

## Farm Lamps Made From Antique Tractor Parts

"Each one is unique and incorporates components from the 1800's and early 1900's," says Shawn Carling, Lakeville, Minn., about the one-of-a-kind farm lamps he makes from antique salvaged parts.

The lamps are fitted with Edison-style, antique filament light bulbs attached to plumbing pipe that mounts on an antique base, which might be the dash off an old Deere or Farmall tractor or an old transmission gear. The pipe fits into a socket on the dash where the steering column used to be. The bulbs have metal guards around them, and some of them are covered by green barn shades.

To mount the light bulb onto the plumbing pipe, Carling welds a fender washer onto the end of the pipe and then screws the bulb into a nut welded to the washer. An on-off switch mounts on back of the dash.

"I call them Machine Age Lamps. Each one is different and has its own theme," says Carling. "So far I've made lamps with Farmall, Deere and Oliver tractor dashes,

all of them from 1950's and older tractors.

"I came up with the idea because I grew up on a farm and wanted to get my dad something unique for Christmas that reminded him of his early days on the farm. My grandfather grew up with a Farmall 560, so I found a Farmall dash and turned it into a lamp."

He says the farm lamps are a lot of fun to make because they have so much sentimental value. "The dashes speak to the people who drove these tractors," says Carling. "For example, I delivered one Deere farm lamp to a retired farmer who now lives in Minneapolis. With a tear in his eye, he told me he had spent a lot of time behind the dash of that tractor. I get a lot of my business from word of mouth."

He gets the tractor dashes and parts from various suppliers around the country and antique stores, as well as eBay and Craigslist. He buys the bulbs from a local lighting supply company, but says they can also be found on eBay.

Carling also makes lamps adorned with



**Lamps are fitted with Edison-style filament bulbs mounted above antique parts such as the dash off an old tractor.**

old-time steam gauges. "I bought a bunch of gauges and parts off old steam tractors and figured out a way to put them together," he says. "I also use the steam gauges off old pressure cookers and ones used on sprinkler control valves from old buildings and factories. Some of the gauges are so beautiful

that I find it hard to part with them."

Machine Age Lamps sell for \$449 and up.

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## Bale "Destroyer" Rips Apart Big Squares For Re-Baling

"A lot of farmers, horse owners and small stock owners have a tough time handling and feeding big square bales, so we sell a machine that tears big square bales apart to be re-baled into small squares," says Curt Haldeman of Messick's Farm Equipment in Elizabethtown, Penn.

The Bale Destroyer feeds any size large square bales across a metal hay chute and into a compartment with a large rotating reel. The reel is built like a conventional hay pickup with 196 steel tines. Those tines loosen and tear apart slabs as the bale moves into the machine. A second reel on top of the compartment fluffs the hay to separate any small chunks. That reel deposits a stream of loose hay onto a small conveyor at the back of the machine, which flows into a conventional small square baler parked behind the Bale Destroyer. Small squares are pushed out the back of the baler and packed by hand or tossed into a bulk rack with a bale thrower.

Haldeman says the Bale Destroyer is powered by hydraulics from the tractor that's running the pto-operated small square baler. The Destroyer has three hydraulic motors that require 10 gpm oil flow. "It uses hydraulic motors with variable flow control so the drums and conveyors have adjustable speed control," Haldeman says. "Different size bales and different products, whether hay or straw,

feed in at different speeds. The important thing is to have consistent flow and consistent speed." Haldeman says the Destroyer will rip apart a 3 by 4 by 8-ft. big square bale in about 3 min., which produces about 20 to 25 small squares. "One man can place the big bales and remove the twine while another man moves the small squares away," Haldeman says. "It has the capacity to handle 15 or more big bales per hour."

Bale Destroyers are custom built one-at-a time in a local blacksmith shop. The frames are made of sturdy tube steel with 1/4 in. sheet steel used on the sides of the hay compartment. The conveyor platform, which is 20 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, has an apron chain that moves bales into the Destroyer. The platform raises with hydraulic power and folds tight to the machine for transport. A hitch tongue can be inserted into a receiver under the machine so a tractor or pickup can move the Destroyer.

Haldeman says the machine was designed by employees of the business who "sat down and just sort of came up with the plans". They had previously built a small bale destroyer to take apart mini-bales, so this was a much larger version of that design. They have built and sold 14 of the Destroyers. "They build them all by hand, one at a time, so there's personal attention at every step," Haldeman says. It takes about 100 to 150 hrs. to build a machine. The completed Destroyers



**Hydraulic-operated apron chain feeds bales into machine, which tears them apart and sends loose hay out the back. There it's fed into a baler making small square bales.**

weigh about 4,600 lbs., are 16 ft. long, 7 ft. wide and 11 ft. 6 in. high when the feeding table is folded for transport. The machine sells through two dealers for \$18,900, plus shipping.

Haldeman thinks the machine has a unique spot in the ag market. He has sold Bale Destroyers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Canada and Colorado. The fellow from Colorado drove to Elizabethtown and towed his machine 1,400 miles back home, complete with torsion bars and shock absorbers that were built especially for the trip. Haldeman

says the New Jersey customer plans on buying big squares at hay auctions and re-baling them into small squares for people who sometimes pay from \$5 to \$10 for a single small bale. "In the process he should be able to make \$150 to \$200 a ton, and maybe more if people are buying just a bale or two at a time," Haldeman says.

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## He Makes Wood Siding With His Chainsaw

"It eliminates the need for an expensive sawmill to make wood siding and other beveled wood products," says Walter Rodler, Debert, Nova Scotia, about his home-built attachment that's designed to fit any chainsaw.

It's designed to be used on logs that have already been squared to anywhere from 6 to 12 in. It consists of a 1-ft. sq. tubular metal frame, with 4-in. high metal sides, that bolts onto the saw's bar (two 3/8-in. dia. holes are drilled into the bar). A handle is bolted to the frame. A removable 9-in. wide by 12-in. long metal tray with slots is bolted on at all four corners to the

underside of the frame. By loosening the bolts, the tray can be adjusted up or down according to the desired thickness, or left or right depending on the desired angle.

A plexiglass guard is bolted onto the tubular frame to keep sawdust away from the operator.

"It's really handy to use. There are commercial attachments for bandsaw mills, but as far as I know no one makes anything for using a chainsaw to produce finished material such as the boards used around windows," says Rodler. "It lets me make 6 to 8-in. wide clapboards that are thicker at one end than the other, and cut bevels

at any angle. It's also safe to use because the bar is out of sight underneath and is always pointed away from me. And it makes use of the chainsaw's existing chain - no special ripping chain is required. I file the chain's square teeth to almost 0 degrees and file the rakes four times more than normal.

"I've used it to make wood siding for buildings and to make finish boards for around doors and windows."

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**Attachment bolts onto chainsaw bar, allowing Rodler to make wood siding and other beveled wood products.**

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