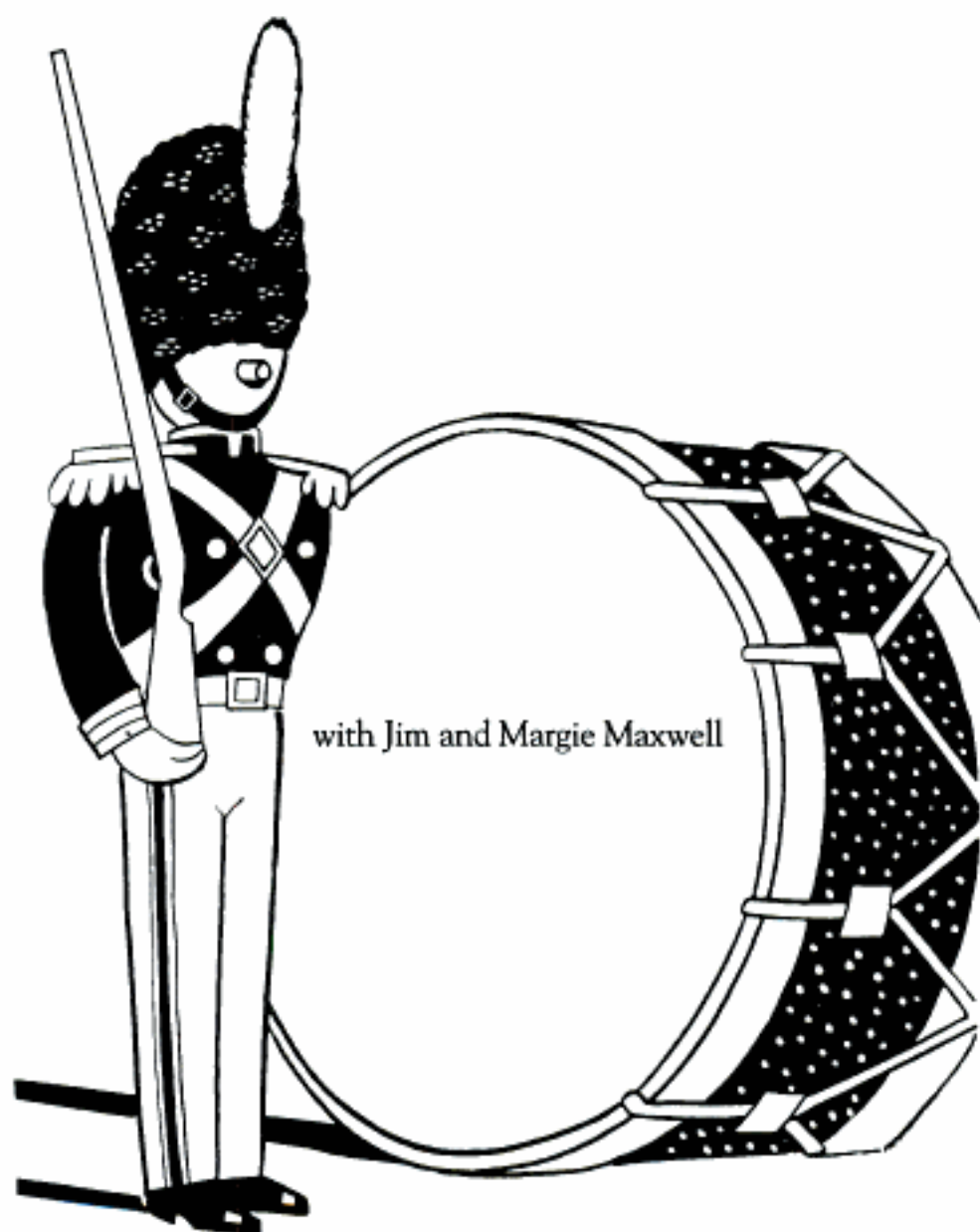


Making Collectible Santas and Christmas Ornaments in Wood



by Jim and Margie Maxwell

Making Collectible Santas and Christmas Ornaments in Wood



Fox Chapel Publishing
Box 7948F
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604

This One



FWOZ-PHS-R4PY

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FOREWORD

The Christmas season always finds my workshop joyously busy as I go about designing and carving new ornaments for our Christmas tree.

Our collection started with a small airplane I carved in 1979. The airplane was patterned after a toy I received for Christmas when I was a boy. As I hung the ornament on the tree, I began telling my wife about the other toys I received in Christmases past. These toys led to new ideas, and we began planning next year's ornaments.

Many Christmases later we now have over 50 handmade ornaments in our personal collection.

Many of my friends and fellow woodcarvers have found these unique ornaments to be challenging wood carving projects as well as excellent gifts and additions to their collections.

While carving these projects, keep this thought in mind: Handmade ornaments are becoming increasingly popular and these small creations of Christmas Art may become the valued collectibles of tomorrow.

JIM MAXWELL

ABOUT THIS BOOK

As you begin carving the patterns in this book, you will find that antique toys make great carving projects.

Antique toys are usually not true to scale, and often contain exaggerated or make-believe parts. These relaxed dimensions were practiced by toy companies to ensure a low cost ease of construction. This aids the carver by allowing a great deal of freedom and a chance to use one's own imagination.

The patterns are arranged according to the dates in which we carved them, not necessarily as to how difficult they may be. Some patterns, like the Teddy Bear, are very easy and will require little time, while others, like the Ford Tractor, are very challenging and may require as much as ten hours. I would suggest you begin your collection by selecting one of the easier projects.

TOOLS AND MATERIALS

To carve the projects in this book you will need some type of soft wood suitable for whittling. I would suggest Basswood, if available. Other suitable woods are: Clear White Pine, Sugar Pine, or Poplar.

A good whittling knife, plus a few basic carving tools will be needed:

3mm V-Tool	∨
6mm V-Tool	∨
2mm Deep Gouge	∪
4mm Deep Gouge	∪
6mm Deep Gouge	∪
12 mm Shallow Gouge	⌒

A coping saw or band saw is used to cut out the projects.

For painting your ornaments, you will need acrylic paints and a spray can of Deft Clear Wood Finish.

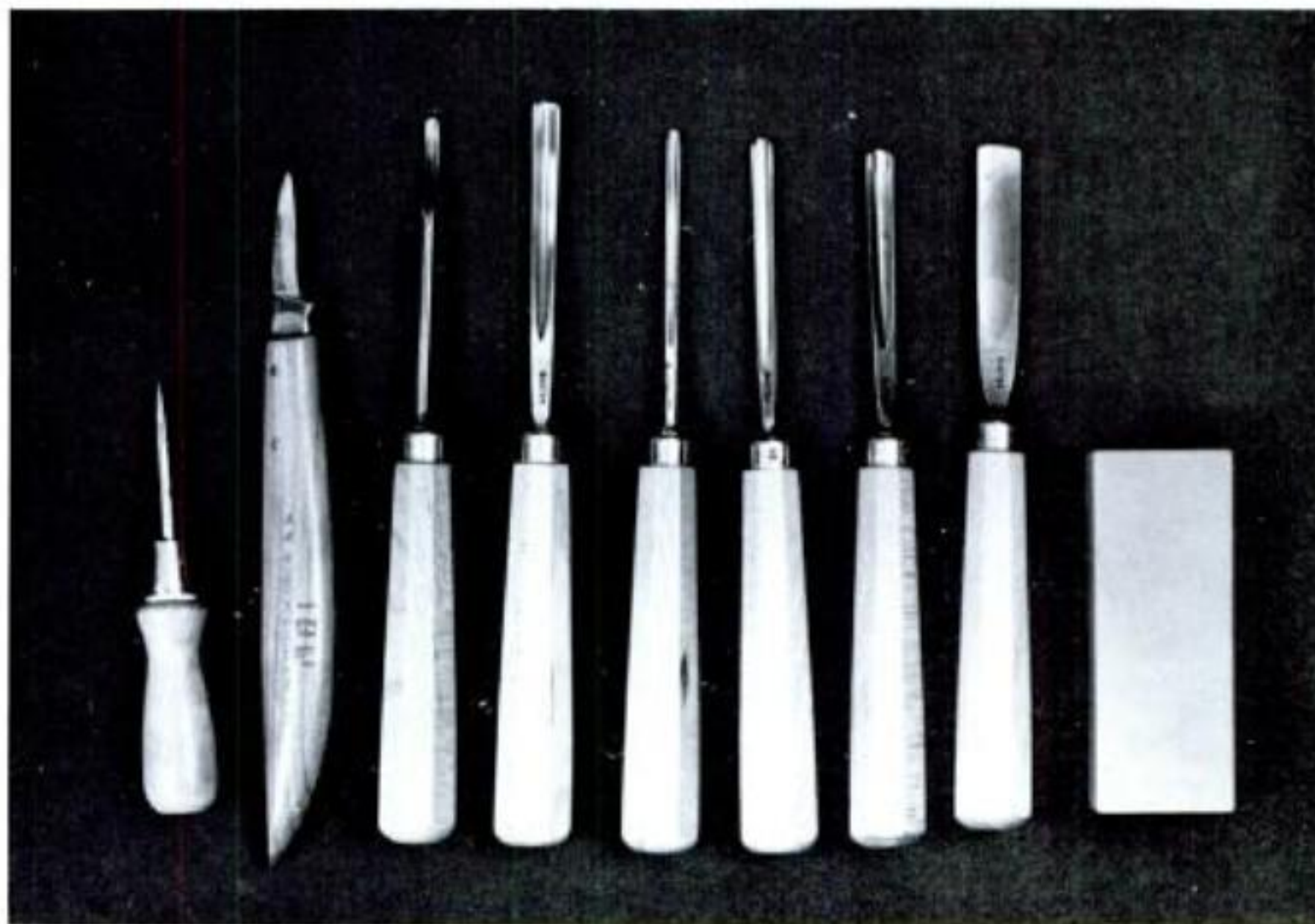


Figure 1

FINISHING

Christmas art work, for the most part, is done in bright and shiny colors. In holding with this custom, we have painted many of our ornaments in this fashion. Unlike other woodcarvings, where the artist wants a great deal of wood to show through, we prefer our Christmas ornaments to stand out against the background of a lighted tree. An occasional sparkle or highlight in the finish tends to remind us of the shiny new toys Santa leaves on Christmas morning.

Begin by sanding the ornament lightly with 220 sandpaper. Acrylic paint is then applied directly to the wood in bright colors. Sometimes lighter colors will require two coats.

Paint the smaller details on your ornaments, such as doll faces and other miniature details, which are too small to carve.

To obtain the effect of glass windows on toy vehicles, first paint the window light gray, then apply a few streaks of white, at a 45 degree angle, thus giving the illusion of light reflecting on glass.

When desired, a dark woodgrain finish can be obtained by painting an object medium brown, using burnt umber thinned with water, then streaking or woodgraining with darker burnt umber.

If you wish a natural wood finish like that used on handmade wooden toys, you need only to sand the ornament lightly and spray with clear wood finish.

After painting, we spray all our ornaments with at least three coats of Deft Clear Wood Finish. It is fast drying and will keep your ornaments clean and fresh looking for years to come.

