

“Cub Cadet” 8-WD Articulated Tractor

Phil Murphy of Mansfield, Ohio, likes to build machines just for fun and most of them start out with old Cub Cadet rear ends, including his miniature Cub Cadet road grader (Vol. 40, No. 3). He recently built an 8-WD articulated garden tractor out of 2 Cub rear ends, but it's painted IH red and gray.

The 8-WD machine rides on 24-in. tall, 8 1/2-in. wide garden tractor tires. Power is supplied by a Briggs & Stratton 8 hp., 2-cyl. engine mounted on front. The engine is coupled to one of the Cub Cadets' hydrostatic transmissions. A homemade driveshaft runs from the engine back to both rear ends.

“It's modeled after a real IH articulated tractor and built mostly from scrap materials,” says Murphy.

The spacer rings for the dual wheels were made by cutting up an old Argon gas tank. Murphy cut the top and bottom off the tank and then cut the rest of the tank into rings the size he needed. He welded bent metal plates onto the outside wheels for bolts to come through the spacers.

The machine steers in the middle by means of a universal joint. “The driveshaft comes through the middle with a universal joint in line with a pair of kingpins, and behind that I put bearings to let the frame twist the other way,” says Murphy.

Metal foot pedals welded onto both sides of the universal joint area make it easy for the operator to step up onto the seat. The seat bolts down on top of a big “overload”

car spring for a comfortable ride and folds forward for protection from the weather.

A long shift lever on one side of the steering wheel is used to go forward or backward. It came off the mower deck on one of the Cub Cadets. Another lever on the opposite side of the steering wheel is used to brake. Murphy made it by welding 2 garden tractor mower deck lift handles together.

The tractor's chrome exhaust mufflers are off a Harley Davidson Sportster motorcycle. They were cut and bent to fit, then welded onto the Cub Cadets' original exhausts. Caps taken from the end of Briggs & Stratton starters were mounted on top of each muffler and then sanded and painted black. “The mufflers have baffles in them so they aren't real loud,” says Murphy.

A ball hitch and clevis on back of the tractor is used to pull yard equipment or trailers. They're attached to a big metal bracket made from heavy duty angle iron that's bolted on back of the tractor.

Chrome chain hooks on each side of the tractor add a decorative touch.

Why did Murphy paint the tractor red? “Because my wife said I was painting too many things yellow and white,” he says. “With the body painted IH red and the wheels IH gray, it's still an IH tractor.”

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“It's modeled after a real IH articulated tractor,” says Phil Murphy about the 8-WD articulated garden tractor he built out of 2 Cub rear ends. It rides on dual 24-in. tires.



A ball hitch and clevis on back of tractor is used to pull yard equipment. The seat rides on top of a big car spring for a comfortable ride.



They Customize Tiny Model Trucks & Trains

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

FARM SHOW has done plenty of articles on toy model collections and builders, but we are fascinated by the detail in these 1/160 “N Scale” models. They are tiny enough so you can hold a replica of a 70-ft. semi truck in your hand, yet have moveable, working parts. Truckers Buster Bush from Louisiana and David Whiteside from Australia have collected them for years, and since retiring from the road now focus on building kit models, customizing and scratch-building.

Whiteside joined the Australian Army at 17 so he could drive truck, rather than wait until he was 20 to drive as a civilian. Single and on the road, he collected 1/87 HO scale trains and trucks at first.

“N Scale was very crude in the 1960's. In the early 90's they evolved in quality,” Whiteside says.

He collects Limited Editions from Trainworx out of Colorado, is a big fan of Southern Pacific Railroad, and as a trucker has a soft spot for movie replica trucks like those seen in *Smokey and the Bandits* and *B.J. and the Bear*. Many of the pieces in his collection started as kits that he changes to suit himself. He adds cab-mounted air conditioning units to earlier model trucks, for example.

One of his most challenging pieces was recreating a real 1976 Kenworth logging truck based on photos and a 1/24-scale version of the truck.

“It took a lot of measurements, parts and lug nuts,” he recalls. Despite its miniscule size, the brass wire in the thumb size A-frame hitch moves up and down.

Another favorite is the truck from the movie *Black Dog*. With hours of online research, he recreated the semi in N Scale. Whiteside currently has a 14 by 7-ft. model railroad displayed, and he likes to photograph them to share on social media. For example, in honor of a friend in New York state, he recreated her experience of a deer jumping in front of her while driving a pickup. He

even drilled tiny holes into a mini deer sign to look like it had been shot at.

In Louisiana, Bush recreates train bridges, trucks and other equipment he sees in his area. His most detailed model started with a GHQ Peterbilt 379 kit that he heavily modified to create a tri-axle truck with a 50-ton lowboy carrying two heavy-duty forklifts.

“I made it to go with the portable car crusher I made,” Bush says, noting no one commercially sells N Scale car crushers. He made a silicone mold to create the resin parts for the crusher and has sold a few, including one to an Australian collector.

Bush also made a model of the Chevrolet C-70 car hauler, one of many trucks he used to own.

Bush notes that he recycles computer parts, medical parts and other scraps for his models. Cut-up plastic straws become a load for a train car. Bits of old floor tile turn into a stone wall for a train scene.

“You're always letting your imagination run wild. And it doesn't cost anything to make stuff out of cigar tubes, small tomato paste cans, bobbins for train car loads, or thimbles for tops of buildings,” he says.

He houses his trains, trucks and farm equipment models in a 12 by 32-ft. building where he can watch his trains and enjoy his collection. He credits his wife for painting and photographing many of his models.

Both in their 50's, Bush and Whiteside work with magnifiers, tweezers, scalpels, mini drills rotary and other small tools and cutters to build their micro models with resin, styrene, balsa wood and brass pieces. The availability of 3D printing has also added another dimension, Whiteside notes. He works with companies like Shapeways to create small components or anything that can be CAD drawn.

Though Bush notes bigger scales are “easier on the eyes,” both love the challenge of N Scale and the fact that they can have thousands of models in a relatively small



Truckers Buster Bush and David Whiteside specialize in building 1/160 “N Scale” toy models which, although tiny, have moveable, working parts.



The 2 men work with magnifiers, tweezers, scalpels and other small tools and cutters to build their micro models.

space. Bush adds that he also has a 1/220 Z Scale train layout, which is even smaller than the 1/160 N Scale.

Both retired truckers like to share their models and meet other collectors through social media sites and forums. Interest in N Scale is growing.

“It's not ‘he plays with trains’ anymore,” Whiteside says. “It used to be the 3-ft. rule. If it looks good at 3 feet, it was acceptable. Now that's out the window. Digital photography shows the flaws, and you can criticize your

own work. I want to do quality work. We inspire each other.”

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