

## Model Behaviour

Tom calls himself The Woodman and it's easy to see why!

**F**or as long as I can remember, I've been designing and building things. I'd get a vision and it would rattle around in my head until I did something about it. Often, I'd get an idea for "something" to fit "somewhere" and before long I'd be trying to make it.

I usually have a pretty clear image in my mind's eye about what I want to build, and more often than not, it turns out the way I'd imagined. Other times, however, I begin a project having no idea how it will turn out. Some of my best work begins this way.

I remember the first wooden model I built—a 1913 Model-T van. Why I began I don't know, but when I finished I could hardly believe that I'd created it. I looked at it as if someone else had done it—I was hooked.

I never had any formal lessons in woodworking, but I watched and listened to others and eventually I learned. Even so, the vast majority of what I now know was acquired by just giving things a try.

Being something of a walnut freak, there seems to

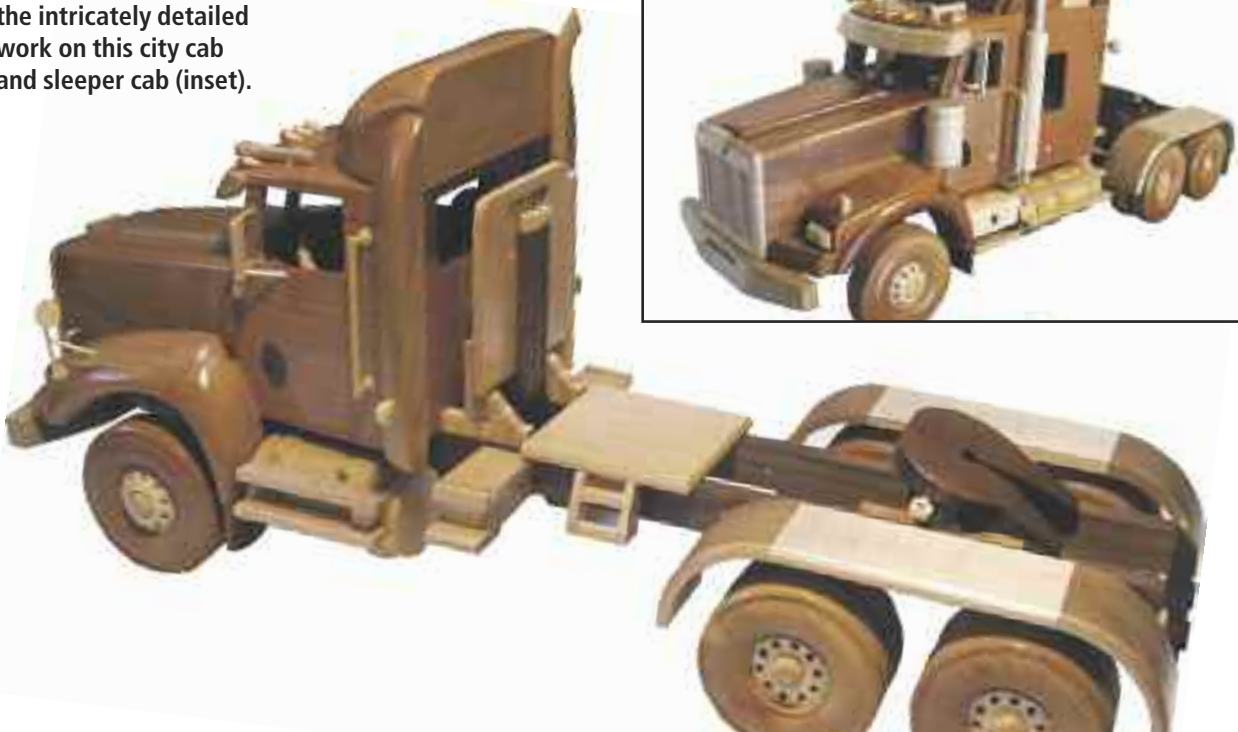
be some walnut (the darker wood) in every piece I build. The light woods are maple or ash. The excavator (right), for example, is made of walnut and ash, while the golf cart (below, right) is walnut and maple. Other woods I really enjoy working with are cherry and mahogany.

The models are not carved as a whole but rather constructed, piece by piece, with woodworking tools such as a table saw, table-mounted router, drill press, wood lathe and a myriad of sanders. Creating each unit can take anywhere from two days to two weeks.