MARGIE MAXWELL

PROCEDURES

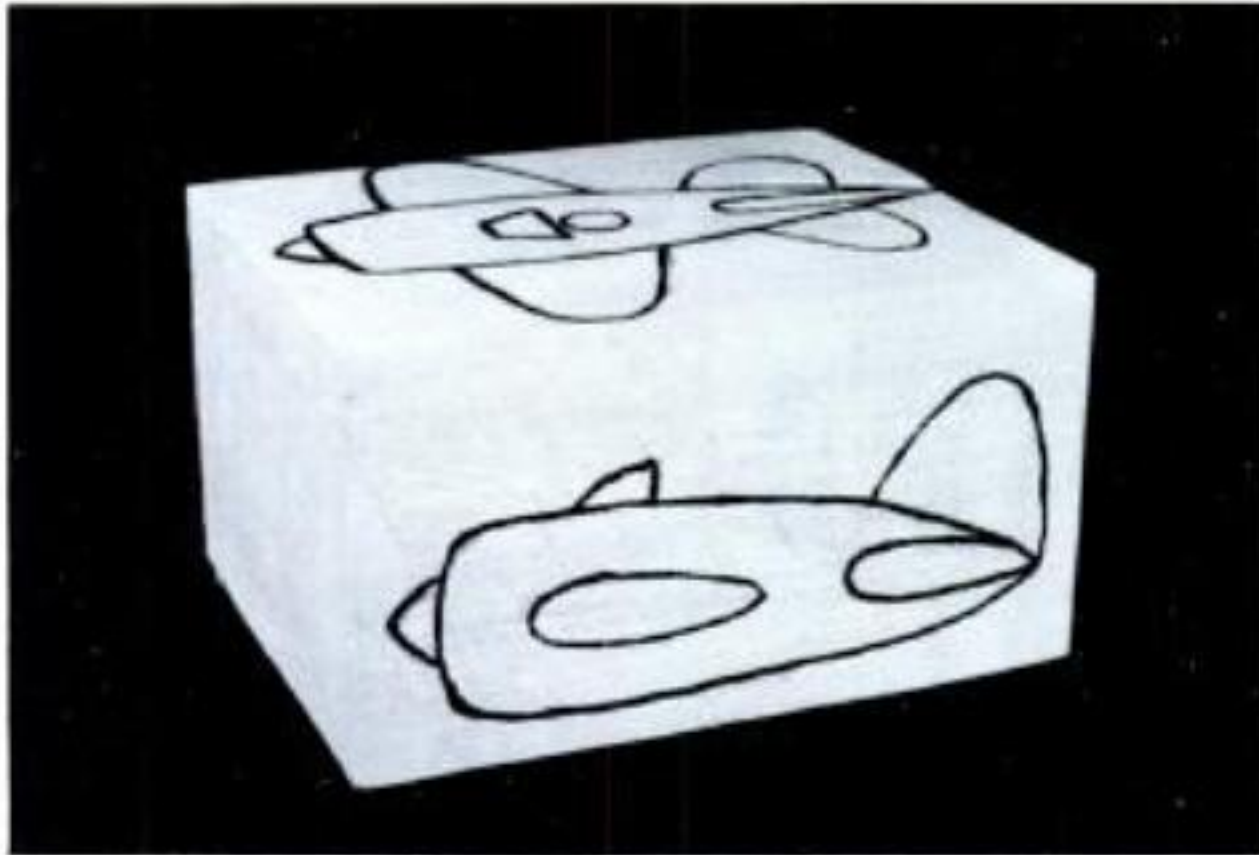


Figure 2

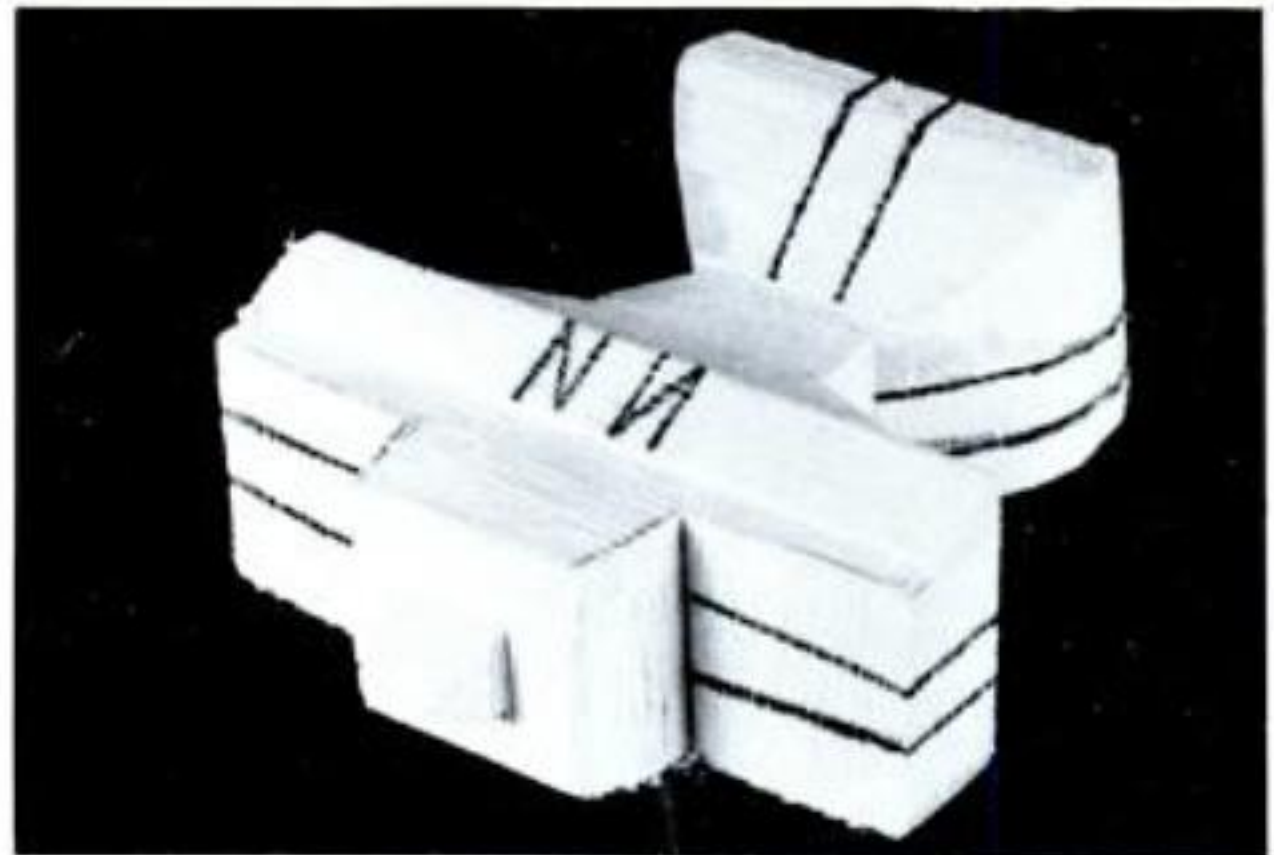


Figure 3

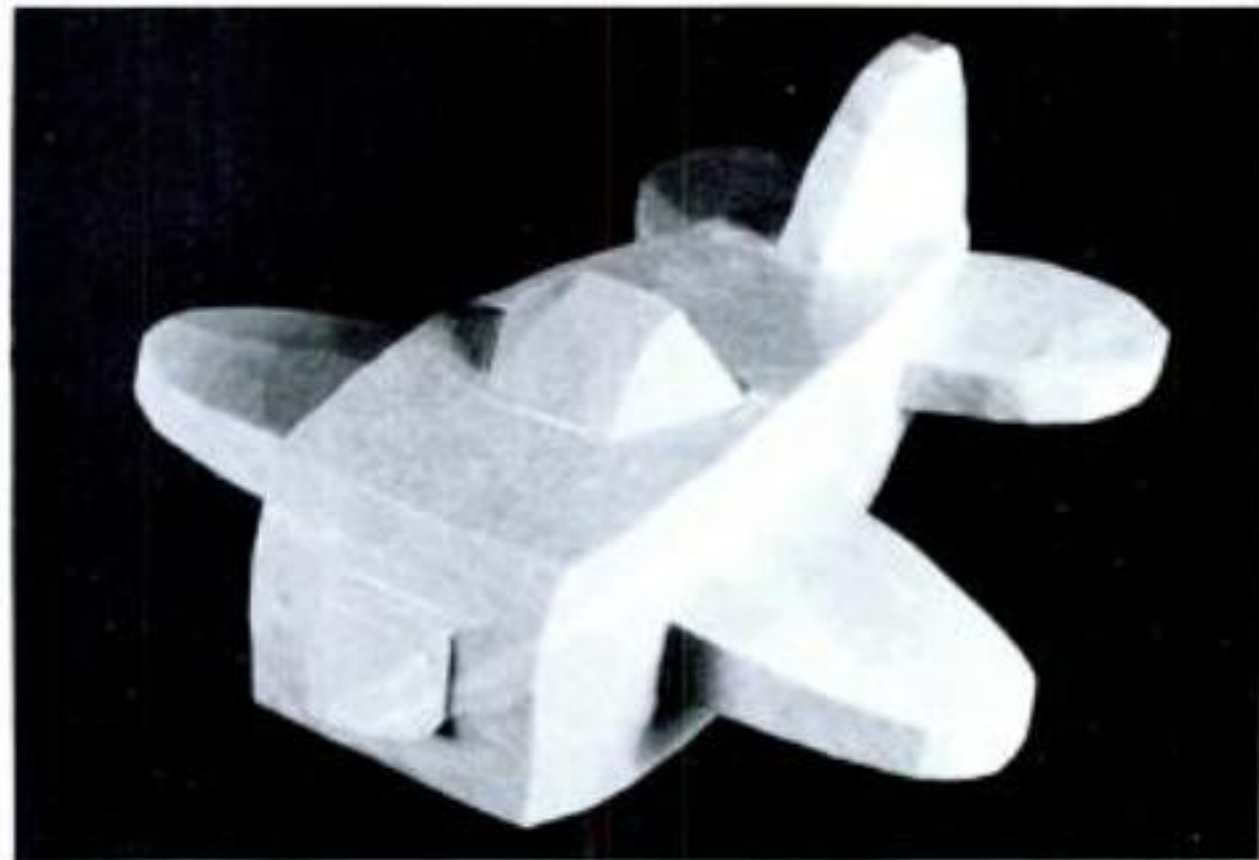


Figure 4

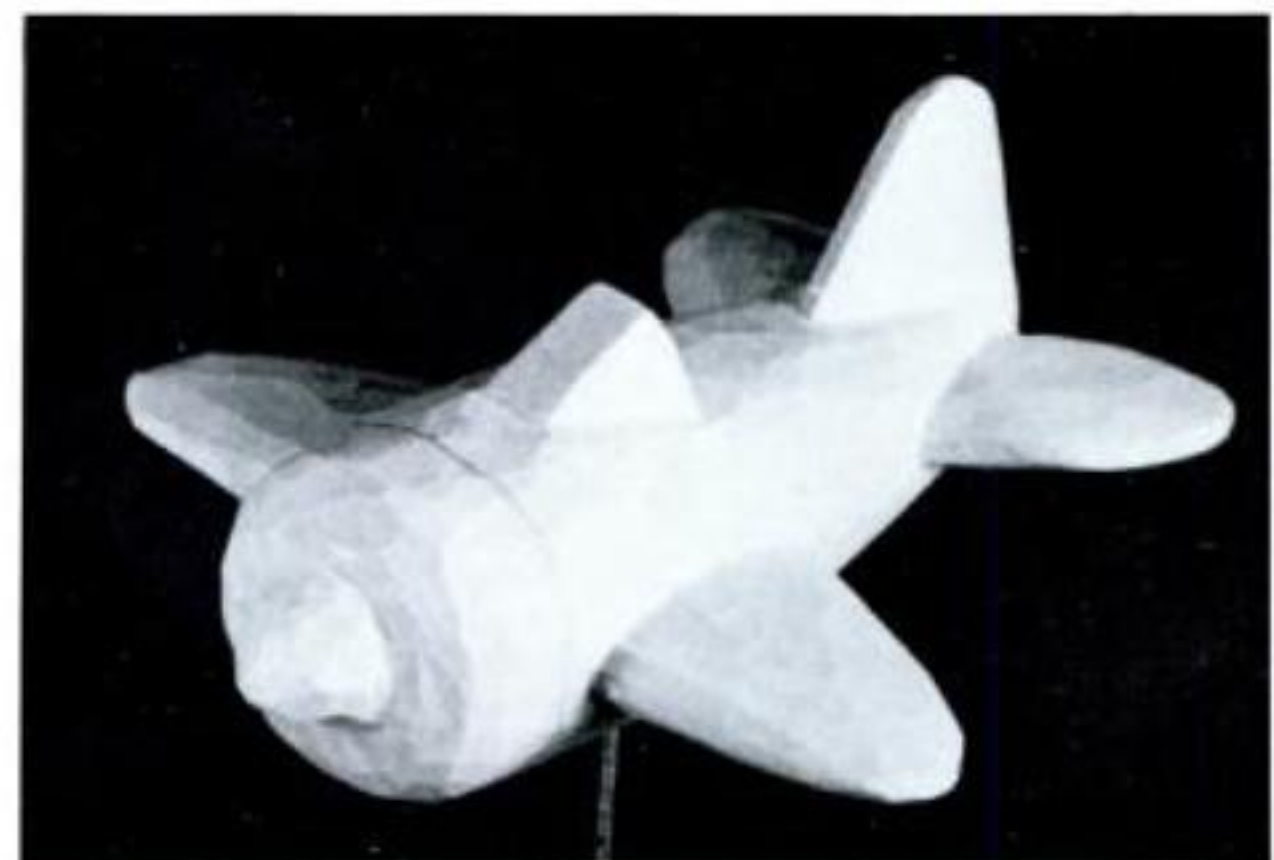


Figure 5

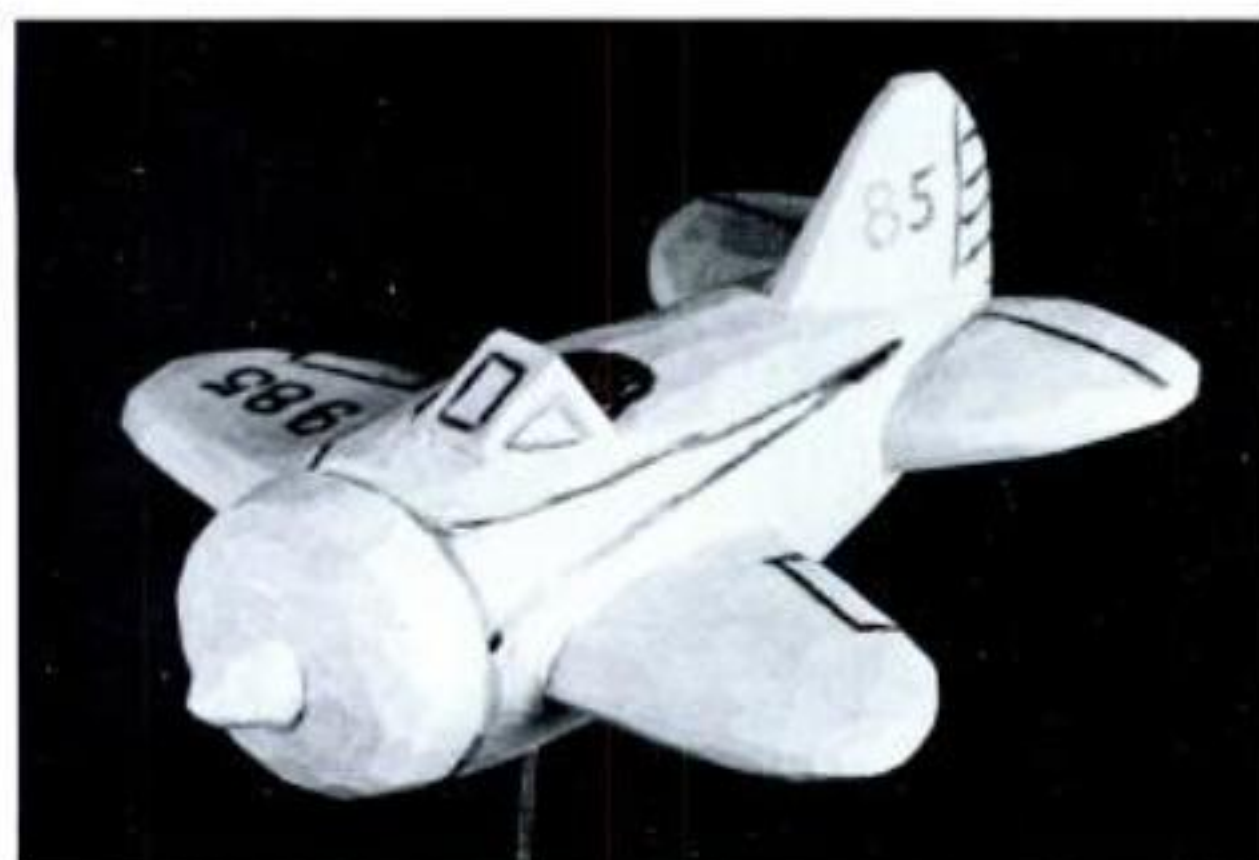


Figure 6

