



Smith's 3-pt. scraper blade mounts on a removeable 3-pt. hitch and can be raised or lowered by moving a lever up or down. Note wagon and grain auger in background.

BUILT TO SCALE WITH LOTS OF DETAIL

“Pedal Tractors” Farm Implements

Iowa farmer Brent Smith is doing a brisk business selling toy farm implements and accessories built to scale for pedal tractors.

Smith custom builds the toys inside a 24 by 36-ft. garage on his farm. He makes both early and late model implements. The list includes anhydrous ammonia tanks, chisel plows, moldboard plows (2, 4, 6, and 8-bottom), tandem disks, 3-pt. scraper blades, grain elevators, row crop cultivators, field cultivators, flare box wagons, hay racks, planters (2 to 16-row), round bale carriers, sprayers, manure spreaders, and round and square balers. He also makes such accessories as fertilizer saddle tanks, tractor fenders, dual rear wheel tractor axles, wide tractor front ends, 3-pt. hitches, metal spoke rims, and SMV signs.

“They’re built exactly to pedal tractor scale and have lots of detail,” says Smith, who also paints and repairs old pedal trac-

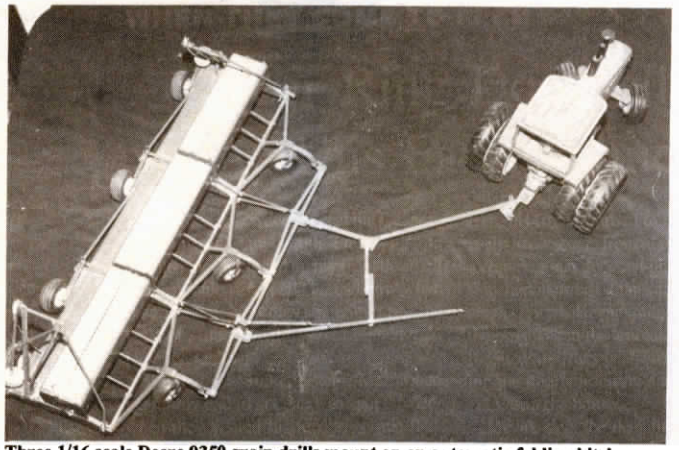


This tandem disk has hydraulic hoses.

tors. “For example, the grain auger can be raised and lowered by a lever and planters come complete with seed counter, disc openers, hydraulic lines, and SMV signs. All of the toys can be painted in any color.”
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Kids love farm toys in Europe, too. French farmer Gerard Ayme built working pedal tractor-sized implements for his son, including a front-end loader, mini round baler, a combine, field cultivator, and auger wagon. (Photos courtesy Top Cultures Magazine)



Three 1/16 scale Deere 9350 grain drills mount on an automatic folding hitch.

**DRILLS, SWATHERS, COMBINES,
PLANTERS BUILT TO SCALE**

He Builds Deere Toys From Scratch

By Bill Vossler

John Janzen has a goal. “I’m trying to build a complete 1/16 scale farm with all the equipment,” he says.

And oh, what equipment!

Janzen, of rural Winkler, Manitoba, is one of the elite scratch-builders - perhaps the best - in all of farm toydome. His incredibly detailed John Deere farm equipment - grain drill, swather, combine, and grain truck - have turned heads and hearts of everyone who’s seen them.

“Ertl makes tractors. But not the equipment that goes with the tractors. That was my impetus - to make the John Deere equipment to complement the tractors.”

He owned a few farm toys as he was growing up. And he can pinpoint when he got involved in scratch-building. “When I was 12 years old, I built a little swather out of wood. It had little wooden wheels and a reel that turned with a small rope. It took me a couple of days to build it and get all the details right so it would run.”

Following that, Janzen says, whenever he wanted a toy, he made one. “But I didn’t make the metal ones until 1982,” he says. A year later he began collecting farm toys.

“I went to a farm toy show in Grand Forks, N. D. I saw a guy there who had built a grain drill. It inspired me. I figured I could do as well.” In response, Janzen built his first metal toy. “It turned out pretty good,” he says. It also took a lot of time. “That winter I spent at least 300 hours on it.”

As with all his toys, Janzen begins with the original full-size model. “First I take

measurements. Then I scale the full-size one down, and make blueprints.”

In the case of the Deere 9350 grain drill he built, for example, “It took hours just to get the packer press wheels sliced out one by one with a bandsaw.”

For rubber, he sliced a bicycle tube and stretched pieces over the wheels. The model is 1/16 scale with an automatic folding hitch. “Because I was learning,” he says, “it took me longer to do things than now.”

That doesn’t mean it takes him less time to make his one-a-winter metal built-from-scratch gems. “I still spend 200 to 300 hours a winter on the piece I’m building.”

After the grain drill, Janzen made a Deere 2360 swather. He welded 18-ga. flat steel, key stock, and 1/8-in. rods together and included handmade pulleys. The result is a reel and black silk cloth canvas that turn.

He spent another winter building a Deere 7721 pull-type combine. “All exterior components turn - pickup header, straw cutter, and auger, which swings in and out of the hopper.”

He uses 9-volt batteries to automate his toys. “The batteries raise and lower the header, move the unloading auger in or out, and just plain turn the whole combine.”

One recent project was a GMC grain truck. The hoist works and is powered by a 9-volt battery and electric motor.

Janzen has also built a 12-row sugar beet planter, a 4440 tractor equipped with a 3-pt. hitch and an adjustable front axle, a 4620 tractor, an air seeder, and rock pickers.



Deere 2360 swather has a working reel and draper canvas made out of black silk cloth.