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Lawn & Garden TRACTOR

Volume 6 Issue 3 | May/June 2012

\$5.99

magazine



PLUGGED IN



AN “ELECTRIC” CUB

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95
ELECTRIC





Believe it or not, International Harvester actually made an all-electric, battery-powered rider at one time! The Cub Cadet Model 95, like its ICE-based sibling models, the 55, 75, 85, and 85 special, it was also affectionately referred to as one of the “bathtub models.” I think you can see why they had that nickname!

The Model 95 was manufactured for just two years between 1974 and 1975; however, they continued to sell un-sold new inventory through 1978. During the two years of production, they potentially could have produced as many as 3,380 machines. That would have averaged about one sale each per International Harvester Cub Cadet Dealer per year (for just the two years of actual production).

With over 3,000 machines made you would think there would be more survivors out there, but they are very hard to find today. Tractor manufacturers, however, were notorious for not using all the serial numbers that were assigned to a production run in a year. Chances are that nowhere near that many were ever actually produced. A friend of mine hooked me up with a guy who actually had a couple of Model 95s—one was close to running and the other was truly a parts machine. Neither machine had a mower deck, so I still had to find a few parts to get a working machine.

I live in Tennessee but was able to pick up a NOS mower deck in Missouri, rear deck arms and a front mower bracket in Virginia, a NOS key switch from a dealer in Arkansas and the riders themselves had come from Ohio—quite a treasure hunt. I have some sprucing up to do overall on my Model 95 along with some fiberglass repair work on the front end, but it runs great. The best part of the deal for me was that my friend had performed all the electrical and mechanical work to get it running as part of a deal on a vintage electric car he was buying from the owner—he saved me a ton of work!



The Model 95 has three forward speeds and one reverse with a top speed of almost 4½ mph. It sports a 32" mower deck with two separate electric motors of its own, and the short wheel-base gives it a tight turning radius. Three 12-volt, deep-cycle batteries provide all the power needed for the 36V system, which will cut just over an acre of grass before it requires a recharge. Recharging requires between 6 and 12 hours depending on the level of battery discharge. By leaving the rider plugged in after charging, a small trickle charge continues to keep the batteries fully topped off at all times.

Beyond the mower deck the Model 95 offered a front and rear bumper kit, a snow blade, the IH #2 trailer, lawn sweeper, and a grass catcher attachment as optional equipment. It's a neat little rider, and the electric engine makes it very quiet. With gas prices being what they are, it's a perfect machine for a large city lot or just keeping the area around the house nice and tidy! More photographs and information are available on my website at www.myelec-traks.com. ➤