FIG. 2 DRAW OR TRACE PATTERN ON A SOFT PIECE OF WOOD.

FIG. 3 USE A COPING OR BAND SAW TO CUT AWAY EXTRA WOOD.

FIG. 4 BLOCK OUT ALL DIMENSIONS WITH A KNIFE OR GOUGES.

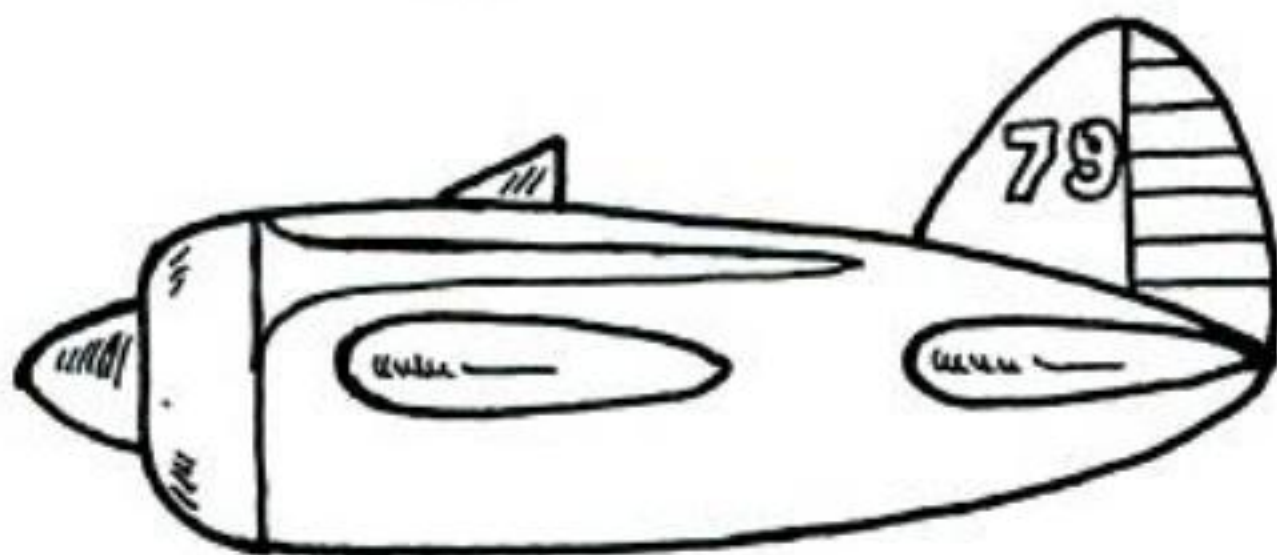
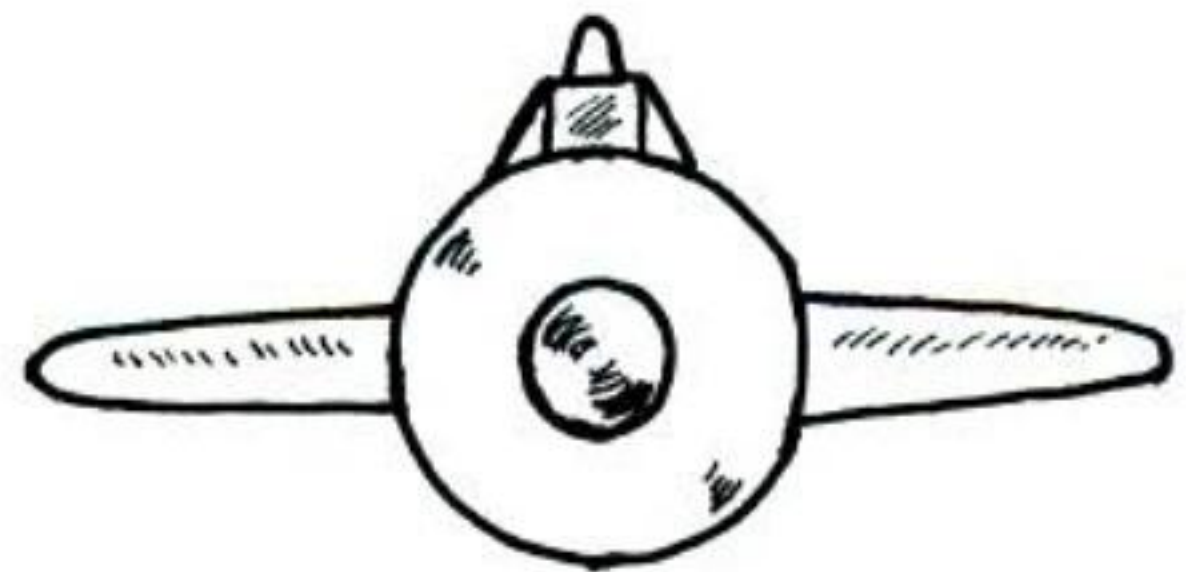
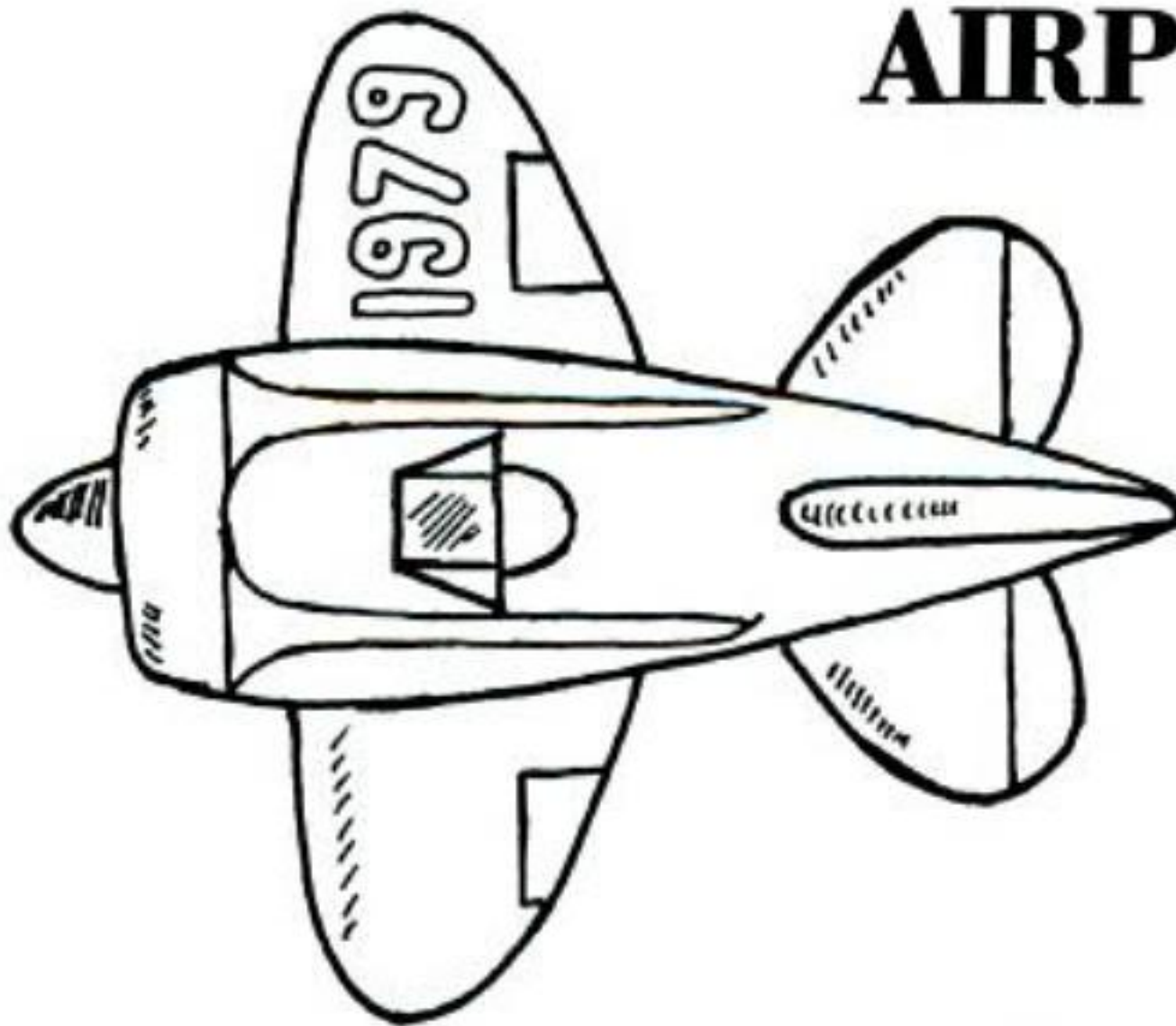
FIG. 5 ROUND ALL CORNERS AND EDGES TO DESIRED SHAPE.

