/2 pallets.



Third grade teacher Donna Zang, Pittsburgh, Penn., turned pallet boards into an attractive wine rack.



Donna Zang also came up with this design for a wishing well.



A pallet filled with dirt can be used to make a weed-free garden.



Picnic table built from several pallets seats 8 adults.



Donna Zang built this pallet board bench in memory of a friend who died. He was a daily visitor to a dog park, so the memorial bench includes side baskets to hold balls and doggy treats.

How To Reach Us

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