

Recipe for success

Retiree cooks up a new kitchen gadget

Bill Somers thinks he's got a better idea. "People tell me they've never seen anything like this," Somers said. "I don't like to blow my own horn, but I think I've got a good product."

His product — the thing he hopes cooks everywhere have been waiting for — is a combination double trivet and pasta drier. It looks sort of like an expandable wooden clothes drier on legs.

Closed up and placed on the table, it's the right size for a hot dish or a pie. Expanded, it's big enough for two. And if you make your own pasta, stick the legs on it and hang your pasta out to dry.

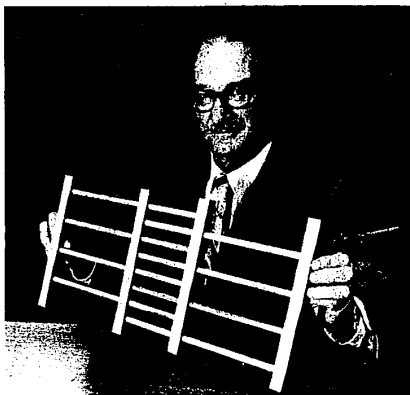
Somers, 65, a retiree who enjoys cooking at home and tinkering in his basement woodshop (he also makes a handy wooden carousel), makes the devices from hard maple, carefully cutting the pieces so that everything fits together just right.

He's hoping for a little fame and something to supplement his Social Security income.

And he's vowed that if the invention takes off and he needs to hire some help, he'll only take people 65 or older. "I'm not looking to make any fortune, but I've got hopes for this thing," he said.

But for now, it's for sale by mail (\$15 plus \$2 for mailing) to Retosome Co., Box 1140, Southgate 48195.

— Dennis Rosenblum



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Bill Somers displays his combination double trivet and pasta drier. Closed up and placed on the table, it's the right size for a hot dish or a pie. Expanded, it's big enough for two. And if you make your own pasta, stick legs on it and hang your pasta out to dry. Somers hopes the thing will appeal to aspiring gourmet cooks, and he's hoping to have it available in some specialty food stores.

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