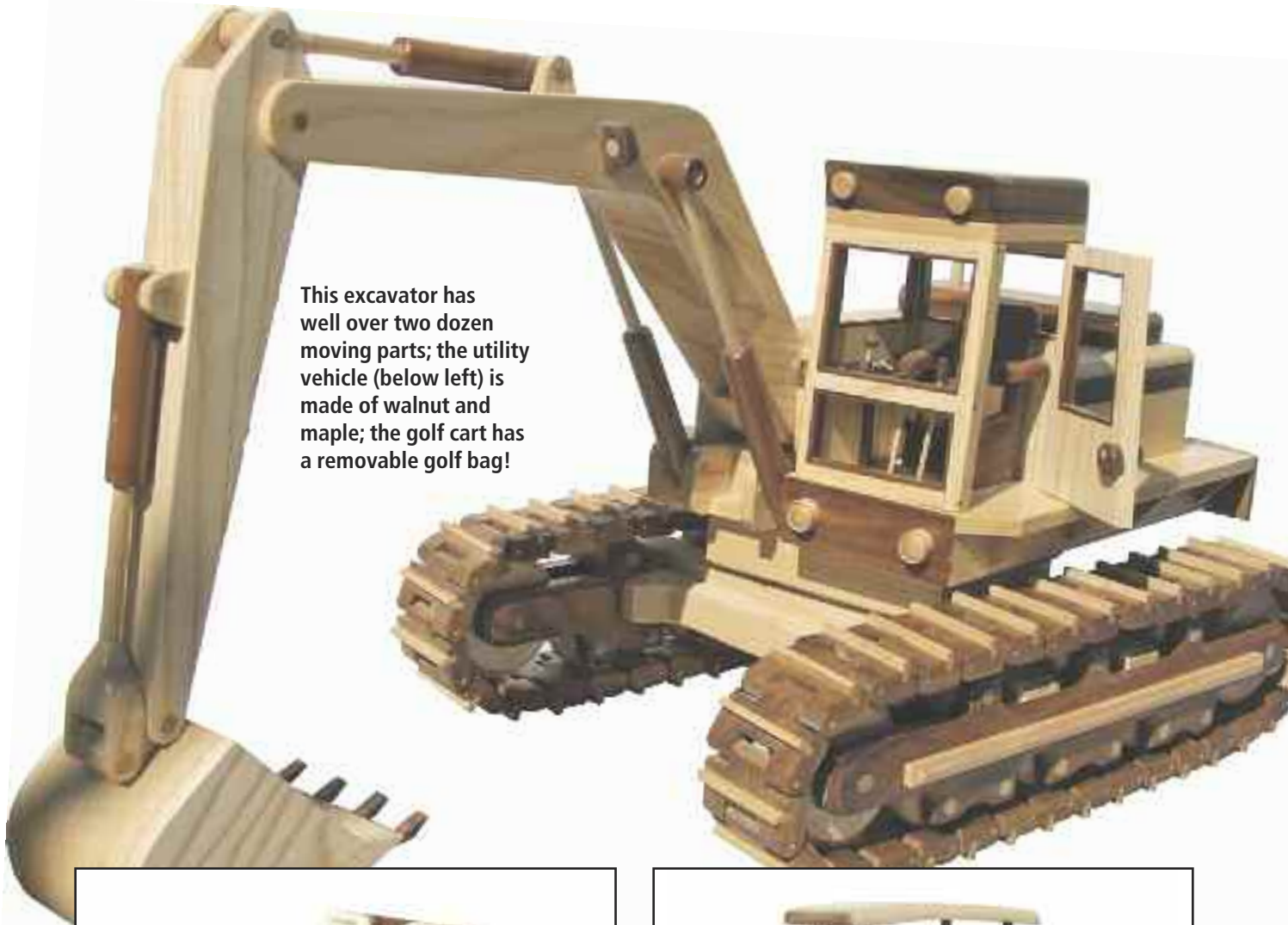
Experience has taught me what will work and what won't. I get the most pleasure from putting as much detail as possible, including moving parts, into my models. Now that I'm concentrating solely on models, as opposed to plaques or other pieces, I look forward to attempting even more elaborate and challenging projects. To see more of my work, visit my website at [www.woodmancollectibles.ca](http://www.woodmancollectibles.ca).

**Tom McAllister**, Cookstown, Ont.

Tom's passion for woodworking is evident in the intricately detailed work on this city cab and sleeper cab (inset).



This excavator has well over two dozen moving parts; the utility vehicle (below left) is made of walnut and maple; the golf cart has a removable golf bag!



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