

Paw prints are the “purr-fect” design for Kentucky couple’s plane

By MEG GODLEWSKI

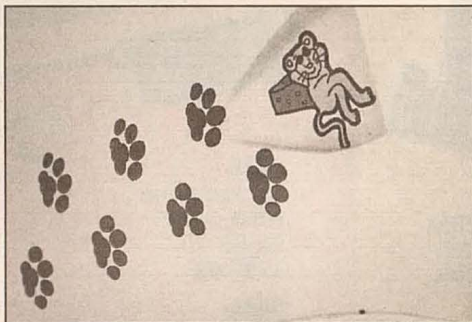
General Aviation News

Colby and Elise Farmer like cats and airplanes, so they decided to combine the two when the time came to finish their Cozy Mark IV. Their aircraft is easy to spot among the rows of space-age design at air shows: It’s covered in paw prints.

“We couldn’t decide what color stripes to put on it,” Mrs. Farmer explains. “And we both like cats. The University of Kentucky basketball team is one of our favorites and they have big blue paw prints because they are the wildcats, so the paw prints seemed like something that would do for us.”

The design consists of three cats beneath the cockpit with a dual line of paw prints around the aircraft. By the engine intake ducts there is a cartoon mouse with a piece of cheese. The rodent addition was inspired by someone at the engine shop who thought all that cattitude needed to be tempered with a modicum of mouse.

The couple, from Philpot, Ky., spent a few weeks tracking down clip art that



TEMPTATION: A mouse holds court near the engine intake ducts. An engine shop employee suggested adding the rodent to the paint scheme to counter all the “cattitude.”

could be done in vinyl then applied to the aircraft. The paws were not terribly difficult to find — the three cats were pulled from an embroidered blouse Mrs. Farmer had.

“It looks like cloth embroidery,” Mrs. Farmer noted. “We have people coming up to the aircraft to feel them.”

Mr. Farmer is the pilot. Mrs. Farmer describes herself as the perennial student pilot.



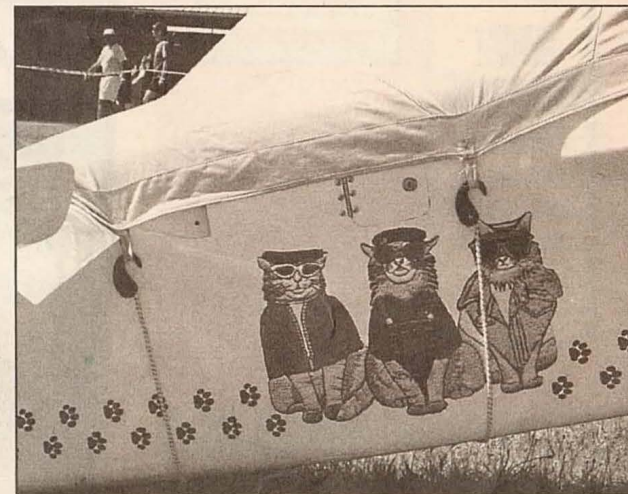
Photos by Meg Godlewski

KENTUCKY BLUE: Colby and Elise Farmer took inspiration from the University of Kentucky basketball team when planning the artwork for their Cozy Mark IV.

“Before we had the Cozy Mark IV I took lessons for a time in a Grumman Tiger,” she said. She decided to terminate the lessons when they switched to the homebuilt aircraft.

“It lands a lot faster than the Grumman so I let my husband, who has been flying quite a while longer than me, handle it.”

Look for the Farmer’s feline machine at EAA air shows. “We have a list of them we’re working through,” Mrs. Farmer says.



STYLISH FELINES: A love of cats and airplanes led to this purr-fect paint job.

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