

# Vintage Lawn & Garden Tractor Enthusiasts Specialize in Parts & Collector Magazine

If you need parts for your vintage garden tractor or want to learn more about this fascinating collector hobby, you will want to get in contact with HAPCO, Inc. They specialize in reproduction, N.O.S. and used parts for older John Deere, Panzer and Beaver lawn and garden tractors.

Along with parts, they also publish Lawn & Garden Tractor Magazine that covers all brands of vintage garden tractors. It is full-color and full of historical articles,

parts suppliers, restoration topics, collector profiles, show reviews, classifieds and virtually anything that has to do with older lawn and garden tractors.

Lawn & Garden Tractor Magazine is a bi-monthly magazine that sells for \$28.95 per year. They are offering a one-year discounted rate to the readers of Farm Show Magazine for \$26.95. (Offer expires March 5, 2021).

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Reader Inquiry No. 97

Rahn can remove the forks from his forklift tractor and hook up to a stand-alone ball hitch assembly, without ever getting off the machine.



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## “Built From Scratch” Forklift Tractor

“I use it to haul logs, stack firewood, and for many other jobs,” says Mark Rahn, who built a forklift tractor from scratch. “It was a fun challenge. In the end I probably could have bought a used skid loader for less money than I spent to build it. But it turned out great.

“The forks pin onto the mast in such a way that I can remove them and hook up to a stand-alone ball hitch assembly without ever getting off the machine.”

Rahn says he has been mechanically inclined from childhood. “For example, one day when my dad was away from home I tore apart a push lawn mower and put it back together all by myself. I was just 7 years old.”

He started with the rear end and frame off a late 1970's Chevrolet 1-ton dually pickup, turning the frame backward so the rear axle and wheels are up front. He mounted a pair of small implement wheels on back, spacing them closely together and turning them inward like the tricycle-type front wheels on older tractors.

The machine is powered by a hand-cranked, 1945 LUC engine off a Deere combine. Located behind the driver's seat, it powers hydraulic pumps that drive a pair of hydraulic motors. One motor is connected to a 3-speed manual transmission off a 1960 Ford pickup and provides gear reduction for the front drive wheels. The other motor, off a



The motor and gearbox off a David Bradley walk-behind tractor is used to chain-drive the forks up or down.

David Bradley walk-behind tractor and still attached to the tractor's gearbox, is located behind the forklift mast. Rahn removed the tractor's wheels from the gearbox and installed a pair of sprockets in their place, which are used to chain-drive the forks up or down.

A hand made electric throttle controls the engine rpm's, and a foot-operated pedal controls the machine's speed. “The forklift has a lift capacity of about 1,200 lbs. One lever tilts the mast forward and backward, and another raises and lowers it,” says Rahn. “A pair of master cylinders off an old pickup provide independent left and right brakes.”

The steering wheel is off a 1940 Model A tractor. “The steering system is complicated

and took me a long time to figure out,” says Rahn. “A chain connected to the steering wheel drives a pair of sprockets, which chain-drive a driveshaft that goes back to a right angle gearbox that's connected to more chains and sprockets.”

The machine is equipped with LED lights on front and back, and over the steps. The seat is off another David Bradley tractor.

Rahn says he plans to build another stand-alone attachment for the tractor - a lift adapter that will make it easy to work on his riding mower.

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