



Jens Andersen, who lives in Denmark, shipped this Minnesota tractor to Europe.

Minnesota Tractor Shipped To Europe

"FARM SHOW readers who have older model tractors for sale might be interested in how I bought a tractor in the U.S. and shipped it over here to Europe. Might be a new market for them," says Jens Andersen, Kerteminde, Denmark.

"I am in an antique tractor club and had been looking for an International 1568 because it was never sold in Europe. Only a few people over here know that the V-8 diesel in this tractor is original and that when doing light pulling, it runs on only four cylinders.

"The great thing about the Internet is that you can find tractors all over the world. I found a 1974 model in Farmington, Minn., and paid for it in advance. A friend and I traveled there to pack it up for shipping back to Denmark in a standard shipping container. That was a little tricky.

"We first took the cab off and narrowed the tractor down to 89 in., the width of the

container. We cut 13 in. off both rear driveshafts and pushed the wheels in against the frame, ending up with 87 in. We drained the fuel tank, leaving just enough to drive into the crate.

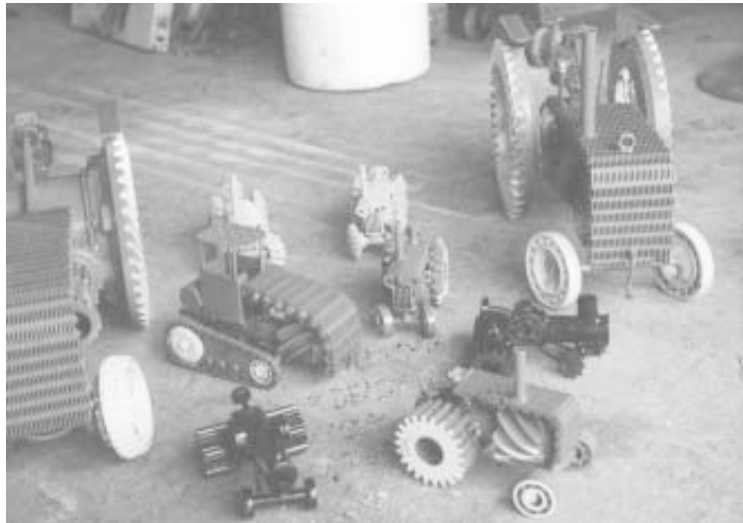
"After four weeks it arrived at my place. The first thing I did was to weld the axle pieces back on. A nearby shipyard examined the axles and told me I should use a rod for manganese-steel, since the axles were extremely well-hardened. I used angle iron and clamps to keep the axle centered and straight.

"Since then, I've entered tractor pulls and the welds have held. I also use the tractor with a 3-bottom reversible plow and a 23-shank chisel plow.

"I had it painted and then started taking it to shows. People over here are amazed by this tractor."

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Harry Benjamin makes toy tractors out of gears, bearings, nuts, bolts, and other miscellaneous scrap metal parts that he welds together.

Toy Tractors Made From "Nuts And Bolts"

"They're fun to make and people really get a kick out of them," says Harry Benjamin, Shelby, Mont., about the toy tractors he makes out of gears, bearings, nuts, bolts, and other miscellaneous scrap metal parts that he welds together.

The tractors resemble full-size machines but they aren't built to scale. Benjamin salvages whatever materials he can find - often from old tractors or cars - and then uses his imagination.

"I've built 15 or 20 models, and no two are alike," he says.

He makes two sizes - small ones that stand about 6 in. high, and bigger ones that stand about 1 1/2 ft. high.

The 1 1/2-ft. high models include two Deere tractors, a Cat Challenger, a Big Bud, and a Deere Wagner built in the late 1960's.

The 6-in. wide hoods on the Deere tractors were made by cutting apart the drive chain off a big Wagner 4-WD tractor. The rear wheels and spokes consist of the ring

gears and pinions off big Steiger and Versatile 4-WD tractors. "The drive chain is made up of hundreds of little half-moon shaped pieces held together by pins. I removed the pins and welded the individual pieces together to make the spokes for the wheels," says Benjamin. The front wheels were made from roller bearings.

"We keep one of the Deere tractors in our front yard, where it sits on a concrete pad," says Benjamin. "These 1 1/2-ft. high Deere tractors weigh up to 300 lbs. The reason they're so heavy is that the differential ring gears are very heavy."

Some of the smaller models resemble old steam engines. One uses a welded-on nut as a steering wheel and has a body made from the timing chain off a car. "The small tractors make nice lawn or mailbox ornaments," notes Benjamin.

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Ronald Ragland's "First Snow" - a new hand-signed collector print.

North Carolina Artist Specializes In Rural Art

"As a subscriber to FARM SHOW, I enjoyed the article in your last issue about artist Robert Doornbos who specializes in art about agriculture. I thought your readers might be interested in my work which is also farm-related," says Ronald Ragland, Raleigh, North Carolina.

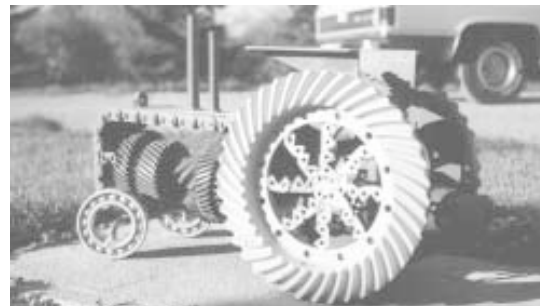
Ragland grew up on a farm in rural Oxford, N.C., and still owns two small farms which he works himself. He spent 36 years

as an art director in the advertising business, working on accounts for ag companies.

He now paints full-time, producing rural-related art work.

You can see more of his artwork at his web site: www.beagleart.com.

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He makes tractors in two sizes - 6 in. high and 1 1/2 ft. high.