

# Aviation Time Machine

This H.G. Wells-like homemade electrical component test bench is an early 20th century time machine. That's because the vintage orange and blue aircraft paint colors common in the 1930s and '40s, the instrument panel full of old Echlin instruments, and the scrap wood chuck box design immediately transport you to that era.

EAAer Frank M. Pothen, now deceased, was the builder of this novel bench. An avid volunteer at EAA's Pioneer Airport in later years, Pothen grew up in Murdock, Minnesota, and spent much of his aviation career managing the Wadena Municipal Airport (ADC) after World War II. Part of his duties included instructing students and servicing airplanes passing through the small town.

Designed to test electrical components on aircraft engines, the workbench may have been used to service cars and tractors, too. The upper panel includes a capacitor tester, voltmeter, ignition coil test, amp meter, and cam dwell (angle) meter. On the bottom right there's a spot for an electric motor with pulley to perform a magneto check, and an enclosed storage cabinet on the lower left for tools and other accessories.

Look for this novel bench at EAA's Pioneer Airport collection, beginning in early May 2008.

—Kathleen L. Witman

