

Half-Rite, Half-Rong Tractors

Paul Dotterer and Stephen Grieb split a 1939 Allis Chalmers WC and a 1949 Deere B. They then put the odd halves together to make what they call Half-Rite, Half-Rong tractors. Of course Dotterer, a retired Allis Chalmers dealer, and Grieb, a retired Deere dealer, disagree on which end is right and which is wrong. Grieb drives the one with the Allis front end, and Dotterer drives the one with the Deere on front.

"When we built the first one, we made the platform extra wide and installed twin seats and steering wheels," recalls Dotterer. "It had the Deere front end, and we gave it a hand clutch like the old B had. One seat was painted orange and the other green."

"The frame rails didn't match up so we 'persuaded' them with welding and extra iron," says Grieb. "The flywheel on the B front end is decorative."

The old B's engine was shot, so they replaced it with a small engine from a Deere combine. An extension was added to the drive shaft to reach the Allis Chalmers flywheel. A

ring gear was fabricated for the flywheel so they could put a starter on it.

The offset steering wheels were connected to the B's steering shaft with matching chain drives. A double pulley mounted on the end of the steering shaft allowed either operator to control the tractor. The hand clutch was mounted between them. Hand levers were mounted by each operator to control the brakes.

Once they had one tractor operating, Grieb and Dotterer decided to make a match to it. "It was a shame to let all those extra parts go to waste," recalls Dotterer.

Matching the WC front to the B rear was more difficult, says Grieb. In addition to matching up the frame rails, they had to match up very different drives.

"We used a gearbox from an old Woods rotary mower and a chain drive to change the drive direction ahead of the B's clutch so we could use it," he explains. "The chain drive was too noisy, so we changed that to a belt drive."



By splitting a 1939 Allis Chalmers WC and a 1949 Deere B and then putting the halves together, Dotterer and Grieb made what they call Half-Rite, Half-Rong tractors.

A chain drive was also used to match up the Deere steering wheel with the right-hand side Allis Chalmers steering rod.

Since Grieb now had his own Half-Rite, Half-Rong with a green rear end to drive, the green seat and hand clutch on the first tractor were repainted orange.

Both tractors are popular additions to local

parades and shows. "They're big attention-getters," says Grieb.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Dotterer, 6795 Nittany Valley Dr., Mill Hall, Penn. 17751 (ph 570 726-3946) or Stephen Grieb, 410 Rodgers Rd., Howard, Penn. 16841 (ph 814 571-1871).

Bill Manthe built this rotating showcase carousel for his restored Deere A. To power carousel table, he modified its drive to run off a hydraulic pump mounted on tractor.



Tractor Powers Its Own Carousel

Bill Manthe turned an old Haybuster Stack-Eze into a rotating showcase carousel for his restored Deere A. To power the carousel table, he modified its drive to run off a hydraulic pump mounted to the A.

"I have the tractor jacked up an inch off the floor so when I put it in gear, the wheels turn as the tractor rotates," says Manthe. "I get a lot of attention when people see the tractor rotating. My wife Jo drives the truck in parades, and I sit on the tractor."

Restoration of the A came first, followed by restoration and modification of the stacker. The Haybuster Stack-Eze was designed to load and pack loose hay inside a wire cage as it rotated on its table. When full, the cage opened, and the stack was unloaded off the back end of the trailer.

"I stripped away the hay pickup, loading arm, basket, the pto drive, chains, end gate and a lot of the bracing from underneath the table," explains Manthe. "I stripped it down to the running gear, the table and the mechanism it turns on."

Once the hay pickup was removed, Manthe made a new tongue using I-beams that he wrapped around the area where the pickup had been. Manthe mounted steps to either side of the tongue.

The table rotates on 5 steel rollers and a rubber drive wheel. At first Manthe planned to use a tractor to pull the carousel so he could power it with a pto. His son suggested using a Char-Lynn hydraulic motor with its low speed and high torque instead. With the help of a large reducer gear, the motor powers a chain drive on a sprocket mounted to the rubber drive wheel. The hydraulic power for it comes off the tractor pump and through an oil direction converter valve in the carousel table.

Manthe put twin torque axles with torsion bars under the platform. "I had the original Haybuster wheels on it originally, but it didn't have any springs so it was too rough on the highway."

Manthe got a lot of help on the project from his son, Bruce, and a neighbor, Don Phillips, who runs a manufacturing and repair business. Since Manthe has a pacemaker, he left most of the arc welding to his son.

"We've taken it to shows and parades as far as 250 miles from home," says Manthe. "When we get to a show, people come running."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Manthe, 2890 320th St., Lake View, Iowa 51450 (712 657-2489).



"I run it slow, but it all works," says Elmer Bruder about his 1/8-scale model threshing machine. A couple of lids open on top to allow a peek inside the machine.

Model Threshing Machine Finely Detailed Inside And Out

Elmer Bruder's model threshing machine definitely has a "wow" factor that attracts crowds. Besides being a perfect replica on the outside, a couple of lids open on top to allow a peek inside.

"There are four decks inside the machine," says the Breslau, Ont., model builder. He purchased gears, pulleys, wheels and accessories but cut and bent 24-gauge metal for all the other parts.

The work involved a lot of trial and error. Bruder built the model in 2008 and spent about 1,500 hrs. on it. The retired sheet metal worker and dairy farmer notes that when he was a boy his neighbor had a Robert Bell threshing machine, and he helped thresh grain with it.

"I run it slow, but it all works," he says of his 1/8-scale threshing machine. It's about 4 ft. long, 8 in. wide and 15 in. tall.

At 80, Bruder says he isn't working on any new projects. But he enjoys taking the threshing machine and model steam engine tractors he has built to area shows. All have been appraised for thousands of dollars.

Though most people who see his toy models have never worked with the real thing, they seem to appreciate seeing them.

"People take lots of pictures of them," Bruder says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Elmer Bruder, Wellington Co. Rd. 30, Breslau, Ont., Canada N0B 1M0 (ph 519 822-9658).

**How To
Subscribe
To
FARM SHOW
(New & Renewal)**



Take out a new subscription (or renew your existing subscription) and get a FREE copy of our new 168-page "Garden Tractor" book.

Yes! I want to be first to learn about latest new products. Please sign me up for FARM SHOW and send me a FREE copy of your just-published new 168-page book "Look What They're Doing With Garden Tractors".

Check here to renew.

United States

- \$21.95 for 1 yr.
- \$41.95 for 2 yrs.
- \$57.95 for 3 yrs.

Canada

- \$27.95 (Can.) for 1 yr.
- \$53.95 (Can.) for 2 yrs.
- \$71.95 (Can.) for 3 yrs.

My check (\$ _____) is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State /Prov. _____ Zip _____

Make check payable to FARM SHOW.

Clip and mail this coupon to:

FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044

Phone toll-free 800 834-9665 or go to www.farmshow.com

VISA, Mastercard, Discover, Paypal & Amazon accepted.