

Don Turner and the Mini-Mo pedal tractor he built modeled after the UDLX Comfortractor.



Custom-Built Pedal Tractors

Don Turner's mind works like one of those clever phone apps that can identify a flower, weed or bird from a cell phone picture. He has the magical ability to look at a tractor photograph and then build a pedal version without ever taking a measurement or drawing plans on paper.

"I was born with that ability and have used it over the past decade to design about 14 different prototype pedal tractors," Turner says. "Once I get the component details and dimensions ironed out, I build about a dozen production units of each model and sell them to collectors or pedal tractor dealers."

One of his recent creations is a harvest gold Minneapolis Moline that he modeled after the classic UDLX Comfortractor. "I'd seen the cab model and didn't think it was practical to build that in a pedal version," Turner says. "Then, one evening, I was watching a televised tractor auction and saw a UDLX model without the cab. That caught my eye as something unique that pedal tractor collectors might like."

Turner made custom dies and formed the hood, fenders and side panels out of cold-rolled steel. He modified the parts for easier assembly, then built a dozen production units to sell. His pedal version is 34 in. long, 18 in. wide and 14 in. tall. It has authentic-

looking aluminum gauges on the instrument panel, a scale version steering wheel and a comfortable padded seat for the operator. Headlights on both sides of the hood and the front bumper resemble those on the authentic full-size UDLX, which tractor aficionados say looks more like a 1920's automobile than a tractor. The 7-in. front wheels and 2 1/2-in. by 12-in. rear wheels are standard pedal tractor sizes. He achieved a near-perfect match to the MM harvest gold and deep red colors by sending pictures of MM tractors to his powder-coat manufacturer.

"Only two equipment manufacturers have powder-coat specifications that match the true OEM acrylic paint colors," Turner says. "I think these custom colors are about 99 1/2 percent accurate, which should please the collectors."

With the MM project complete Turner has moved on to a rare Allis Chalmers tractor built in his hometown and a Spirit of 76 Case 1570. "I like to build real unique models, ones that never were and never will be mass produced. Collectors enjoy them and they seem to go up in value over time," Turner says.

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He Sculpts Pets From Horseshoes

With 50 to 60 horseshoes in them, you might call Tom Hill's Labrador sculptures "Lucky Labs."

It's lucky for Hill that his parents own a horse livery farm in the UK so that he has plenty of horseshoes to work with. His first horseshoe sculpture was a pony that Hill created for his parents' anniversary.

"Someone saw the pony, asked if I could make them a heron, and then it snowballed from there," Hill says.

After making a Labrador, requests for other dogs poured in. He's created sculptures of many breeds from dachshunds and beagles to pointers and retrievers, to Great Danes and Dobermans. Long-haired breeds like spaniels are the most challenging to replicate.

"I start with a life-size 2D sketch on plywood, which I use as a guide, and start to build the sculpture from the ground up. I use a gas forge with hammer and anvil, and a MIG welder. The completed sculptures are sandblasted and either left to develop a natural finish or powder-coated to a color of choice," Hill says.

He enjoys the sculpting part but admits sorting through old horseshoes and removing nails is tedious. He recently began sculpting with stainless steel and other metals.

His most challenging horseshoe sculpture was two jumping horses decorating the final cross-country fence at the 2012 London Olympics. Through social media photos, Hill is known mostly for his dog sculptures.

Prices start at £325 (about \$400 U.S.) for



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a horseshoe dachshund and he is working on setting up the best shipping method for U.S. and Canada orders. Send him an email or private message through social media for more information. During the summer he helps his parents on the family farm and exhibits his sculptures, so it can take a few months to complete an order.

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He Cracks Walnuts With A Log Splitter

Bernard Paumier doesn't waste time when it comes to cracking black walnuts. He uses a hydraulic log splitter with an attachment he designed, and a neighbor welded for him.

"The idea came about one day when I was splitting wood and a walnut got smashed between the log and the base of the splitter," Paumier says. "I wondered if the splitter couldn't be used to crack walnuts. Everyone looks at it like I'm crazy. But it beats pounding my thumb with a hammer on a piece of railroad iron."

The scrap iron device has been cracking nuts for 10 years. Angled wings guide the plunger, and square welds at the bottom stop the plunger from totally smashing the nuts. The 5-in. square space holds 12 or more walnuts at a time. A bar on the opposite end hooks onto the hydraulic splitter, replacing the splitter head.

"After cracking, I reverse the splitter to pull the plunger back. I place a 5-gal. bucket under the splitter beam to catch the walnuts," Paumier says. "The nice thing is you don't have to do anything with your hands, except put the walnuts in."

The 94-year-old gets hulled black walnuts and cracks a bushel at a time and picks out the nutmeats in his free time.

"I eat it as fast as I pick it," Paumier says



Angled wings guide the plunger, and square welds at the bottom stop the plunger from totally smashing the nuts. The 5-in. square space holds 12 or more walnuts at a time.

with a laugh.

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Folding Pocket-Sized Gun

A new .22-caliber pistol by Standard Manufacturing, LLC, called the Switch Gun, is designed to instantly unfold and transform into a single-action, five-round revolver in a split second. When folded, the Switch Gun will take up about the same amount of space in your pocket as a cell phone.

The dimensions are 2 1/8 by 3 3/4 by 3/4 in. when folded.

"It's first and foremost designed for self-protection," Frutuoso says. "The small form factor also makes it easy for farmers to carry around and chase off any vermin or smaller predators from their farmyards."

Although it's small, the gun is built from solid components like CNC-machined stainless steel for the frame and barrel. It's a single-action folding revolver with a barrel length of .88 in. The grip is made of injection-molded polymer, and the total gun weight is 9 oz. when loaded.

"It's a spring-loaded gun," says Louie Frutuoso, founder of Standard Manufacturing. "You hit a button, the grip springs open, and it's immediately ready to discharge five .22-Magnum cartridges."

"When the spring action is closed, it's impossible to shoot the gun," he says. "The handle completely covers the trigger and the firing mechanism because it's a full-sized



Switch Gun is a single-action five-round revolver that folds over the grip.

grip."

There are other small guns on the market like this, but Frutuoso says their grips are incredibly small. The Switch Gun features a large handle to help provide a tremendous amount of grip, similar to that of a full-size revolver. That provides the highest degree of control and accuracy.

The Switch Gun sells for \$449 plus S&H. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Louie Frutuoso, 100 Burritt Street, New Britain, Conn. 06053 (ph 860-225-3401; info@standardmfgllc.com; www.stdgun.com).