



Just 46 in. long, Allan Isaac's 1:12 scale mini sawmill really works. It's powered by an angle grinder motor while a 4 1/2-in. carbide blade does the sawing.



Mini Sawmill Really Works

It has been about a quarter of a century since Allan Isaac operated a sawmill in Northern Alberta, yet he was able to create a 1:12 scale working sawmill by memory.

"It's in my blood," says the Farmington, B.C., resident, who notes that he used to build full-size portable sawmills when he had a welding shop.

The 46-in. mini mill he built is powered by an angle grinder motor, and a 4 1/2-in. carbide blade does the sawing.

Isaac used a roller blade wheel to create a friction drive for the carriage feed for variable speed to cut big and small logs.

"The biggest 'log' it cuts is around 2 in. by 16 in.," Isaac says, with the mill's 12-in. carriage.

He drew the parts on a computer to cut out of mostly 14 ga. steel with his CNC plasma cutter. It took about 10 tries before he got the mounting bracket for the motor just right. But the saw is complete, right down to dogs that hold the logs in place.

"I've been showing the family how we used to saw," Isaac says. "It's just a hobby and enjoyable thing for me."

The sawmill is just one of the many things Isaac has built out of steel. He has also made old Cats, trucks and gooseneck trailers.

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Their New Home Is A Century-Old Church

Kathy and Dennis Lafky bought a 4,800-sq. ft. church along with a few pews and other furnishings in 2016. Kathy says they loved the character and sturdiness of the 117-year-old building, especially the six gorgeous stained-glass windows, which, unlike many churches, didn't have religious elements. They bought the church to live in.

One of the first things they tackled was leveling the sanctuary floor, which sloped down nearly 20 in. from the back of the church to the altar. They framed a new sub floor and covered it with plywood sheeting to create a level surface. They also added walls and a ceiling from the altar forward to create a guest bedroom and bathroom with a storage loft above.

Other major work on the main level included updating the vestibule, adding a kitchen, a bathroom and a laundry room. Their master bedroom is in the upper level that had been classrooms and a small library.

After the major interior work was complete, Kathy chose paint colors that coordinated with the gold, purple and aqua that are prominent in the stained-glass windows. A spare stained-glass window is prominently displayed on an easel in their new living room along with one of the remaining pews from the church. They donated other items the church left behind to a local Christian charity. Their church house still has the original



Century-old "church home" still has the original steeple, bell tower and basement kitchen.

steeple, bell tower and basement kitchen, which Dennis calls his "man cave". Future projects include adding a garage to the large back yard.

Lafky says local residents in this small rural community were glad to see the church put to good use. Several put in a bid to tour the home when the Lafkys made it a part of Lewiston's annual cancer research fundraiser in April, 2018. "Even though we're private people, we're happy to raise money for a wonderful cause," Kathy says.

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As high as they are wide, the steel wheels on Bill Hedrick's Farmall H were designed to pack sod before it's cut.

Specialized Tractor Designed To Roll Sod

With 40-in. wide rear steel wheels and front steel wheels that are 16 in. wide, Bill Hedrick's Farmall H is one-of-a-kind. The wheels are as high as they are wide and designed to pack sod before it is cut and lifted.

"A neighbor knew I collected tractors, and one day he told me he had an H I needed," recalls Hedrick. "I said I didn't need another H, but he said this one was different. I went to see it, and he was right. I had never heard of anything like it."

Hedrick thought he had seen everything when it came to tractors. He and his son Jason are avid collectors. They currently have 89, up 5 from only a few months ago.

"They follow me home," says Hedrick, who began collecting in 1970. "In those days an older farmer would die, and you could buy a good, running, older tractor for \$300."

In the nearly 50 years since, he has assembled a wide variety of brands, models and types, including homemade tractors. Only 2 or 3 in the collection are either not restored or not running.

People wanting to see the unique H and other tractors in the collection can do so during the Hedrick tractor day in June. He and his son get every tractor out and moving over the course of a week.

"We pick a day and invite friends and neighbors to come for the day," says Hedrick. "Some of them bring their equipment. Last year we had 275 people, 150 tractors and 43 gas engines. We even have a parade and a thresherman's dinner."

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