

Sherley Brown of Brandenburg, Ky., makes miniature stationary gas engines that range in scale from 1/16 to 1/8.

## He Makes Engines From Scratch

"I've built five miniature stationary gasoline engines just for show. People really get a kick out of them," says Sherley Brown of Brandenburg, Ky.

Brown is a member of the Lincoln Trail Antique Power of the Past Club. His engines range in scale from 1/16 to 1/8, and he has one hooked up to a cut-off saw.

"I've made three single-cylinder horizontal engines, one that's a 2-cylinder, horizontal-opposed, and another that's a single-cylinder vertical model," he explains. "Two have hit and miss governors and the cylinders are from 1-in. bore to a 2-in. bore."

Brown was inspired to build his first small engine when he saw an internet article a few years ago about a fellow who had built one.

He says his engines are made mostly from aluminum and brass. The cylinders come in round stock aluminum.

"The frames are all made out of aluminum plate. Some of the fittings and cylinder heads are made from brass," he says. "They are all

machined and hand-fitted to the specifications I started out in my mind to build. I improvise in my head as I go along."

Brown says he has been around machine shops all of his life and he has a small machine shop of his own. The main equipment he used on these projects includes: a lathe, an end mill, a band saw, a drill press, and taps and dies.

"Over the years, I've also built other things — a 1/16 scale stage coach, some electric motors made with Chevy starter solenoids, and a scale model of a Case steam engine. I've also restored 20 to 25 tractors. I'm a guy that, when I get started on something, I can't get it out of my head. Depending on the size, I can finish one of these miniature engines in three to four weeks."

He says the parts for each engine cost him anywhere from \$150 to \$230.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Sherley Brown, 1200 Turner Rd., Brandenburg, Ky. 40108 (ph 270 422-3104; fax 270 422-4686).



Tame and gentle, miniature donkeys seek attention by "heehawing" or nudging those close by. They have a life expectancy of 30 years.

## "Biblical" Donkeys Make Great Pets

"This is the donkey the Bible talks about," Arnold Komegay of Gause, Texas says when asked about his herd of miniature donkeys.

"When Jesus was walking up Golgotha Hill bearing the cross and a man came along with a small donkey and asked him if he could bear his cross to the top of the hill for him, Jesus said no. I'll bear my cross alone. And when he left, the shadow of the cross fell upon the little donkey and it's still on them today," he says, noting that almost all of them bear a cross of darker hair down their backs and at their shoulders.

These little creatures, with biblical significance, can't do much. "They're worthless as far as being a work animal," he says.

"Miniatures aren't usually used for serious farm work. They are best as pets, but a mature donkey, trained for a harness, can be used for pleasure driving. Some can be trained as fun mounts for small kids, but for the most part, people buy them to love," says Leah Patton, office manager for the American Donkey and Mule Society.

Tame and gentle, they seek attention by "heehawing," making funny noises, or nudging those close by. With a life expectancy of 30 plus years, these animals are "lifetime"

pets.

Komegay breeds and sells them as pets and says it's a good business because they're so enjoyable to work with.

At most, the donkeys are 36 in. high at the withers and generally weigh from 250 to 450 lbs.

They come in a wide variety of colors including Gray-dun, various shades of gray, black-brown, reddish brown and white.

Generally, miniature donkeys are healthy animals. They require at least one acre of land to exercise and play.

Komegay sells young males, called jacks, for about \$600. Females, called jennets, aren't born as often and sell for about \$1,500. He says he doesn't know why this is but out of 8 or 10 pregnant jennets, he'll get two or three females if he's lucky.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arnold Komegay, 12231 E Highway 79, Gause, Tex. 77857 (ph 979 279-2528) or The American Donkey and Mule Society, P.O. Box 1210, Lewisville, Texas 75067 (ph 972 219-0781 M-F 8:30a.m.-6p.m. CST; email: adms@juno.com; website: www.lovelongears.com).



Trash Caddy can pull two big 64-gal. trash containers at once behind vehicle. To use it you tilt container down and hook handles onto a pair of prongs.

## "Caddy" Makes Trash Hauling Easier

When their county started requiring weekly trash pickup at the end of the driveway, the Hickenbottom family in Prunedale, Calif., had a problem because they live on a hill with a long driveway. At first, they loaded their two large garbage canisters onto a truck, hauling them to the end of the driveway. Unfortunately, the containers often spilled on the way.

"It was a nightmare to get our trash out to the county road," says Dorothy Hickenbottom of Prunedale, Calif., whose husband, Joe, created the Trash Caddy to solve the problem.

It's a 28-in. wide steel bar with two hooks that attaches to a receiver hitch. "You tilt the trash container down and hook the handles onto the Trash Caddy's prongs," she says noting that it can pull two big 64-gal. containers at once. They roll behind the truck on the trip to the end of the driveway each week.



A 28-in. wide steel bar with two hooks attaches to receiver hitch.

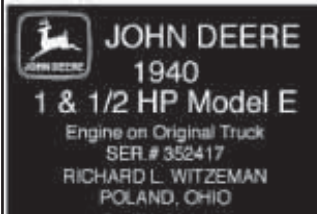
Hickenbottom says they couldn't find anything else like it on the market.

The Trash Caddy sells for \$39.95 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trash Caddy, Joe Hickenbottom, 597 Paradise Road, Prunedale, Calif. 93907 (ph 831-663-5529; email: trashcaddy@aol.com).

## Tractor Display Signs For Shows And Parades

If you exhibit antique tractors at shows or parades and want to show them off in style, you might want to consider getting a custom made display sign. Here are two companies that specialize in antique tractor signs.



### Creative Engineering

Creative Engineering supplies professionally engraved signs made from waterproof engraving stock. Available in many different colors and with several different logos.

"Our signs look very professional and have been used at all Deere Two-Cylinder Club Expos since 1990," says Jerry Swanson.

Three different sizes are available. Large display signs with a logo sell for \$30 apiece or \$54 for two. Small signs sell for \$15 apiece or two for \$27. Magnets for one large sign (three 6-in. strips) sell for \$4 per set; \$3 per set for small signs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Creative Engineering, Box 333, Palatine, Ill. 60078 (ph 800 992-3606; fax 847 991-0090;

### The Badge Factory

From April to October, Bob and Marilyn Fowler travel in their motorhome to antique engine and tractor shows in the eastern part of the U.S., where they custom engrave magnetic display signs and name badges. They also do mail order business all year long, even while on the road. The two-color signs are engraved on laminated plastic and can be anywhere from postcard size up to 12 by 12 in. "Our signs list the tractor, year, and model and your home town and state. I can also put the serial number on it if you like," says Bob. "Several color combinations are available. For example, a Deere sign might be made with a green plastic background and yellow letters or visa versa. A Farmall sign would be made in red and white."

The signs sell for \$15 to \$27 apiece, depending on size.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Badge Factory, 814 Clearview Ave., Hampstead, Md. 21074 (ph toll-free 877 631-8041 or 410 239-3368; fax 410 239-4774).

email: tractorsigns@agraphix.com; website: www.tractorsigns.com).