FIG. 6 CARVE AND PAINT ON REMAINING DETAILS. PAINT CARVING AND SPRAY WITH CLEAR FINISH.



Figure 7

AIRPLANE



MY FIRST CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT. A
SINGLE ENGINE OPEN COCKPIT MONO-WING
PLANE, FINISHED IN NATURAL WOOD.
DATED 1979.

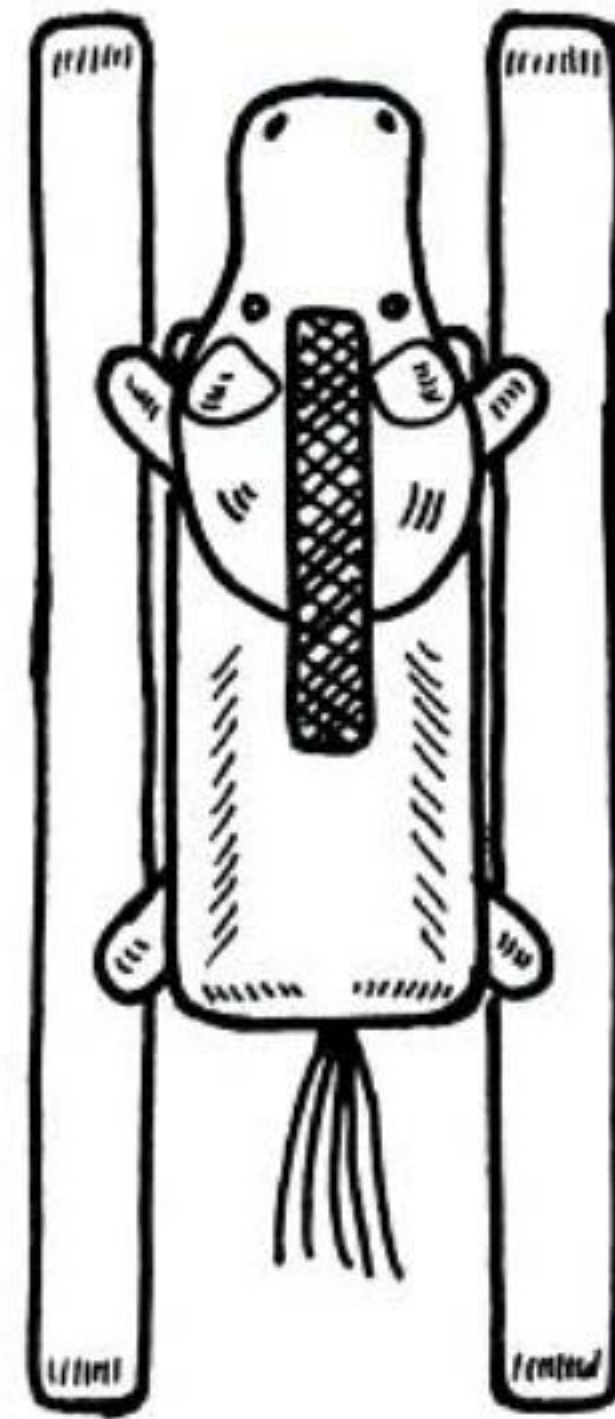
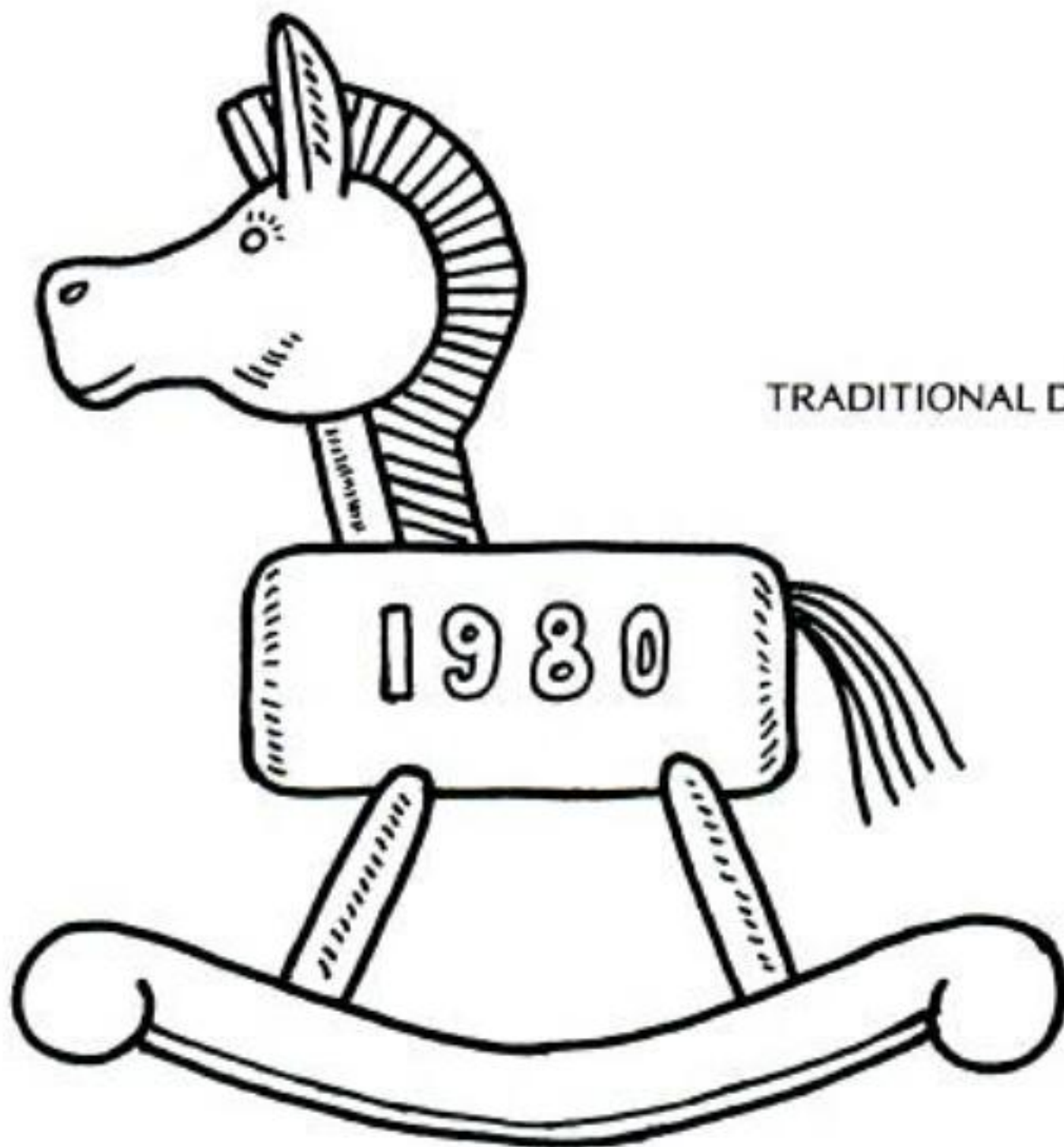


