

# One-Of-A-Kind “Truck Desk”

The front end of a 1979 Ford F-150 pickup, bolted onto a big custom-built office desk, makes an interesting conversation piece in Jerry Conrad's new office building in Mondovi, Wis.

The pickup and desk sit on a custom-built frame made from parts off an old Ford Mustang. Underneath the hood is a compact refrigerator laid sideways, with compartments for beverages at either end.

The first thing customers see when they walk into the office is the pickup's hood and grille, along with a pair of side-by-side computer screens that stick up behind the hood. The grille is backlit with lights that automatically change colors, and are synchronized to blink on and off with songs played on a radio and stereo installed in a “dash” under the computer monitors. The headlights also change colors. An inverter underneath the desk operates all the lighting.

Cor Furniture of Mondovi, Wis., designed and helped build the desk with a curved front to match the curvature of the hood. The company specializes in the custom design and construction of furniture. A 1/2-in. thick wooden panel secures the desk to the hood.

The desk has big soft-close drawers on either side.

“We displayed it last year at a local home and garden show in Eau Claire, Wis., where it received a tremendous amount of attention,” says Conrad.

He cut the hood off the pickup and built the frame that supports it, and added a new grille. “We had to turn the refrigerator's pump sideways so it would work properly. With help from Cor Furniture we added wooden beams along both sides of the hood to support the hood's hinges. They look just like the ones on the real 1979 F-150,” says Conrad.

Then Cor Furniture did the rest. “They built the cabinets and doors on back of the desk and formed everything to fit the pickup body. Madison Street Auto Body in Eau Claire did the paint work, and my son did the lighting work,” says Conrad.

From his office desk, Conrad can see the antique stairway railing he built by welding together several steel wheels, of various sizes, off old wagons and cultivators. The 11 1/2-ft. long railing is welded to a length of angle iron, which is bolted to the hallway floor outside his office.

“I left the wheels unpainted because I wanted to keep their rustic look,” says Conrad. “I applied muriatic acid mixed with salt to all the welds to match the color of the wheels.”

You can watch a video of Conrad's truck desk on Facebook by typing in “Cor Furniture”.

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“Truck desk” was made by attaching the hood and grille from a Ford F-150 to a custom-built white oak desk. Grille and headlights automatically change colors and are synchronized to blink on and off with songs played on a radio or stereo.



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March-April, 2021

## He Planted Soybeans In November

Ross Albert has experimented with planting soybeans early, but this past fall he planted a one-acre test plot on Nov. 20th. He doesn't expect the plot to yield anything other than information.

“I was planting some rye cover crops when my seed dealer challenged me to plant some soybeans,” says Albert. “I told him to bring out the seed.”

The local BASF research farm had planted soybeans just the day before and provided the soybean seed to Albert. He hopes to learn along with them.

It wasn't the first time Albert and his dealer Darren Roelfs have been on the cutting edge, or as he puts it the bleeding edge, with out-of-season soybeans. In 2018 he planted them in March. The soybeans did well, but the knowledge harvested was more important.

“I gained a lot of experience, and it gave me the confidence to plant my soybeans on April 10th this year,” says Albert. “Ten years ago, that was taboo.”

This past year he experimented with planting and alternating 8-row strips of corn and soybeans in early June. He had a 2-acre pasture that was infested with thistles.

“I had leftover seed that I used, as I wanted to apply a growth regulator to the pasture for the thistles,” says Albert. “I didn't take it to yield, but I wasn't disappointed with it, and I cleaned out the thistles.”

As a first-generation farmer, Albert doesn't have to worry about someone telling him what works and what doesn't. “I was taught to think with a free mind,” he says. “I don't know if I will make it, but if I do, it will be on my own accord, the same as if I fail.”

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As an experiment, Illinois farmer Ross Albert planted a 1-acre test plot of soybeans last November.

## Farmall H Mounted On Stilts

Michael Rosenberger, Bath, Ind., recently sent FARM SHOW photos of a Farmall H tractor mounted on very tall stilts.

“The photo was taken in the early 1950s, and the man on the tractor is my uncle Earl Rosenberger,” says Michael. “He and my dad, Lawrence, assembled this tractor on stilts in our bank barn using a block and tackle. They used the tractor to plant wheat between rows of standing corn before the corn was harvested. It gave the wheat time to germinate before cold weather set in. A wheat drill was towed behind each rear wheel, and also behind the front wheels.”

“I believe the stilt kit was manufactured by the Tractor Stilt Company in Omaha, Neb. The shields mounted on front of both the rear and front wheels are not part of the kit. They were made by cutting a 55-gal. oil drum in half, and their purpose was to prevent the wheels from knocking corn ears off the stalks.”

“I don't know exactly how high the stilts



Mounted-on-stilts Farmall was used in the 1950's to plant wheat between rows of standing corn before harvest.

are, but it looks like a grown man could easily stand underneath the tractor without his head touching the oil pan.”

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