



Paulsen's "mini" 4040 is powered by a Pinto 4-cyl. engine and fitted with a Ford Fairlane transmission.

**"IT TOOK 5 YEARS OF SPARE TIME TO BUILD"**

## Home-Built Half-Size Deere 4040 Tractor

John Paulsen, Anthon, Iowa, has been interested in small size farm machinery ever since, as a 10-year-old, he started building mini hay bucks and stackers to "harvest" grass clippings from the front lawn. A couple years later he built a motorized swather that would cut grain, but that project ended soon after it began because he was feeding too much of the grain he cut to the chickens.

Several years later, in his teens, he built his first motorized tractor, a scale model Farmall "M" powered by a Briggs & Stratton engine. A local machine shop helped out with the lathe work and welding. Over the next few years he also built a mini Caterpillar tractor, a down-sized Deere 70 tractor, and a scale model combine.

In 1978, Paulsen started collecting parts to build a half-scale Deere 4040 tractor. Five years later he had completed the tractor which has been a show stopper ever since at steam threshers' reunions all over the Midwest.

"About half the parts on the tractor are genuine half-scale parts which I built from scratch. The rest of the tractor was adapted

from other parts as needed. I've had offers to buy the tractor but I don't want to sell," says Paulsen.

The tractor is powered by a Pinto 4-cyl. engine and is fitted with a Ford Fairlane transmission that he rebuilt and grafted onto the Pinto engine's output shaft. He used the original Pinto clutch. The transmission drives a rear differential which Paulsen built by modifying a Simcoe car differential. "The hardest part of building the tractor was finding a small enough transmission and putting together the differential," he says, noting that he used the gears and bearings from the Simcoe differential and mounted them inside an oil-filled sealed housing he made out of a length of pipe and filled with oil. The tractor has 3 speeds forward and 1 in reverse. Low gear speed is about 4 mph. If he were to do it again, Paulsen says he would gear the tractor down a bit slower.

The tinwork, seat, lights, control levers, and frame all match a full-sized 4040. Garden tractor decals give it an authentic touch.

Paulsen spent about \$2,200 and five years of spare time to build the tractor.



## Scale Model Wood Tractors

Over the past 17 years John Paulsen has developed a booming sideline business building 1/10th scale model farm tractors out of wood. He'll build any model of any vintage - even modified or customized tractors - if you've got good photos, drawings or company sales literature that he can go by.

The first time Paulsen builds a particular model, it takes him a while to figure out all the parts and he makes a few drawings to use as a guide. The body and some miscellaneous parts are made out of wood while other parts, such as control levers, pedals and steering wheel, are made out of steel. If the tractor being copied was equipped with steel wheels, Paulsen makes wheels out of wood. If he's working on a rubber-tired model, he generally fits the tractor with model tractor rubber wheels.

Paulsen's models are built in painstaking detail, including individual engine components that are clearly visible. Wheels

and levers move and the tractors are painted authentically and identified with appropriate letters and decals. He carves some components and cuts others with a band saw.

Paulsen's most popular tractor models are Farmalls, and the most popular Farmall is the 1954 Super M-TA. Deere's 4020, the model of which measures 12 in. long, 9 in. wide and 1 ft. high, is also a good seller.

Older model tractors cost less to build because of their simplicity. The price of a Model A Deere, for example, is about \$250. A Deere 4020 with a wide front, on the other hand, sells for about \$350. Paulsen also builds a 2-bottom plow, which he says is a popular seller.

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## NEARLY 12 FT. IN CIRCUMFERENCE

# His 653-Lb. Squash Is World's Biggest

Last fall Leonard Stellpflug, Rush, N.Y., harvested a 653 lb. squash, the world's biggest, according to the World Pumpkin Confederation. The previous world's record was 595 1/2 lbs.

Stellpflug's "biggest ever" world champion "Giant Grey Mammoth" measured 28-in. high, 45-in. wide, and 46-in. long. Circumference was nearly 12 ft. and during its peak period of growth it grew nearly 20 lbs. per day. "You could see it grow several inches each day," says Stellpflug.

It took four men to lift the mammoth squash off the ground and onto a pickup bed. Stellpflug then drove the squash to New York City for an appearance on the David Letterman show.

"The secret is to give each plant a lot of space and to plant seed bred for size," says Stellpflug, who bought the seed from Tom Mitchell, Akron, Ohio. Mitchell had produced the biggest squash grown in 1987 at 574 lbs. (not a world record). Stellpflug planted two squash seeds 45 ft. apart, giving each a 45 by 50 ft. growing area. He pruned all but one blossom per plant. He also watered the squash plants daily during the drought, applying 1,400 gal. per week or the equivalent of 1 inch of rain.

Stellpflug staked the vines down every five days to keep the wind from twisting the vines up and splitting them and to keep the vines on the ground, encouraging auxiliary roots to grow. "The vines became mammoth - as big as small tree trunks," notes

Stellpflug.

The previous fall Stellpflug had planted rye, plowing it under late last April as green fertilizer. He then applied well rotted manure, spreading half a manure spreader load per plant and concentrating it near the center of the 50 by 50 ft. plot. He also applied 22 lbs. of 10-20-20 commercial fertilizer.

After the contest, Stellpflug painted the mammoth squash orange and carved out the world's biggest "jack o' lantern" for Halloween. "The squash tasted a lot like pumpkin," he notes.

Stellpflug has been breeding pumpkins commercially for seven years (two years in competition), but squash for only two years. In 1987 he took third place in the World Pumpkin Confederation's pumpkin growing contest. "The pumpkins didn't do well last year, probably because of the hot weather," he says. "My goal this year is to produce a 700 lb. pumpkin, which would be the world's record."

Other big squash entered in the squash growing contest last year were grown by Ray and Karen Waterman of Collins, N.Y. (561 1/2 lbs.) and Will Neily of Spa Springs, Nova Scotia (509 lbs.).

Stellpflug sells 6 seeds from his world record squash for \$10 or 10 seeds for \$15.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Leonard Stellpflug, 171 Works Road, Honeyoye Falls, N.Y. 14472 (ph 716 624-1079).



It took four men to lift Stellpflug's huge squash onto the bed of a pickup.