



EVERYTHING IN BLUE

You can never have enough farm toys and models. That's a view shared by Piet Postma, a dairy farmer from northern Holland who, despite owning a huge collection of around 850 Fordson and Ford tractors in all scales, is determined to reach the 1000-model mark. As well as the usual run-of-the-mill pieces, his breath-taking collection also contains many rarities, reports David Pullen.



Piet Postma, a dairy farmer and avid Fordson and Ford model collector, holding a model of a pedal tractor while sitting on the rare Ford Commander 6000 pedal tractor he found in Switzerland.

ASK ANY FARM MODEL COLLECTOR where their interest comes from and many will reply that it began with the toys, often Britains, they played with as a child. However, that's not the case with Piet Postma. Despite being raised on his family's dairy farm in northern Holland, which he now runs, Piet didn't have any farm toys of his own as child, although he did play with his friend's toys when he visited them.

Piet was 12 years old when the first toy tractor arrived on the family farm. His father bought a new life-size Ford 6600 and the supplying dealer gave him a Britains version of the same tractor as a complimentary gift. Because Piet was by then a little too old to play with the Britains Ford, it wasn't even taken out of its box and remained on a shelf for many years. He does remember being disappointed when the farm's life-size 6600 was replaced with a newer model, and a toy of the real tractor wasn't forthcoming from the dealer.

Piet began collecting farm models as a hobby following a visit to the Landbouwmminiaturen Club Nederland's (L.C.N.) annual show, then held in Dronten, Holland, in the mid-1990s. At that show he spent about €45 (around £35) and bought four models. Since then he has become a member of the L.C.N and regularly writes for its magazine, as well as acting as its regional organiser in northern Holland.



Above: These red and green Ford 8000/9000 tractors were made in the USA by Processed Plastic. Piet is still looking for the blue version to complete his set.

Below (left and right): Piet was given this one-off Ford 5000, made by a retired lorry driver from Holland, for his 50th birthday. It is about 1/12-scale and is hand-made from different types of wood. The Ford 8000, right, was made by the same craftsman.



Top left: Piet's models of early Fordson tractors include this unusual Russian-made cardboard model kit of a Fordson F tractor. It was supplied pre-cut and assembled without glue.

Top right: SpecCast's 1/16-scale resin model of Mark Peissig's 9600 pulling tractor. Only 500 were made and Piet bought this one from the USA when it was released in 2010.

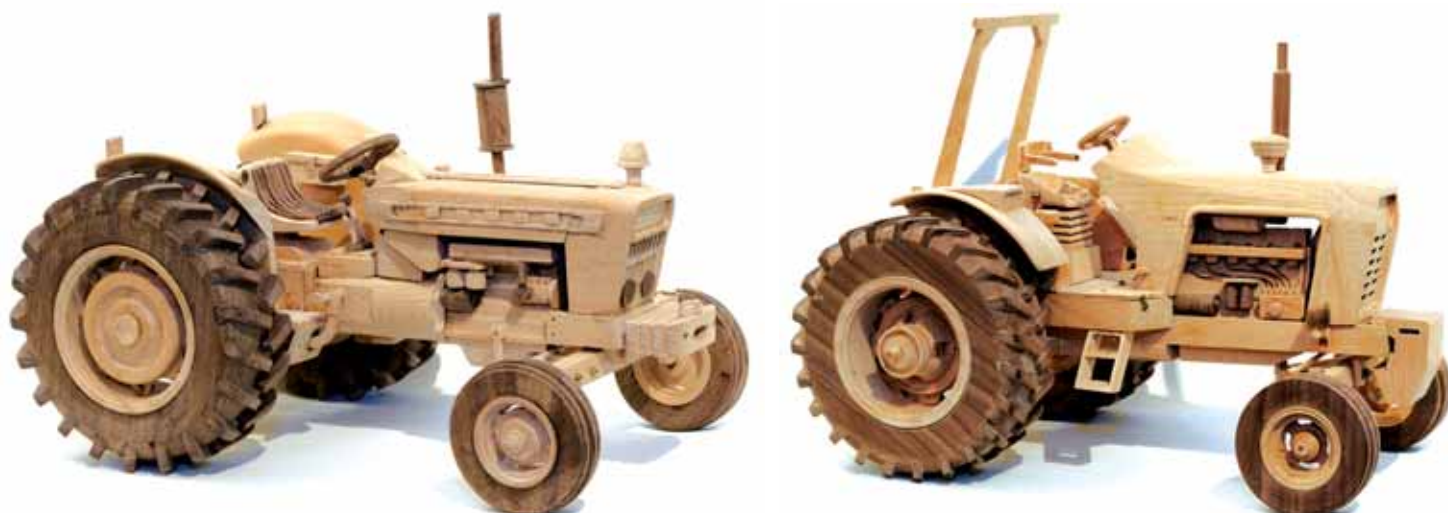
Above left: This is the Britains Ford 6600 that Piet's father's was given by the dealer that sold him a new life-size version of the same tractor. Piet didn't play with it as a child, but his own children did, and it had to be repaired after they had finished using it for carpet farming.

