

Fabric Chickens Look Very Real

Chickens live an average of 7 to 8 years. Californian Jenny Carcia uses her artistic sewing skills to memorialize special birds so they last a lifetime.

Since she sewed her first chicken in 2013, a replica of one of her own Easter Egger hens, her fabric flock has grown to more than a dozen different breeds for clients all over the U.S., Australia, Germany and Russia.

"Some pieces are created from photos provided by the customer and some are just requests for a Barred Rock, for example. I do my best to get a feel for what the customer wants or expects, and I go from there," Carcia explains.

She uses about 30 pattern pieces to create depth in color, shape, texture and dimension for each bird. Fabrics range from flannel to Batiks to velveteen and faux fur.

"My most technically challenging project was a Silkie. She was made of a variety of different faux furs to achieve her multicolored feathering," Carcia says. "I can't believe I made her. I sort of feel that way about every

piece I make. I don't know where it comes from other than a strong determination to do it and a huge love for chickens."

She has made more Buff Orpingtons than any other breed, but each one is different, reflecting unique personalities. More recently, she started sewing more whimsical chickens in bright colors. She hand and machine-sews, incorporating applique and embroidery.

Carcia sews two general sizes. Small "pocket hens" range from \$75 to \$125. Larger pieces range from \$195 to more than \$350.

"My customers are people who love their chickens like crazy. I will include myself in this group. I miss my Barred Rocks who have passed. So I will occasionally break from my custom order list and create a Barred Rock - almost like therapy," Carcia says.

Check out her website for examples of her work. She is currently backordered about 6 months.

Contact: Jenny Carcia, Pet Chicken Ranch (www.petchickenranch.com).



Jenny Carcia creates realistic-looking chickens from all kinds of fabrics and furs, working from photographs sent to her by customers.



Adjustable ball joint handles and floor braces help users get on their feet, but then conveniently fold out of the way once the walker is upright.

"StandUp" Walker Makes It Easier To Stand

The idea for the StandUp Walker came from engineering student Howard Liles, who was trying to help his grandmother stand up from a chair or bed. It does that and more, replacing a variety of mechanisms such as seat lifts and toilet rails.

Three patented design features set it apart, says Kenneth Paulus, Founder and CEO of URise Products, which manufactures the walker in Charlotte, N.C.

An adjustable hinge allows the handles to be lowered to the ideal height for users to push themselves up on their feet while holding on to easy-to-grip ball joints, the second patented feature. Once standing, the ball joints lift to lock the walker up straight.

"The back ski legs slide under the furniture they are sitting on," Paulus notes about the third design element. That allows the user to pull the walker close and rise up straight.

At just 10 1/2 lbs., the StandUp Walker is strong and can support up to 400 lbs.

It's all about independence and mobility, Paulus notes. It helps senior citizens or anyone recovering from an injury get up on their own and move around. It folds up, so it is portable to take to a restaurant, church or other places where power chairs and other equipment would be too big bulky.

At \$299, it's affordable. It comes in two sizes, 18 and 22 in. wide, and in three "action" colors: Breezy Blue, Rambling Red and Get-Up Green.

The walker recently won a competition on "The Doctors" television show, and orders flooded in, Paulus says. The U.S.-made

product is available through the website and will be distributed by medical equipment companies in the U.S. and Canada.

"The costs of immobility are high," Paulus says. "The StandUp Walker makes people as mobile as possible. It is highly functional and user friendly."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, URise Products, 520 Elliot St., Charlotte, N.C. 28202 (ph 844 998-7473; www.standupwalker.com).



Bontrager sells the 6-in. long silk brushes with a small wood stand, or you can buy the custom-made brush separately.

Easy Way To Remove Sweet Corn Silk

Anyone who harvests a lot of sweet corn by hand knows that the most time consuming part is cleaning the silk off the ears. There's now a faster way with an invention by an Ohio Amishman, David Bontrager, Jr., Middlebury, Ind.

His 6-in. long custom-made, 3-in. dia. brush simply connects to any 3/8-in. electric drill. The brush was designed with enough bristle strength to quickly clean off the silk, yet soft enough to keep from damaging the

corn.

The brushes sell for \$26 with a small wooden stand, or \$22 without, plus \$7 S&H. Order direct by mail from the manufacturer, Quick Brush, or check it out online at www.cottagecraftworks.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Quick Brush, David Bontrager Jr., 11630 W. 450 N., Middlebury, Ind. 46540 (ph /fax 574 825-0928).

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