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Making Heirloom Toys



Synopsis

Professional designer and woodworker Jim Makowicki's 22-project collection reflects uncanny historical detail and technical accuracy. Each ingeniously designed toy is a potential family heirloom, as a plaything or for display. Makowicki's sophisticated toy designs are extraordinary. Some Making Heirloom Toys projects have over 50 pieces; one, a handsome ferry boat complete with vintage vehicles has over 100. There are simpler toys, too, all suited to the average woodworker's skills. Projects are meticulously researched and include scale drawings that can be copier-enlarged into full-size working plans. Readers get step-by-step details, including safety, design and finishing information. Projects are mostly transportation toys: cars, trucks, airplanes, trains, boats and more.

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Customer Reviews

Jim Makowicki's wooden toys show an attention to detail and sophistication of design that set them apart from the usual run-of-the-mill toy projects. This collection of toys includes 22 projects, primarily featuring transportation toys (cars, trains, trolleys, planes and boats) and educational toys. For each project, there's a full-page photo of the toy, detailed drawings and patterns, a parts list, construction photos and clear, step-by-step instructions on how to make the toy. A color gallery shows the finished toys in all their glory. Two introductory chapters explain the fine points of toymaking techniques, with helpful hints on working with small parts and choosing the best finish for your toy. Whether you're making a toy to entertain a child or grace a desk, this book will teach you how to create toys that your family will cherish for generations.

Makowicki's "marvelous" toys should have a special draw; six basic "systems" (autos, trucks, boats, houses, planes, and ships) allow kids to create a huge variety of toys out of wooden parts. The instructions show numerous techniques for working safely with small parts and are supplemented by excellent drawings and photographs. The designs are attractive, and the quality compares to the popular and expensive Brio toys. This title is perfect for those on a budget, as it will allow them to use the many wood scraps they have accumulated over the years.

Kindle edition does not let you zoom on images, cant make out measurements, makes it a waste of money. will be returning.

I can't say enough good things about this book. This was purchased as a gift for my father in law and he absolutely loves this thing. There are so many designs in it and they are very clear and precise. This s a must buy for anyone wanting to learn how to make little wooden toys.

This book and lots of projects for children's toys! Our son loved it he wants to make different things for his children. Shipping was fast!

Nice Book...Now I need to get busy and make grandkids some toys

Good book for following the patterns of making heirloom toys.

I used this book to make a little dump truck, a jet plane, and a tugboat, soon to be given to my grandson. I did not find the fact that not all plans were full-sized a problem This is common and the %enlargement (if needed) is given The instructions were clear. (However, if you are making the little truck, check the width of 2" hinges available before gluing down the hinge block!) The designs are classic, and range from simple (the ones I made) to complex (the truck on the cover is said to take 40 hours.) There are a couple of educational toys included. Many of the toys' parts are made out of fine woods, but you can substitute available wood in most cases. Makowicki is concerned with toy safety, e.g., the crane uses a magnet to lift barrels, not a hook, and he specifies child-safe finishes - references in appendix. He also gives many ideas for jigs for cutting angles on the table saw. (If you aren't going to produce for sale, in many cases you can use a band saw with a narrow blade or a scroll saw and sand smooth, instead of making the jig.) I made the toys while taking a shop course,

so I learned the safe way to operate power tools at the same time.I also purchased Tarjany's "30 Toy Vehicles Made from Wood". It has cruder designs, but look there for semis, flatbeds, bulldozers, etc. (I made the long-hood semi with a gravel trailer.) His airplanes suffer by comparison with Makowicki's.I am going to purchase Makowicki's "Marvelous Transforming Toys" next.

great informative book

nice

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