

USES SPECIALLY-BUILT, HIGH-SPEED DENTAL DRILL

Hobbyist Engraves Designs On Eggs, Windows

Lots of attention has been lavished on Ernie Spinks, a rural Hudson, Wis., man since he began turning fragile turkey, goose and chicken egg shells — and pickup windows — into works of art.

Spinks uses a specially-built, high-speed modified dental drill to carve out intricate designs using shells of emptied-out eggs. His finished products are often so delicate they can't be moved.

The special drill can also be used to engrave glass. Spinks has developed a kit that includes drill, air compressor, regulator, stencils, bits, and everything else needed to go into the glass-engraving business, that sells for \$995. He says there's a good market for engraving designs on pickup windows, recreational vehicles, cars, store windows, and so on.

"You can charge \$125 a window for small designs. Using stencils, it takes no artistic talent. You can become proficient with about 10 hrs. practice. This drill does glass engraving that can't be done any other way," says Spinks, noting that one high school student, who bought one of his engraving kits, makes over \$500 a week working just a few hours a week customizing windows for auto and truck dealerships.

"You can put a picture of your own farm on the window using one of our special stencils made from a photograph and engraving kit. It's easy to



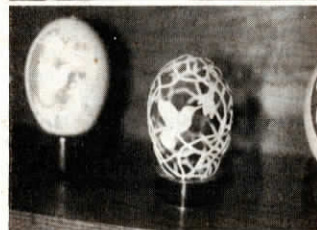
Spinks "engraves" turkey, goose and chicken egg shells with an air-powered drill that spins at 480,000 rpm's.

do and an inexpensive way to personalize your vehicle," he says.

When Spinks first got into glass egg

engraving, he tried a regular dental drill but found that the slow speed of the bit and the angled head made it impractical. He worked with a manufacturer to design a straight-headed, air-powered drill that spins at an incredible 480,000 rpm's. Equipped with a carbide bit, the drill lets Spinks carve out egg shells or car and truck window glass almost as easily as drawing with a pencil.

Some of his egg designs are so fragile they're literally held together by just one or two thin strands of



Engraver can also be used to transfer any photo or image to a car or pickup window, top. Hummingbird egg shell carving, bottom photo, is suspended by just its beak.

eggshell. In one carving of a feeding hummingbird, for instance, the entire bird is suspended by its beak.

Spinks mounts completed shells on a wood pedestal under a small glass dome and sells them for \$100 to \$300, depending on design. Because they're so fragile they can't be shipped but he's had no trouble selling them locally.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ernie Spinks, Rt. 5, Box 5539, Hudson, Wis. 54016 (ph 715 386-5528).



"This prototype tilt-a-whirl cost just \$10 for miscellaneous parts," says Ludwig.

Backyard Tilt-A-Whirl

"Kids love it," says Frederick Ludwig, Springfield, Minn., who built a backyard Tilt-A-Whirl for his kids from salvaged parts.

The mini amusement ride consists of a long center pivot arm with a cushioned seat at either end. As the seats spin, at about 50 rpm's, they also move up and down due to the offset mount position of the pivot arm. The ride is cushioned by a 15-in. rubber tire at center. The tire's mounted on a hub that serves as the rotation point for the mini ride and is

driven by a smaller rubber tire below it. The small drive tire is mounted on a 40:1 reduction gearbox driven by a ¼ hp electric motor.

"I built it for my own kid's use but I've already got a manufacturer who's interested in building it commercially. This prototype cost me just \$10 for a couple miscellaneous parts," says Ludwig.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Frederick Ludwig, 401 N. Cass, Springfield, Minn. 56087 (ph 507 723-4329).

IT'S FOOT-POWERED AND EASY TO USE

'World's Best Nutcracker'

"I built it 4 years ago when I had a couple buckets of walnuts to crack. I didn't like the regular hand-operated nutcrackers," says Clarence Vetsch, who built a big, easy-to-use foot-powered nutcracker that lets you crack nuts at high speed.

To crack, you simply step on a foot pedal which pulls down on a lever that cracks the nut against the head of a bolt. The bolt can be screwed up and down to accommodate different size nuts. The pedal is spring-operated. The nutcracker sells for \$24, plus shipping. Vetsch, retired, makes them in his garage. He's sold about 100 of them from Ohio to California.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clarence Vetsch, 722 Second St. N., La Crescent, Minn. 55947 (ph 507 895-4744).



Lever cracks nuts against the head of a bolt.