



Jim Fox built this pulling sled and also set up a pedal tractor "rodeo" for kids.



Minneapolis Moline pedal tractor (left) is powered by a Weedeater motor. Motorized pedal tractors can pull up to 1,600 lbs.



Tractors can run at speeds up to 4 mph.

## Motorized Pedal Tractors

When Jim Fox's son went to compete in the National Kiddie Tractor Pull some time back, Fox tried to give the boy some added incentive before the competition. "I told him on the day of the big event that if he won the competition, I'd put a motor in his pedal tractor." Of course, his son won so Fox had to get to work.

He first put a chainsaw motor in the pedal tractor but couldn't gear it down enough. So

he tried a Weedeater motor with a gear reduction unit and drive shaft. That worked so well he's powered several more pedal tractors since then.

His motorized pedal tractors can pull up to 1,600 lbs.

"They have spring-loaded throttles and centrifugal clutches so when you let off the gas, the tractors stop dead. It's like putting on the brakes. It can't take off," Fox says.

Fox built a pulling sled and set up a pedal tractor "rodeo" for kids. The tractors run at speeds up to 4 mph. He's helped friends build their own and would be willing to build them for sale for \$2,500.

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## 5/16-Scale Mini Pulling Tractors Built From Scratch

"People who see them for the first time can't believe they're built completely from scratch," says Dale Kolpin, Minnetonka, Minn., about his pair of home-built 5/16-scale mini pulling tractors which are built to resemble full-size tractors. One is a John Deere 4240 and the other is an International Harvester 1486.

Both tractors are powered by 50cc, 4-cyl. Honda gas engines that put out about 2 hp and run at 7,500 rpm's. The John Deere model has a 4-speed transmission and the IH a 5-speed transmission. The body and fenders are milled from 6061 T-6 alloy aluminum, and the hoods are made from fiberglass.

"I don't enter them in pulling contests - they're strictly for show. But they look just like the real thing," says Kolpin. "My grand daughters have a lot of fun driving them in parades. The tractors are geared down so they really rev up when you drive them. Top speed is 6 or 7 mph. It took almost a year to build each tractor."

The rear wheels are 21 in. tall with a 10-in. rim, and the front wheels are 10 in. tall with a 5-in. rim. "The reason I made these tractors 5/16-scale is that the full-size tractors use 30.5 by 32 tires, and the tires I use are exactly 5/16 as big," says Kolpin.

According to Kolpin, both tractors are built to scale to the specifications of the National Tractor Pulling Association. They're complete with wheelie bars on back, suitcase weights on the sides, and aluminum tanks on front that are used to circulate oil in the dry sump oil system on full-size pulling tractors. They also have chrome-plated exhaust stacks, and the IH model has air cleaners on one side. A torque converter is used to power the transmission.

The steering wheels and the seats are off old pedal tractors. Each tractor has a Peerless rear end and axle made for riding mowers. The spindles off a pair of riding mowers were used to build the tractors' front axles.

Kolpin calls his IH model the "Red Line



Dale Kolpin built this pair of 5/16-scale mini pulling tractors to resemble full-size tractors. One is a Deere 4240 and the other is an International Harvester 1486.



Fever" and says it's copied after the "Red Line Fever" diesel pulling tractor driven by Esden Lehn, who has been a 10-time Grand National champion.

"I call the John Deere 'Small Farmer' because if all you had was this tractor, ten acres would be a lot of land to farm," says Kolpin. "I made everything myself and did all the painting. To make the hood I made a wooden plug and had a company make a mold for the

fiberglass hood. The decals are computer made. To make the exhausts, I used chrome-plated plumbing pipe."

Kolpin says he's almost finished building another mini pulling tractor, this one a D21 Allis Chalmers.

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## Watchdog's Fierce "Look" Scares Off Intruders

"The way they look is 90 percent of their effectiveness," says Tracy Hennings of Cleveland, Ohio, a breeder of Dogo Canarios, a rare breed of watchdog that originated in the Canary Islands.

Dogo Canarios are prized for their strong, intimidating look and muscular bodies. Their normal look is a fierce, scary gaze that terrifies intruders.

"When one of these dogs looks at you, it sends a shiver down your spine and you're not sure if it's going to attack or not," Hennings says.

Yet, surprisingly, Dogo Canarios are very calm dogs that take watch-dogging very seriously. Biting is their last resort. If "the look" doesn't scare off an intruder, they bark. If that doesn't work, they attack.

Hennings says they're territorial defenders who bond to everyone in the family. They're very tolerant of children and Hennings herself has small children. "When the kids were babies they could poke the dogs in the ears and nose and the worst the dogs would do is lick them or maybe hit them with

their tails," she says.

They also get along with other animals, says Hennings.

True Dogo Canarios come in shades of fawn and brindle. All have a black mask.

Males grow to be about 2 ft. tall and weigh at least 110 lbs. while females are slightly smaller.

"It's a calm breed that doesn't require an enormous amount of exercise but it's also active enough so that if you decide you want to walk 20 miles, it'll stay with you," she says.

The relatively new breed was established by Canarians in the 1970's and recognized three years ago by the Federation Cynologique Internationale, the world canine organization. There are only between 2,000 and 2,500 Dogo Canarios in the U.S.

The dogs sell for between \$800 and \$1,200.

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Dogo Canarios are a rare breed of watchdog prized for their strong, intimidating look and muscular bodies.

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