



Retired machinist William Ives built this mini 1936 Deere "D", scaling it down to one-third size by taking measurements from the real thing.

## Mini Deere "D" Built From Scratch "One Part At A Time"

Retired machinist William Ives crafted every part of his 1/3-scale Deere "D" from scratch. It's a 1936 model that Ives chose because, "Thirty-six was the year they put the tires on rubber."

The tractor was scaled down to the one-third size by taking measurements from the real thing. "I also had an old JD brochure that showed the parts and a Deere parts manual. I copied everything and scaled it down."

Easier said than done. Ives is a skilled machinist. It took him 1,438 hours to build his D and, he says, "Another 250 to get the bugs out of it."

Ives took his masterpiece to a couple shows last summer so other people could enjoy it. He's now in the midst of a new project building a 1928 Twin City half-scale.

Already this project because of its size has taken longer than the John Deere D. The longer amount of time is required also

because he's building it completely from a picture. Ives said it'll be a little bigger and heavier than a riding lawn mower.

When asked about how one has the ability to measure, recreate the parts then put it all together, he said, "You've just got to have the ability to make out and work with the equipment you've got."

Besides being a machinist, Ives has been an antique engine collector for years. He has restored 240 antique engines over the years since 1955. He quit three years ago to dedicate his time to toy models. Ives says he works on one project at a time and advises anyone going into this hobby to do the same. "One thing at a time. Once you start something like that you need to follow through and to get it done right. It's too easy to make a mistake."

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## Side-By-Side Farmalls Operate Like One Tractor

Elwood Hachler had so much fun combining two 1942 Farmalls into a single side-by-side tractor, he calls the double rig "Grandpa's Toy".

"I've restored 20 tractors over the past 12 years and when I started working on a Farmall A and B, I decided to do something different," says Hachler. "My trailer wasn't big enough to haul two tractors at once to shows, so I put them together on one frame."

"Installing two motors, two transmissions and two rear ends on one frame is tricky but I got it so it works like a regular tractor. Either motor and transmission will work separate or both will work together at the same time. I added nothing extra so it looks like it was factory-built. I put the brake and one clutch together and adjusted the brake to operate when the clutch releases."

One look at this unique model and Hachler's talents as a machinist, body man, and tractor restoration expert are immediately recognizable. But this isn't the only complicated project he has completed. "I have a small hay baler that I made from scratch. It produces square bales 4 by 4 by 8-in. tied with wire. I power it with a stationary one-cylinder engine mounted on an old lawn mower frame."

Part of the fun of creating new projects is displaying them. Hachler says that "Grandpa's Toy" got around a lot last summer. "It attracts more attention than any other tractor I've restored over the years."

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The driver never has to pedal this high-wheeled tricycle. All the work is done by an 8 hp gas engine which belt-drives a 3-speed transmission off a riding mower.

## High-Wheeled "Hardly Davidson" Tricycle

"I call it my 'Hardly Davidson' tricycle because it's powered by a gas engine but is hardly a motorcycle," says Dean Fechter, Belvue, Kan., who made a high-wheel tricycle entirely from scratch.

The tricycle is equipped with a big 55-in. high front wheel and two 19-in. rear wheels. An 8 hp Briggs & Stratton gas engine mounts above the rear axle. It belt-drives the one-piece differential and 3-speed transmission off a Bolens riding mower. There are three control levers in front of the driver: the clutch, which pulls a cable that tightens and loosens the belt; the gearshift; and the brake. There's also a small lever to control the throttle.

"My granddaughter often rides it in parades. It's a lot of fun for her and the parade watchers get a kick out of it," says Fechter. "I mounted a pair of Buick car horns on front

and when she blows them it really gets people's attention. A big American flag mounts in a holder on front, and a pair of smaller flags mount behind. The single front wheel is off an old dump rake while the rear wheels are off old implements of some type. I mounted 1/2-in. thick rubber conveyor belt on all three wheels to make it ride smoother.

"The steel seat, which is off an old horse-drawn riding plow, is supported by a shock absorber off the front end of a motorcycle. The seat is 5 ft. off the ground but is easy to reach because the rider can climb on top of a metal hood mounted over the engine. I used some metal off an old Caterpillar tractor to make the hood. The engine was given to me."

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Hachler's trailer wasn't big enough to haul two Farmalls at once, so he put them together on one frame.



Either tractor's motor and transmission will work separate or both will work together at the same time.



Hachler calls the double rig "Grandpa's Toy". "It attracts more attention than any other tractor I've restored over the years."