Figure 8

ROCKING HORSE



TRADITIONAL DESIGN

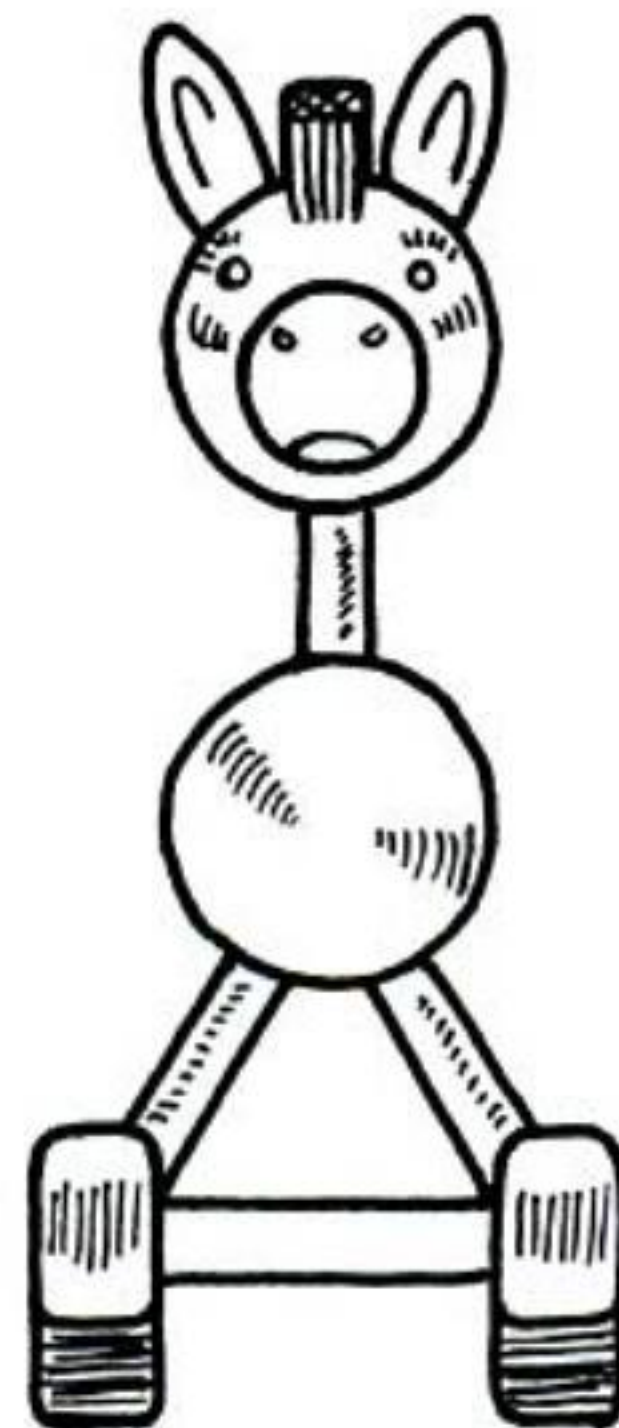
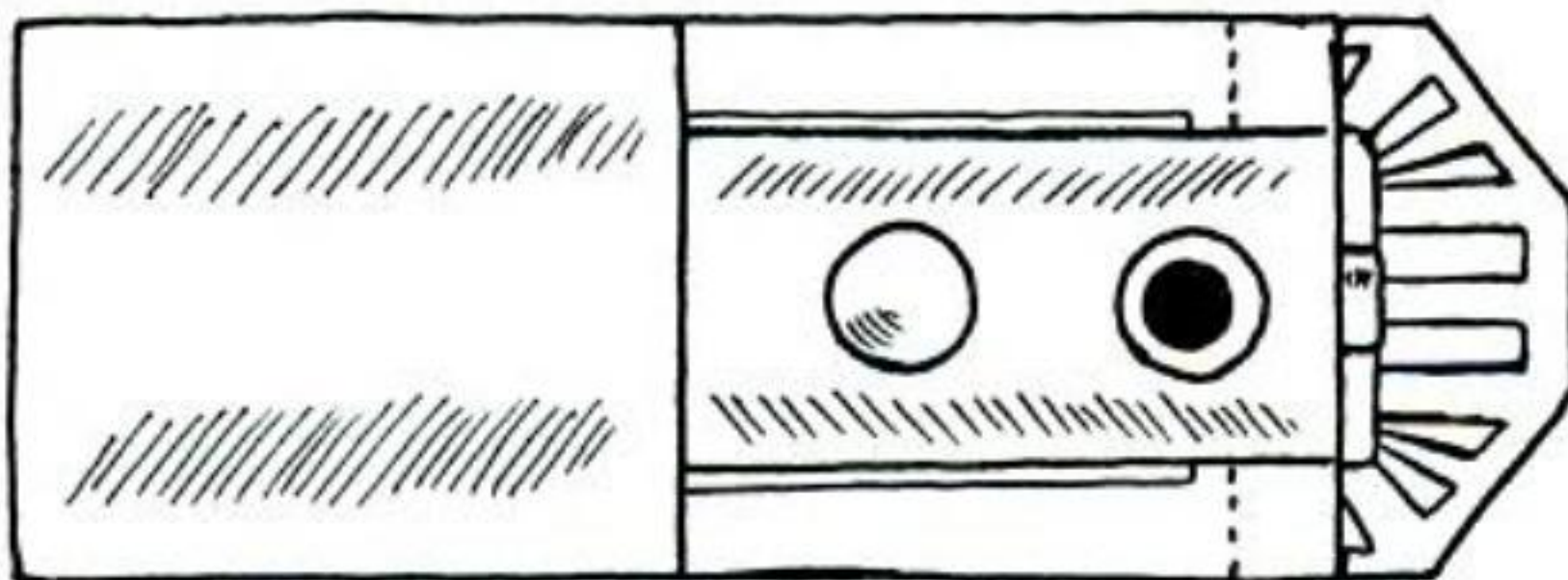




Figure 9



TRAIN ENGINE

ORIGINAL DESIGN

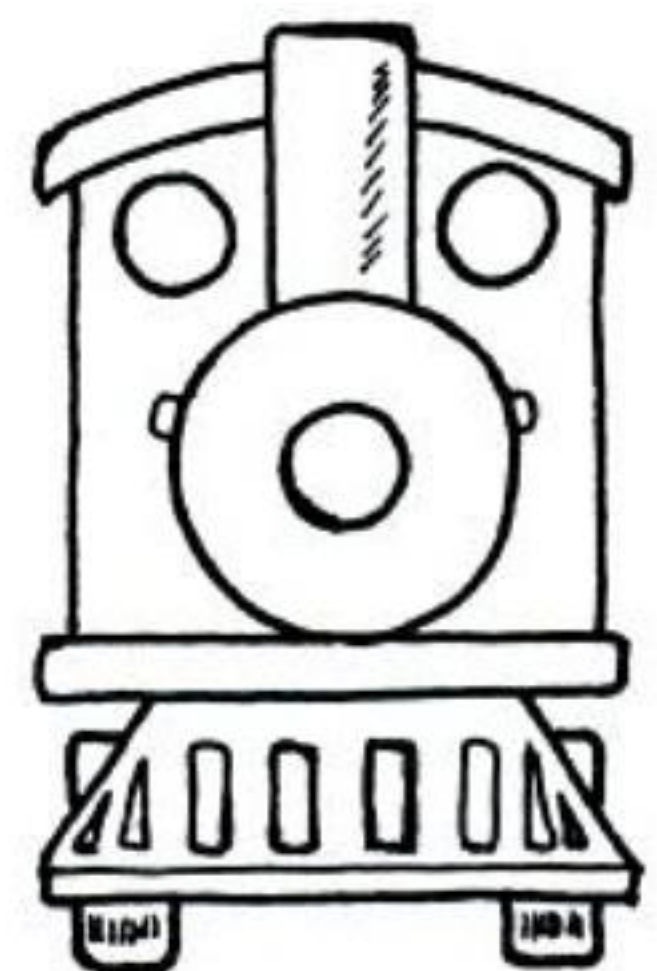
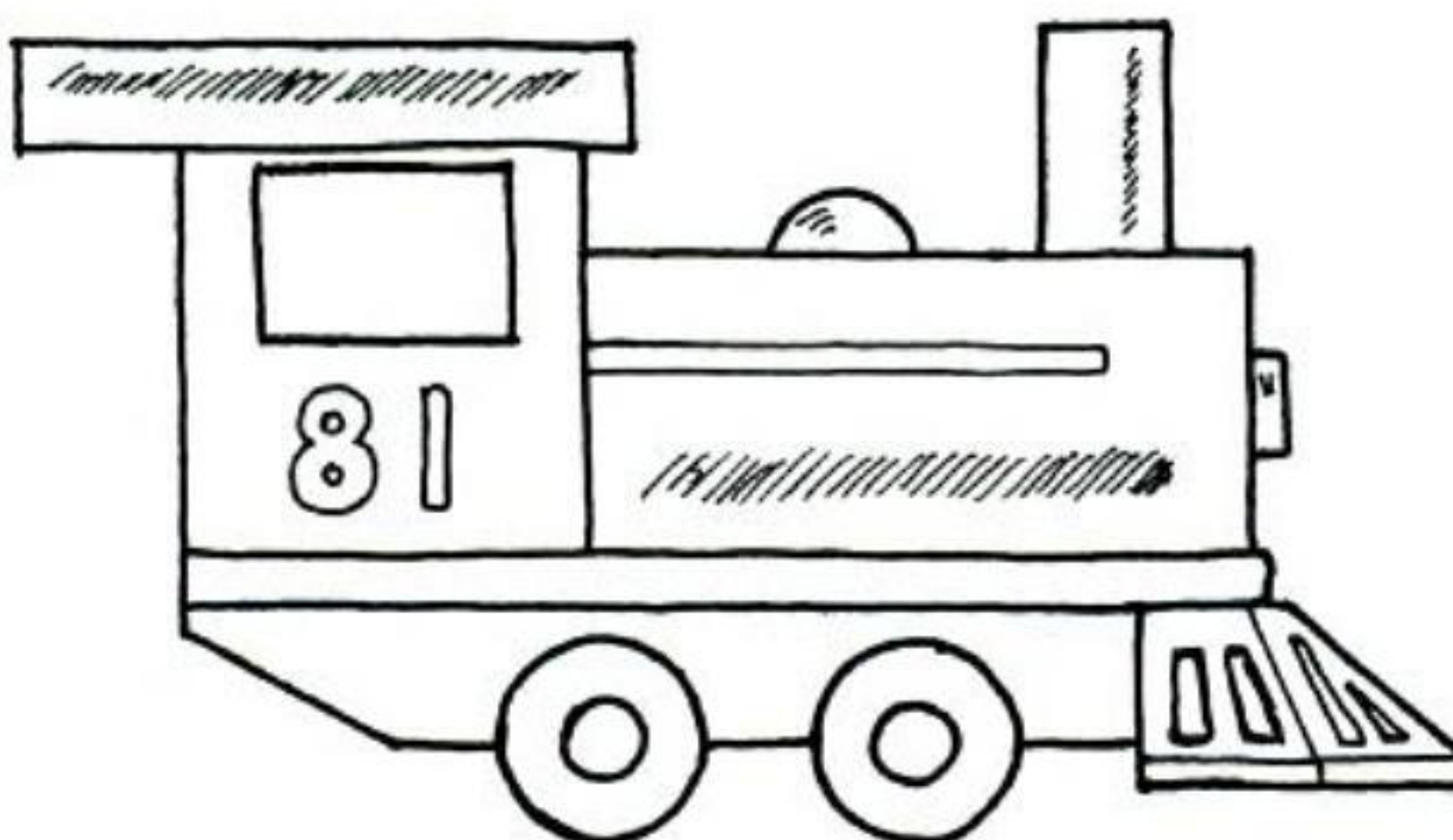
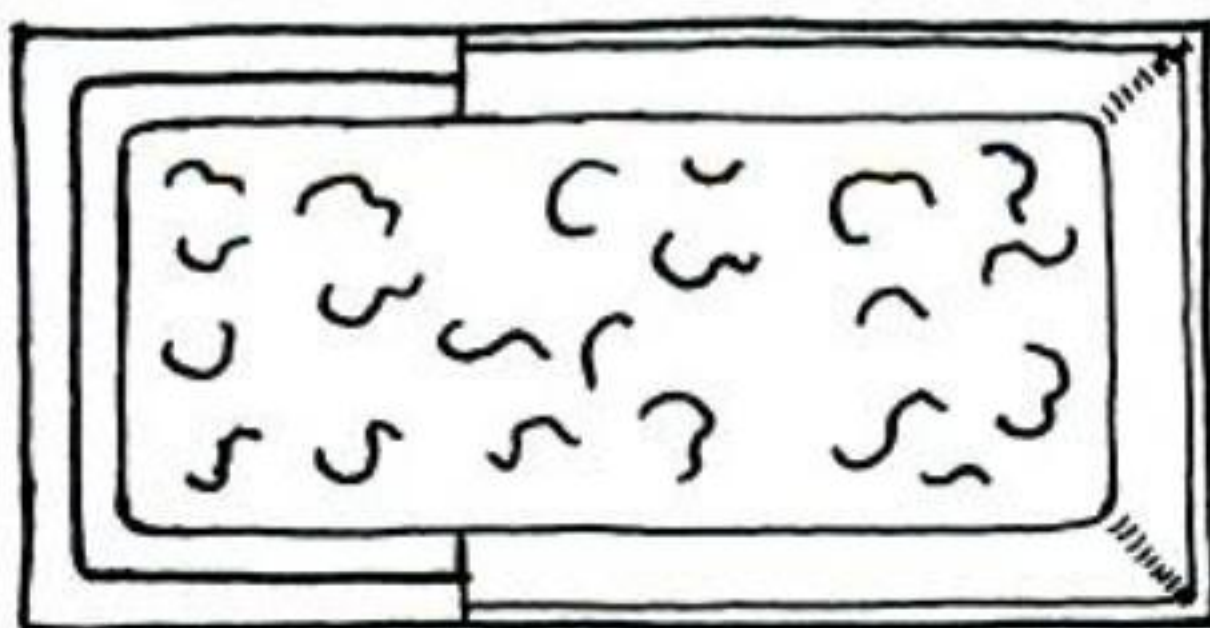
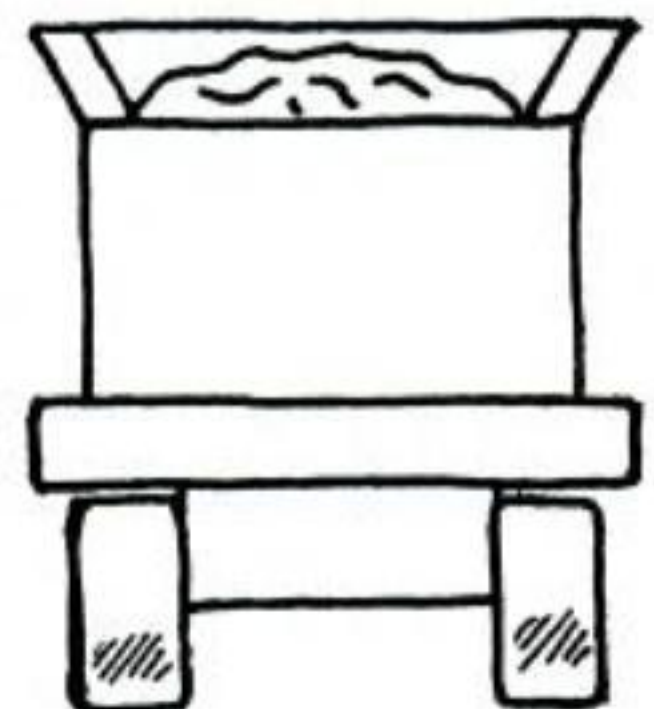
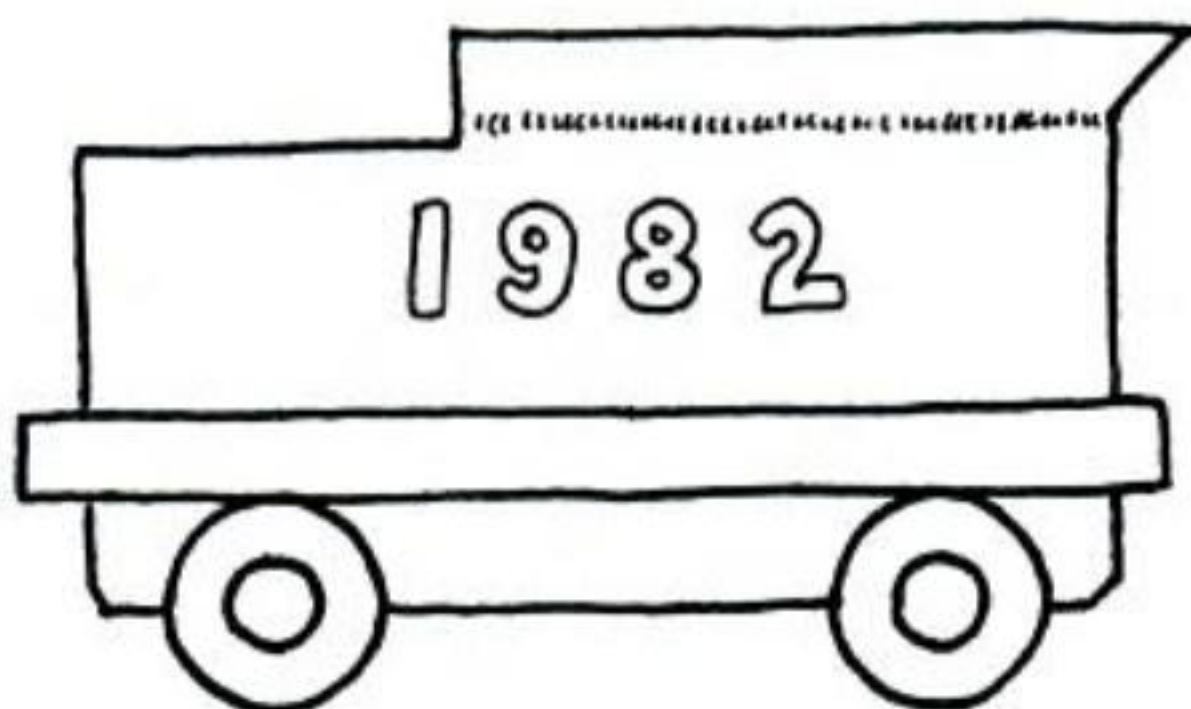