Above: In 1989, Ford gave buyers of its tractors a pewter model to celebrate 25 years of production at Basildon. Piet has three of these models in his collection: a four-wheel drive 4610 and a two-wheel drive 5110, both engraved 'Basildon - Antwerp Tractor Production 1964-1989', and a four-wheel drive 6410 with 'Basildon Tractor Production 1964-1989' engraved on the plinth.

From the very outset, Piet decided he was going to concentrate on tractors, and only those brands used on the family farm. The Postma family have a long association with Ford tractors – they currently operate a 6410 Generation III – so the decision to collect toys and models of Fordson and Ford tractors was straightforward. Piet's initial plan was to try to build a collection that covered the world-wide history of the brand, so he placed no restrictions on scale, brand or country of origin. He has one or two New Holland tractors, but doesn't normally buy toys and models of full-size tractors that were made after the Ford name was dropped in around 1998.

Twenty years on and Piet now owns a highly impressive collection of around 850 toys and models of Fordson and Ford tractors, all housed in a special display room. The Britains Ford 6600 tractor that was given to his father when he bought a full-size machine is still part of the collection, but it is no longer in mint-in-box condition. Piet's own children played with the tractor and after being rescued it needed a few repairs. Other models have been sourced from on-line auction sites and visits to model shows across Europe and North America.

Piet's interest in Ford pedal tractors began after his wife bought him a Ford 8N pedal tractor for his



Standard blue, left, and the rarer metallic 1/64-scale Ford 1156 models were made for Toy Tractor Times by Top Shelf Replicas. Piet doesn't have the gold version, but that's only because they often sell for more than \$1000.



Piet bought one of these unusual plastic Ford 5000 tractors, made by Smart, at a local petrol station. He found the other one at a toy show in Holland.

40th birthday. He has since added several children's pedal tractors made by European and North American manufacturers. The European models are usually made of plastic and, surprisingly, he has been able to buy many of them second-hand for between €10-30. He says they are a lot cheaper than some of the 1/32-scale models in the collection.

North American pedal tractors, which are often made of metal, are harder to find and therefore more expensive. After searching for a Ford Commander 6000 pedal tractor for a number of years he eventually located one in Switzerland. Initially, the owner was reluctant to sell it and only relented after Piet and a friend had driven all the way from Holland to Switzerland to see him. Piet still thinks he got a bargain.

Piet doesn't confine himself to just miniature Fordson and Ford tractors and also collects models of other brands he has used on his farm. After buying a life-size Landini he started collecting models of the company's tractors, but after selling the real tractor, he also decided to sell his Landini model collection.

The family have run Zetor tractors for many years. Piet still has one of his father's early Zetors and he uses a modern one on his farm every day. He also owns another Zetor that was once used for tractor pulling and almost inevitably there is a collection of Zetor scale models in his sitting room.

Surely there's not much more left for Piet to collect? Not so, it seems. He is determined to add another 150 models to his Fordson and Ford collection, and once he has reached the 1000-model milestone, he says he plans to write a book about his prized blue miniatures. It should make interesting reading.

David Brown conversion

IT ISN'T BLUE, but Piet Postma is handling the distribution of this 1/32-scale David Brown 1412 Silver Jubilee. The conversion is based on Britains' existing David Brown 1210 and is the work of Piet's friend Henny Baas. It costs £45 and features a revised front grille, authentic decals and a black cab interior. Orders can be collected from the Spalding Model Tractor Show on 2 October or sent by mailservice. Piet's e-mail is postmaps@hetnet.nl



Piet's collection of Ford 5000 tractors includes these plastic copies of Corgi's tractor. The first two in the line-up were made in Germany, while the other three are made by Hoover in Hong Kong.



All the popular Fordson and Ford toys and models are represented in the collection, including dozens of 1/32-scale Majors, New Majors, 1000 Series and TW Series tractors.



A selection of Piet's more recent Fordson and Ford tractor model releases from Britains, MarGe Models and Universal Hobbies.



The chunky Ford 8000, 9000 and TW Series toys on the centre shelf were all made by Ertl and date from the 1970s and 80s.