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FLAMES SHOOT OUT 2 TO 3 FT.

He Made A 40-Ft. Long Fire-Breathing Dragon

Puff the Magic Dragon would probably like to have a friend like this fire-breathing steel dragon owned by Walt Barenfanger of Vandalia, Ill., who tows it on a tandem axle trailer in local parades.

The dragon has mean-looking red eyes and occasionally shoots flames 2 to 3 ft. out of its mouth.

"It's a big hit at parades and draws a lot of 'oohs' and 'aahs,'" says Barenfanger, who runs a hardware store in town. He notes that Paul Schaub of Brownstown, Ill., did most of the actual work.

The dragon measures 40 ft. long and 20 ft. tall and has 2-ft. high scales along the entire length of its neck, back, and tail. It weighs 20 tons. It's made from 1/8-in. thick sheet metal that has a natural rust color. In order to shoot out flames the interior is rigged with a propane gas burner, an ignitor, and a solenoid valve. The operator pulls a lever to operate the valve, which activates the ignitor. The valve can also be operated by remote control.

The dragon's long neck is hinged and can be hydraulically lowered to slip under telephone wires and tree limbs. A hydraulic cylinder, operated by a hydraulic pump, is extended or retracted by operating a lever located behind one of the dinosaur's legs.

"Many people confuse it with a dinosaur, but dinosaurs don't breathe fire. Only drag-



Flames shoot out of the mouth by means of a propane gas burner, an ignitor, and a solenoid valve which can be operated by remote control.

ons do," says Barenfanger. "I got the idea because I wanted something different for our town's Halloween parade. I use a pickup or tractor to pull it. The body of the dragon is mounted on stands that bolt to the trailer floor. There's a steel plate welded to the bottom of the tail in case it drags on the road. To mount the dragon on the trailer I simply jack up the dragon and pull the trailer under it. When I'm not showing the dragon in parades I keep it in front of our hardware store."

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Pat Prom made this "double engine" Deere 110 garden tractor by stretching it out 15 1/2 in. and adding a second engine.

Half-Scale Deere 730 And "Double Engine" Deere 110

"It looks and sounds just like the real thing and is my pride and joy," says Pat Prom about the half-scale Deere 730 tractor he built from scratch. He also made a "double engine" Deere 110 garden tractor by stretching it out and adding a second engine.

The 730 is powered by an 8 hp Kohler gas engine that belt-drives a Peerless transaxle. Prom hand made the rear wheel hubs and the wheel centers. The 7.50 by 16 rear wheels and 3.50 by 8 front wheels are new. The front spindles were handmade, as were the seat and flywheel. The steering wheel is off a riding mower. The hood and grille, air cleaner, and muffler were hand made from sheet metal. A Tupperware dish was used to make the pre-cleaner above the air cleaner.

"It's a fun tractor to drive in parades and at tractor shows," says Prom. "A lot of people ask me how many hours it took me to build it, but I don't keep track because I sell my half-scale tractors according to what I figure they're worth, not how many hours it took to build them."

"Double Engine" Deere 110

Prom also "stretched out" a 1973 110 garden tractor 15 1/2 in. and equipped it with a second engine. The tractor's original 10 hp Kohler gas engine was worn out so he rebuilt it. Then he cut the front part of the tractor off and cut the front part off another identical tractor and welded the two parts together. He mounted a 12 hp Kohler gas engine (out of a Cub Cadet) ahead of the original engine. A belt connects the two engines together. There's one straight-up exhaust pipe for each engine. He also mounted 10 1/2-in. wide, 18-in. high dual lug tires on back and 6.50 by 8 lug tires on front.

"When both engines are running it makes a lot of noise. A lot of people think it sounds like a race car," says Prom. "I take it often to parades and shows. It looks like a pulling tractor or a plowing tractor, but it's really not set up for pulling because you can get only



Back of tractor is fitted with 10 1/2-in. wide, 18-in. high dual lug tires.



Prom built this half-scale Deere 730 from scratch. It's powered by an 8 hp Kohler gas engine that belt-drives a Peerless transaxle.

so much horsepower through the belt that connects both engines. I put a decal on it that says '110 Experimental'. It'll go 8 to 10 mph. It doesn't go any faster than the original tractor because it still runs at the same rpm's. I turn a key to start the original engine and use the tractor's pto clutch to engage the add-on engine."

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