Figure 10

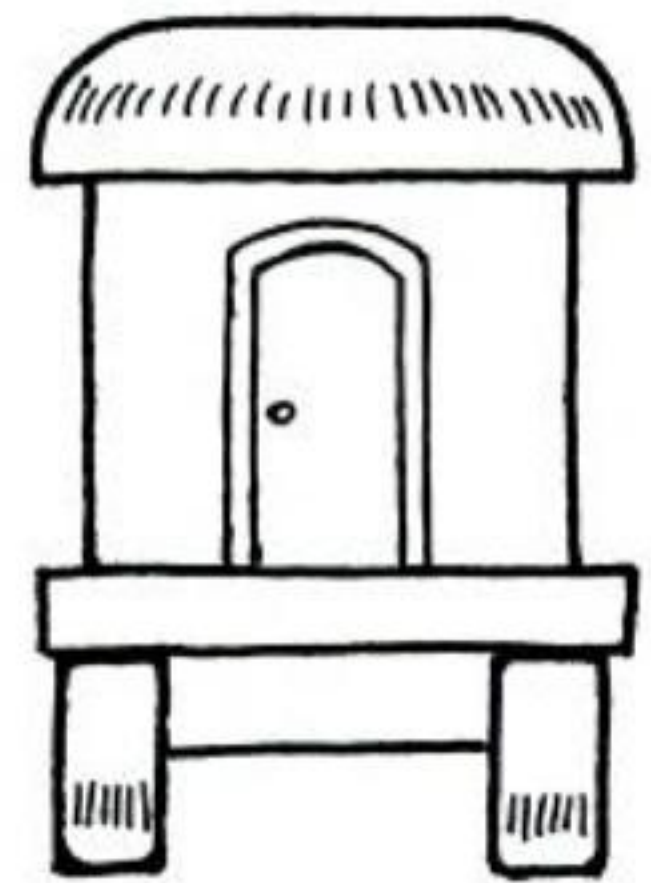
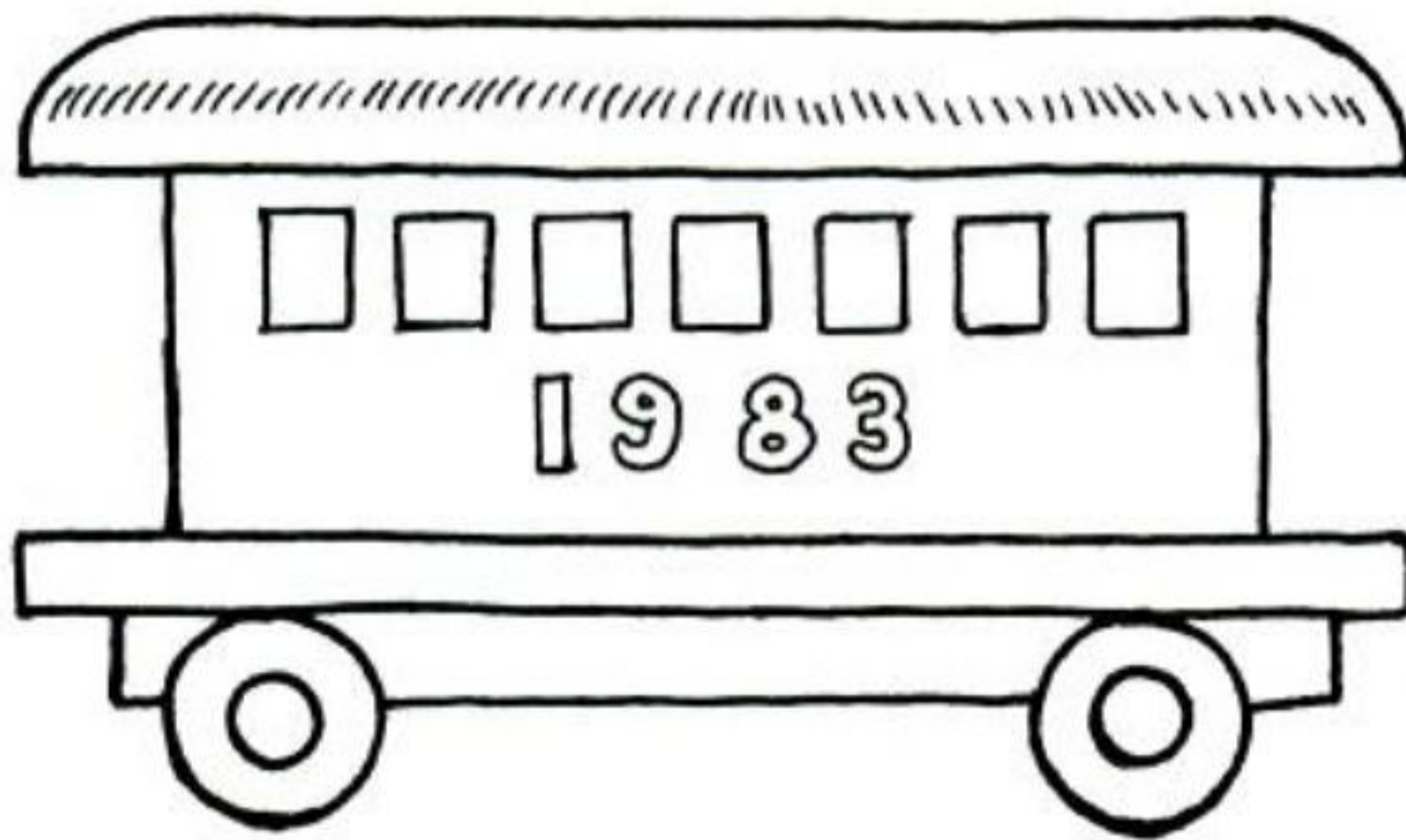


