



Tim Wood created a full-size farm office that replicates an old time store inside his machine shed. It's decorated with collectibles he has gathered over the years.

## His Farm Office Replicates An Old Time Store

Illinois farmer Tim Wood started collecting, repairing and painting old farm stuff with his father back in 6th grade. Some 50 years later he's still at it. "My farm office is like an old McCormick-Deering machinery dealership inside the building that houses my collectibles, seed business and farm equipment," says Wood. "I always liked those old small-town buildings with big windows and angled entryways, so that's what I built."

Wood got the idea for the authentic-looking facade from an old black and white picture. He built his to scale using approximate measurements from a horse and buggy in the photo as his guide. The 1920's-style design has large plate glass windows, stained glass above a doublewide entry door, and the Wood & Sons name painted in old-style lettering.

Inside, the office is 22 by 24 ft. with an 18-ft. high ceiling. Walls are finished with wainscoting and chair rail. The ceiling replicates old tin with crown molding around the edges. "I wanted it to look as authentic as possible," says Wood, "so I even put in 1920's-era lighting and old shelving from a

general store."

His furnishings include a nice collection of old seed bags, antique farm scales and potbellied stoves. "One of my favorite scales was built by Computing Scale Company, which later became IBM," Wood says. He has another scale that will weigh up to 5,500 lbs., the amount that a typical horse and wagon would've weighed nearly 100 years ago. Wood had a vinyl cover made for his refrigerator that looks like a giant oil can and another made for a metal door so it looks like a vault safe. He plans on turning an old grain drill he purchased at a recent auction into a bar.

Wood's tractor collection takes up a portion of the building and one wall has neatly arranged colorful seed bags that he's collected over the years. "I can still find farm antiques at estate sales, auctions and swap meets throughout Illinois and the Midwest, but it's getting tougher all the time," says Wood.

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## Garden Bench Made From Old Pickup

Just because you can't fix a pickup, doesn't mean you have to get rid of all of it. With some cutting and a few scrap parts, Nathan Sweitzer and his brother, Alex, and father, Kurt, created a pickup cab bench for their yard.

"It is pretty comfortable," Nathan Sweitzer says. "Everyone likes sitting in it." The roof provides shade, and air circulates well inside the windowless cab.

The bench was Alex's idea. Nathan, 23, really liked the old 1977 Dodge Power Wagon pickup, despite the many problems his father had with it. Nathan has great memories of riding around the farm with his dad, and he dreamed of fixing it up for his own. But in the end it wasn't worth the trouble and expense.

The brothers removed the rusty floor, welded on braces, and bolted on a piece of hog flooring. They removed the one good aluminum step and mounted it to the front. To add character, they added old buggy wheels their grandfather had acquired more than six decades ago.

"We didn't spend any money on this," Nathan says of the unique bench built of scraps found on the family's farm.

The Sweitzers placed it under a shade tree, and when they finish rebuilding their barn, the



Nathan Sweitzer and family members created this pickup cab bench for their yard, mounting it on old buggy wheels to add character.

pickup bench will be moved in front of it.

"I like to sit in it in the evening and read - when I have time," he says.

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**FARM SHOW**



Scott Stetzel built this carnival-type swing for his kids using a 7 by 7-in. Deere cultivator toolbar as an upright.

## Kids Love This Farm Parts Swing

With a few miscellaneous parts and a wheelchair motor, Scott Stetzel built a carnival-type swing for his kids, who are held in place by centrifugal force.

It is solid and stable, Stetzel says, and built out of parts he acquired over time.

"The first thing was the main hub. It's a military trailer axle. That is the heart," he says. "The top cross pieces are (15-ft.) John Deere rotary hoe tool bars."

He was ready to build this spring after he obtained a 7 by 7 Deere cultivator toolbar for the upright. It's secured in a 5-ft. deep hole filled with concrete, with 12 ft. of the toolbar above ground. He mounted the axle onto it along with the wheelchair wheel and motor, covered by the bottom of a barrel that protects it from rain.

A lever near the bottom engages the rubber drive wheel that friction-drives the hub. Another lever adjusts the speed with a brake to slow it down.

"It freewheels very easily; there's no drag on it," Stetzel says. "I can get it going fast by just pushing them."

He purchased heavy-duty swing chain and used seats from an old swing set, spending only about \$200 for everything.

"My kids are 9, 10 and 11 and they just have a blast with it," he says, noting they want to go even faster. He may do that by adding a second battery to the wheelchair motor to double the rpm's.



Rubber drive wheel at top of upright friction-drives the hub on a military trailer axle to rotate swing.

Whatever the speed, there are safety rules such as no jumping off swings, dragging feet, swinging sideways, or hitting the brake for a fast stop.

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