

ROCKING CHAIR, LOVE SEAT, TABLES, ETC.

Rural Californian Makes "Horseshoe Furniture"

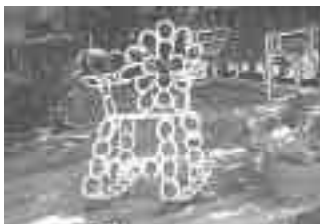
After working for 38 years as a carpenter, David Gonzales of Hanford, Calif., got tired of working with wood. So after he retired he started making furniture out of an unusual product - horseshoes.

To make the furniture, Gonzales simply welds the horseshoes together, bending them first when necessary. His horseshoe furniture collection includes love seats, tables, rocking chairs, bar stools, boot jacks, plant stands, towel holders, candle holders, flower pot holders, clocks, key holders, and a pair of roping cowboys next to a covered wagon. He even built an ornamental grape cluster and a 5-ft. high horseshoe Christmas tree.

"I make virtually every part of my furniture by welding horseshoes together," says Gonzales, who has been making horseshoe furniture for about two years. "The rocking chair even has horseshoe arms and runners on it. I make the rocking chairs in two different sizes for tall and short persons. The tall chair has four shoes per leg and the short chair has three shoes. The back of the chair is rounded out which makes it very comfortable. The seat doesn't even need a pad. The Christmas tree has more than 200 horseshoes in it.

"I sell a few of the pieces I make, but I'm trying not to make my hobby a full-time job."

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Rocking chair with horseshoe arms



Powder-coated horseshoe love seat.



Gonzales' horseshoe table.



Colenbrander with miniature equipment loaded on 1955 International truck.

HOBBY KEEPS RETIRED FARMER BUSY

Working Scale Models Of Old IH Farm Machinery

Retired farmer Arie Colenbrander of Sioux Center, Iowa, says that when he was farming he dreamed of some day making miniature farm machinery.

So as soon as he retired he started building a 1/5-scale model of a 1910 Titan tractor. He went on to build a 1/5-scale model smaller Titan tractor, a threshing machine, and a McCormick Deering corn sheller. All four models really work and are belt or chain-driven. They're all powered by small Briggs & Stratton gas engines.

Each year Colenbrander and his wife, Goldie, load their miniature equipment on the bed of a 1955 International truck and travel to area fairs or car shows to put the equipment on display.

"They bring back memories to people who lived in the 1920's, '30's, and 40's because they work just like the full-sized machines did," says Colenbrander. "I was 65 when I started building these models and 78 when I finished them. I had to travel to Minden, Neb., to get the measurements for the corn sheller. It took a long time to measure everything from top to bottom. They didn't cost a lot to build because I made them all from scratch. I spent a total of about \$100.

"The big Titan tractor weighs 150 lbs. and took three years to complete. There's a lot of heavy steel in it. It has two belts and two chains - one on each side of the tractor. The original tractor was powered by a 45 hp 2-cyl. gas engine. I made all the pulleys but bought most of the sprockets. The smaller Titan is a 1020 that was built from 1914 to 1924. Goldie helped me paint both tractors.

"The threshing machine was originally built in the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's. As a boy I loved to run my dad's threshing machine. I used 20-penny nails to make the wheel spokes on it as well as on the corn



Scale model Titan tractor weighs 150 lbs. and took three years to complete.



Threshing machine features wheel spokes made of 20 penny nails.

sheller. The worm gears on the thresher are off a crescent wrench. The steering mechanisms on both tractors also came from a crescent wrench.

"I bought the IH R-130 truck new. The speedometer is going around for the second time but the engine has never been touched."

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Sie's Ford 7000 tractor pulling pto-driven rotary tedder (left) and Cat Challenger 65 pulling pto-driven harrow (right).

He Builds "Erector Set" Toy Tractors

Howard Sie, who lives in Holland, has an unusual hobby - he builds toy tractors and implements out of Meccano toy "erector sets".

On a recent visit to the U.S. he displayed a pair of his "erector set" tractors and implements at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Ky., including a Ford 7000 tractor pulling a pto-driven rotary tedder and a Challenger 65 pulling a pto-driven harrow. Each tractor is powered by a 12-volt electric motor (the Challenger has two) that allows the tractor to move forward or backward and to turn. The motor also operates the 3-pt. hitch and pto, allowing the implements to work just like the real thing.

"I built them entirely from Meccano parts, except for the motors and dual rear

tires on the Ford tractor," says Sie. "I tried to build the tractors with as many working features as possible so that they perform just like the real thing. For example, all the controls, including the clutch pedal, throttle, and 3-pt. lever, are in the right position and both tractors have working steering wheels. Each tractor weighs about 18 lbs. It took about one year to make each model."

Sie started making Meccano toy erector sets when he was six years old. His first models were draglines and dump trucks. He has also built a Caterpillar D11N dozer and a Ford 4-WD "County" tractor.

The Ford has a working clutch, gearbox, and differential that allows 12 forward speeds and 4 reverse. It also has a suspension seat. The rear tires are 6-in. dia. "tire" ashtrays. Power for the 3-pt. hitch and pto

can be used with the tractor in neutral or as it travels.

The Challenger is equipped with rubber tracks and a Mobil Trac-like drive system made with Meccano parts. Instead of separate track links hinged to each other there's just one continuous belt on each side that's made from rubber molded over steel cables. The outer surface of the belt is ribbed to grip the ground, but the inner surface is smooth and is driven by smooth rear wheels. The front axle is spring-loaded to keep the tracks tight so that they can be driven by the rear wheels.

The Challenger has a planetary steering

differential and can travel in 8 different speeds that are controlled by one lever. The pto and 3-pt. are independent of the drive system.

EDCOR, a parts supplier for dealers headquartered in Chesapeake, Va., encouraged Sie to show his toys at the company's exhibit at the Louisville show. The company discovered Sie's work at a farm show in Holland.

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