TENDER CAR

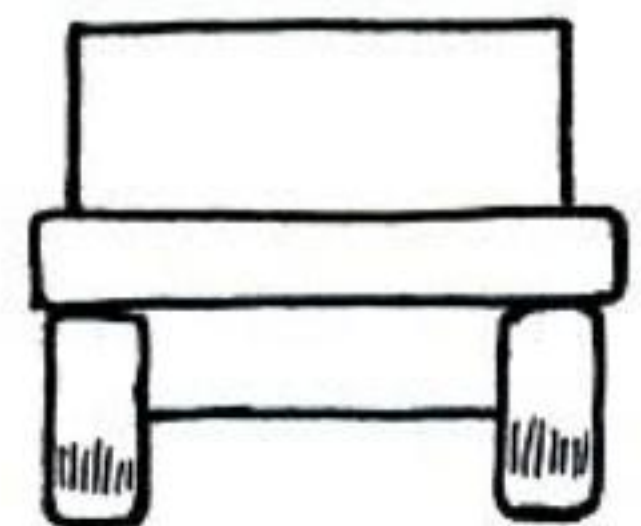
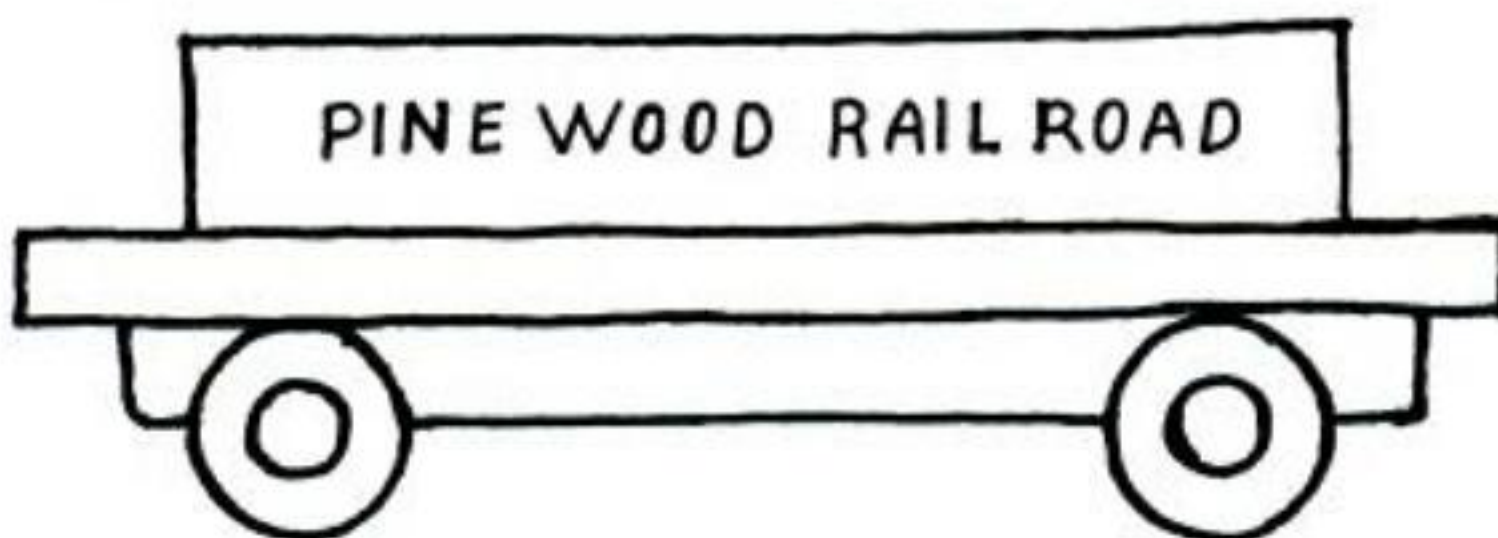
ADD ONE CAR EACH YEAR. EXTRA
PATTERNS INCLUDED FOR FREIGHT TRAIN.

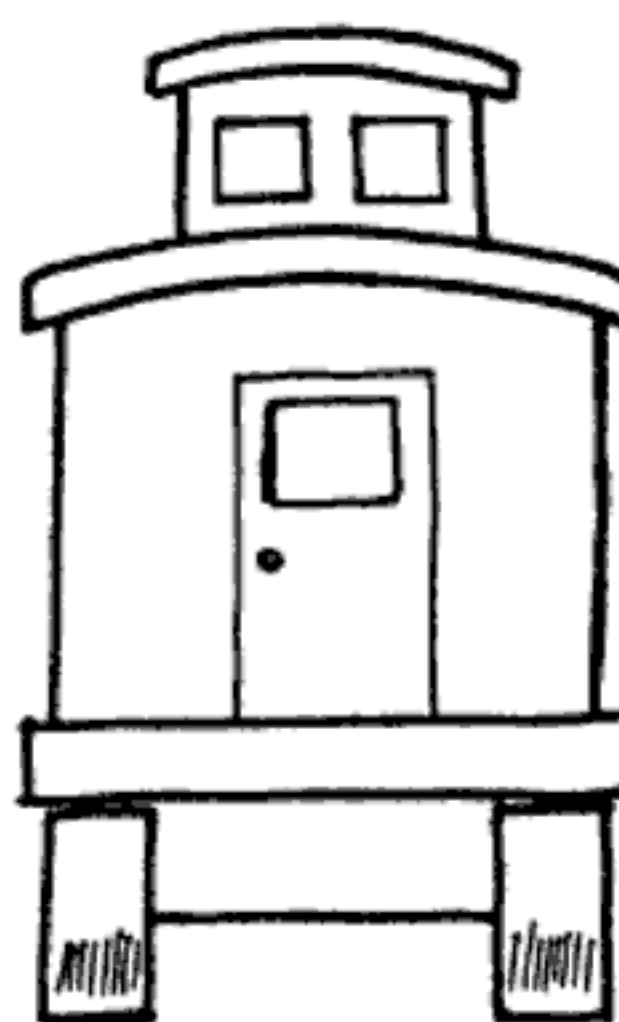
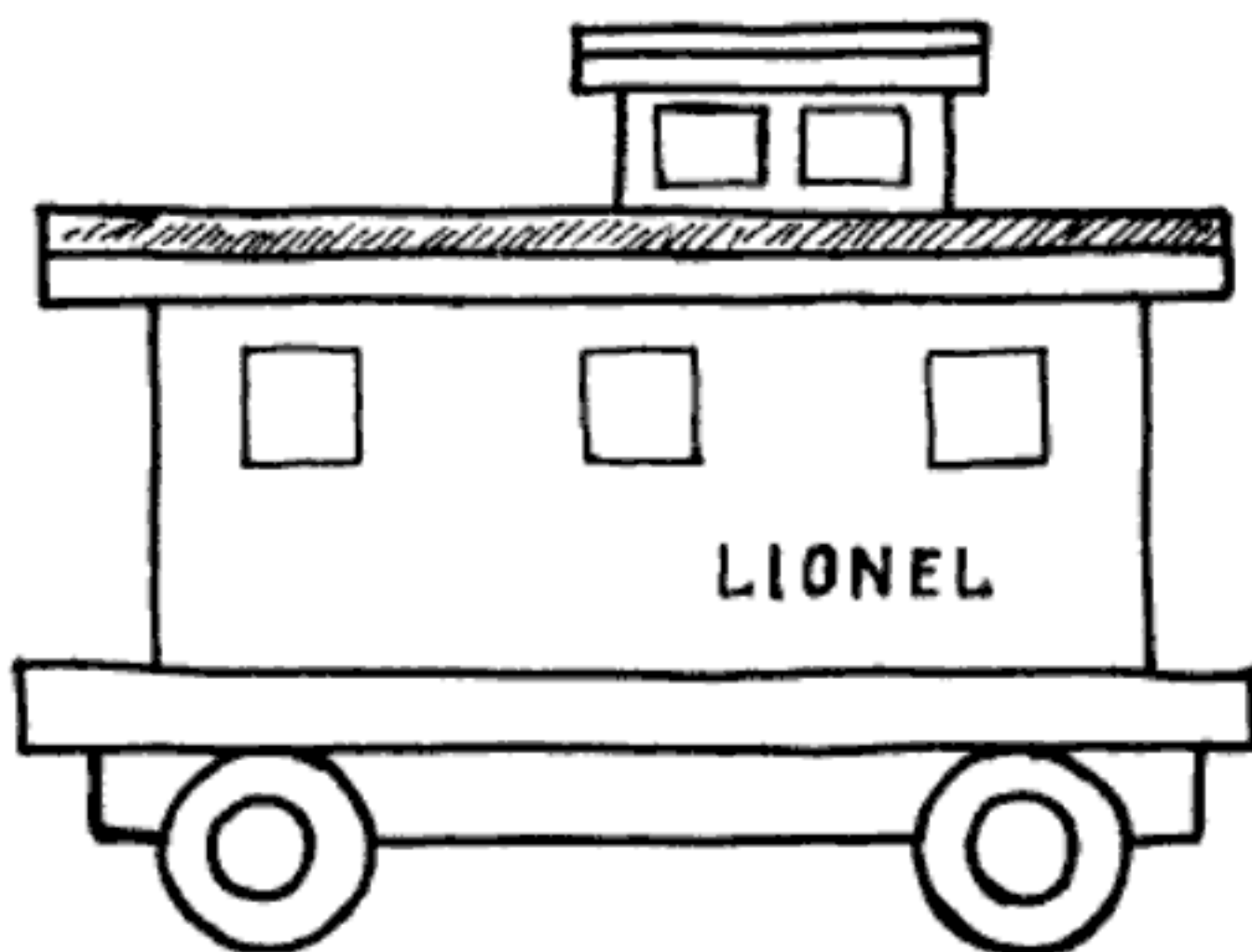
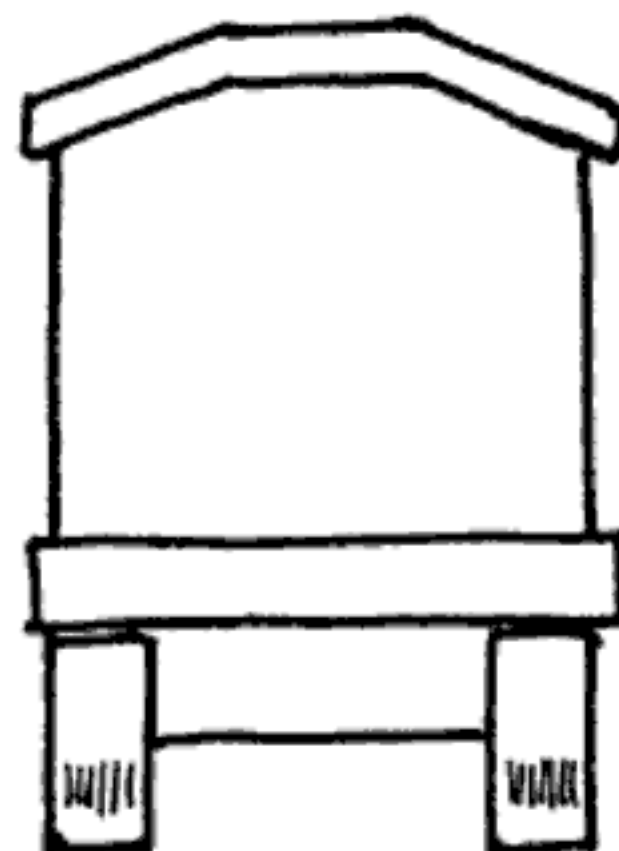
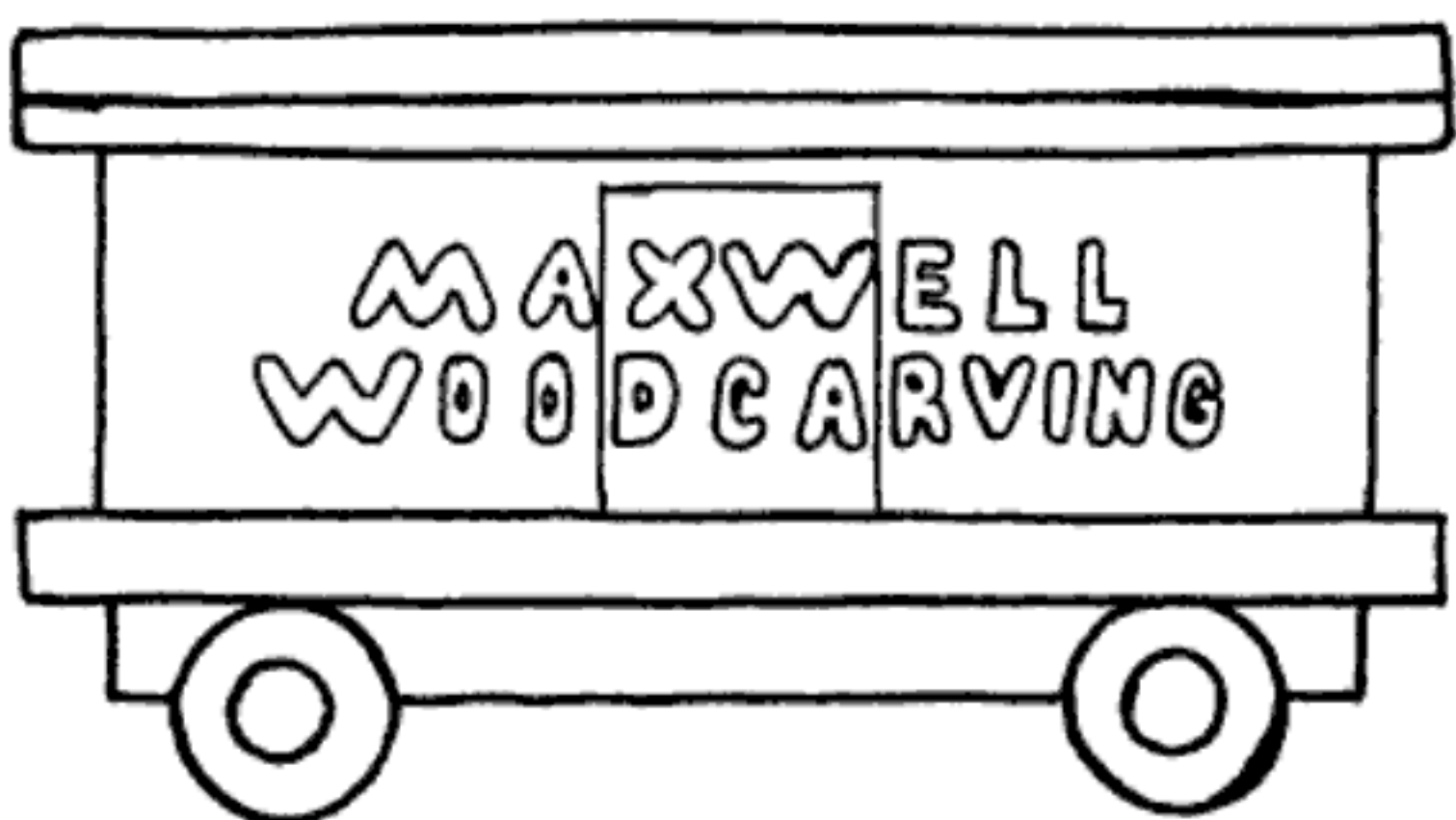
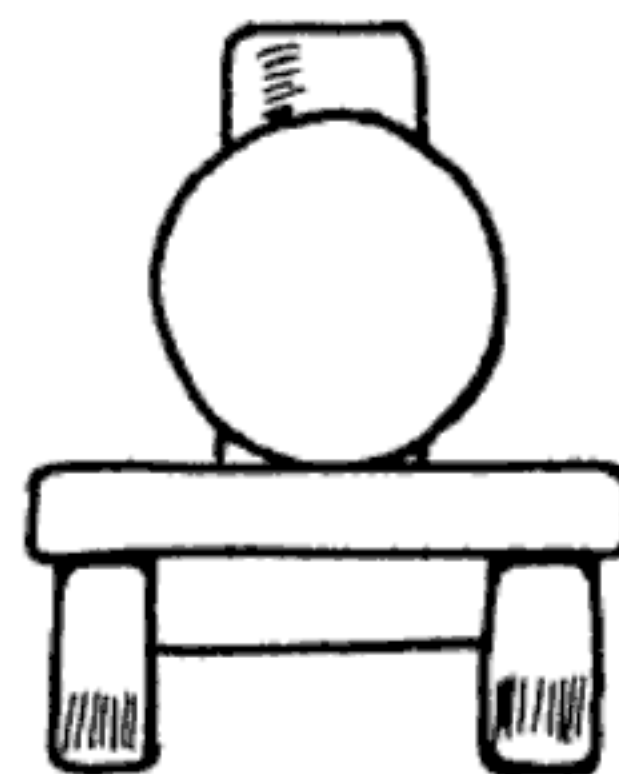
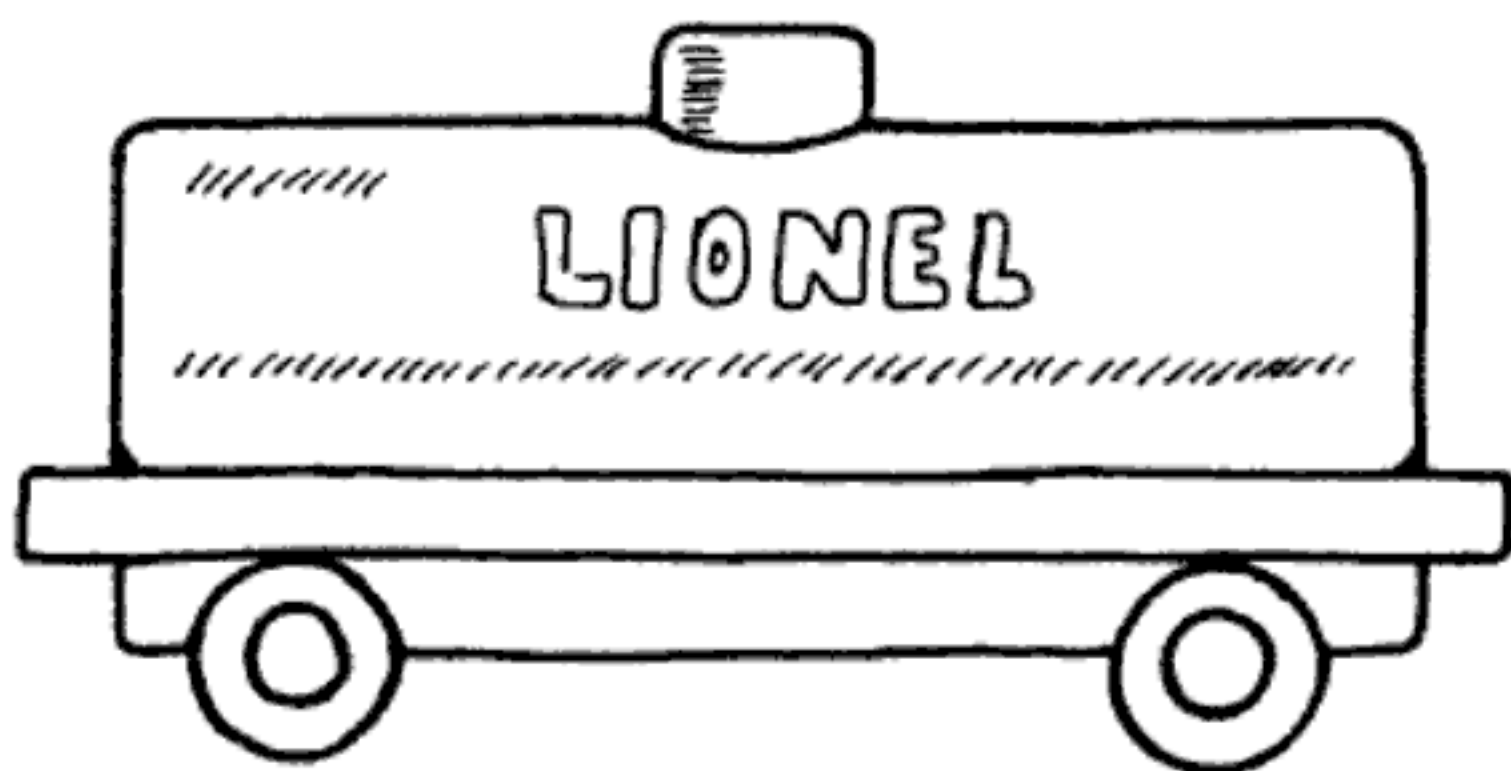


