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His Cabinets Look Like Tractor Hoods

After retiring from a healthcare career, Joe Rolwing turned to woodworking and an idea that had been rattling around in his mind for years. "I learned how to drive tractor on a John Deere Model A back on our farm in southeast Missouri," Rolwing says. "I decided I'd try to design a cabinet that looked like the grill on those iconic 1950's Deere tractors."

One day, Rolwing spotted a run-down John Deere B along a Tennessee highway and stopped to photograph the tractor and record the dimensions of the grill. He says the first cabinet took him 2 years to complete. It's built to 65 percent scale and constructed of both hardwood and various thicknesses of plywood. The grill veins are glued onto the hardwood pieces.

The grill doors on the finished cabinet swing open, left and right, to reveal eight drawers on each side.

So far, Rolwing has built three Deere cabinets. The second was of a Model A, with seven grill veins rather than the B's six. This cabinet also had drawers, while a third cabinet was built with compartments for six wine bottles. He says the Deere-design cabinets require too many hours of construction to sell at a realistic price, but he's working on a set of plans for woodworkers who would like to construct their own cabinets.

Rolwing says curiosity has led him in

many different directions in his woodshop. Years ago, he purchased 50 board feet of "wormy chestnut" that had been stored in a barn loft for 50 years. (Wormy chestnut is wood salvaged from trees killed by the American chestnut blight in the early 1900's.) One of his chestnut projects was a mountain dulcimer, with the top and bottom shaped similar to a violin. "I had hoped that building the dulcimer would give me the incentive to learn to play it. Unfortunately, it didn't," he says with a smile.

He's also made five models of the C-121 Super Constellation airplanes that he navigated while in the Navy. Three of the planes had 18-in. wingspans (dimensions copied from a plastic model), and two had 60-in. wingspans (following paper plans).

"I've discovered that I get greater satisfaction working without plans on projects that many folks would consider more on the unusual side," he says.

Some of Rolwing's other projects have included a pie safe hiding his stereo equipment, a coopered barber pole, several hobby horses, a small cabin with a completed interior, a doll house modeled after his first home in Knoxville, Tenn., and a bench made from salvaged pine beams.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joe Rolwing (joerolwing@bellsouth.net).



Joe Rolwing builds exquisite wooden cabinets that resemble the hood of a classic Deere A tractor.



Heritage Club Preserves Steiger History

A Steiger 105, the second tractor model built by the Steiger brothers, is now housed at the Steiger Heritage Museum at the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers show site near Rollag, Minn.



One of the most iconic tractor brands in the world is being commemorated, documented, and preserved in history through the Steiger Heritage Club, formed in 2021 by a group of six enthusiastic collectors. Founding board members included MaJeana Steiger Hallstrom, Kevin Yaggie, Peter Christianson, David Dietz, Bryan Steiger, and Jeri Yaggie. Jeri and David Yaggie were instrumental

in moving the effort forward because in 2019 they'd begun work on a replica of the Steiger Barn in memory of their son Mark. The replica is located on the grounds of the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion in Rollag, Minn., where up to 50,000 visitors gather every Labor Day Weekend to celebrate farming history. The museum "barn" is significant because it symbolizes

the converted dairy barn where Maurice and Doug Steiger built their tractors from 1957 to 1971.

In July 2022, the organization became a 501c3 to "Share and Preserve the History of the Steiger Tractor" through events, newsletters, and an informative website. In the fall of 2022, the organization received a major contribution when George Schaaf, a well-known tractor collector in Illinois, donated a Steiger model 105, the second model built by the Steiger brothers. During the Rollag show, the Heritage Club arranges a very impressive display of Steiger tractors including Steiger #1 (named Barney because it was built in a barn), the first 2200 produced, Mark Yaggie's restored 2200, the one and only 2200 Industrial Tractor, a 1700, a 1250, an 850 Logger and other "guest" tractors.

The organization announced that the 2026 Rollag Show will feature the entire Steiger Tractor history. Hallstrom says the event will allow visitors from around the world to see and experience the largest collection of Steigers ever assembled.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Steiger Heritage Club (www.steigerheritageclub.com).

Easy ATV Tree Watering System

When Dan Hufford needed a way to water trees on short notice, he checked the trash. Four 5-gal. plastic jugs that had held parts washing fluid were repurposed into a 20-gal. system. All he needed was about \$15 worth of fittings and plastic tubing.

"I used a couple of ratchet straps to hold the jugs together and attach them to a 1/2-in. plywood platform mounted to the ATV's rear platform," says Hufford.

The jugs all had vent caps above their handles. Removing the vent caps and drilling a hole in the plastic seal ensured no problems with vapor lock.

Hufford screwed the pipe fittings to the jugs' female threaded necks and connected them with short lengths of plastic tubing. He ended the far-right tube with a shut-off valve.

A short length of garden hose is connected to the exit point of the shut-off. The female coupling is on the unattached end of the hose.

"I drive along the line of trees with my right hand on the handlebar throttle and my left hand lowering the hose to water the tree seedlings," says Hufford. "When it's time to refill, I drive up to the outdoor water faucet and thread the garden hose to it. The jugs fill right up."

The watering system repurposed trash that would otherwise have gone to a landfill. Best of all, he notes, "It was cheap and got the job done."

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Hufford's watering system repurposed trash that would otherwise have gone to a landfill.