Figure 11



PASSENGER CAR AND GONDOLA



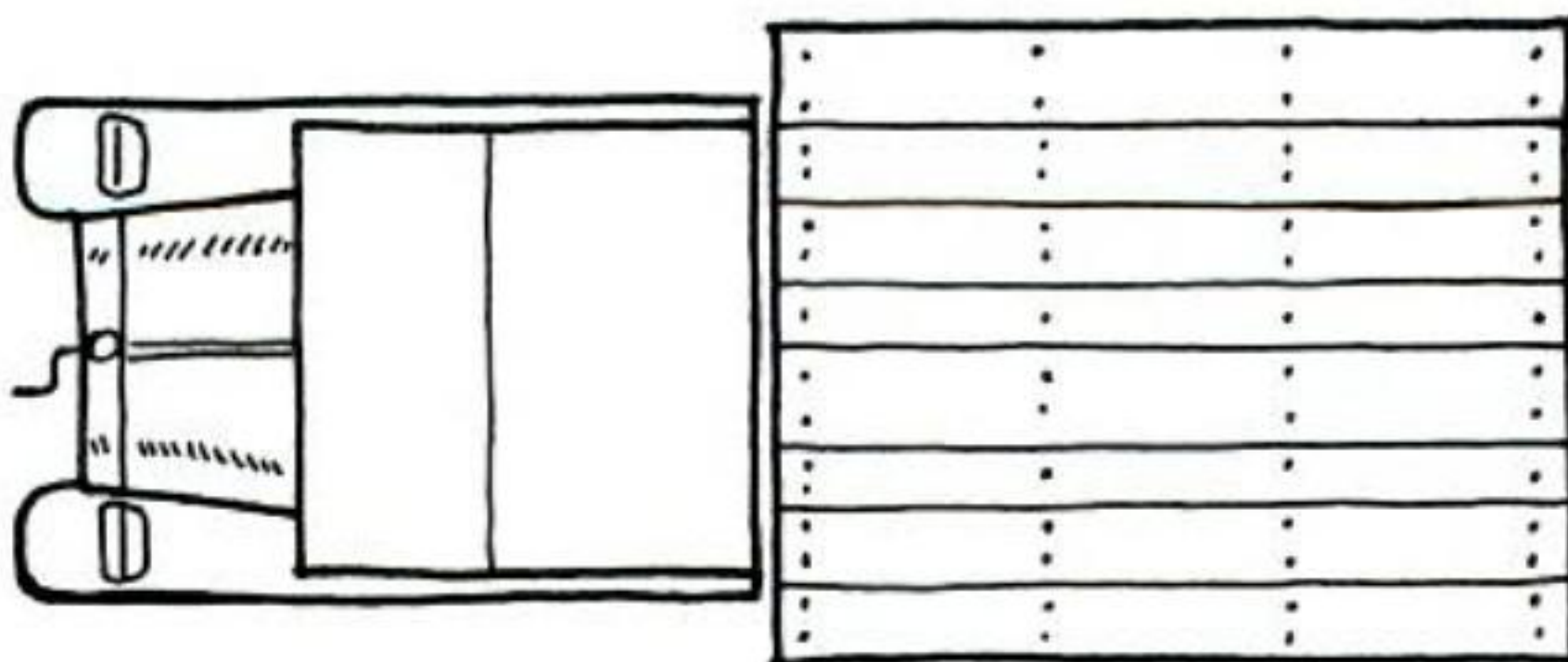


TANKER, BOX CAR AND CABOOSE



Figure 12

TOY TRUCKS ARE THE MOST POPULAR OF ALL CHRISTMAS TOYS.
I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE ONES THAT HAUL LUMBER AND LOGS.



TRUCK

ORIGINAL DESIGN

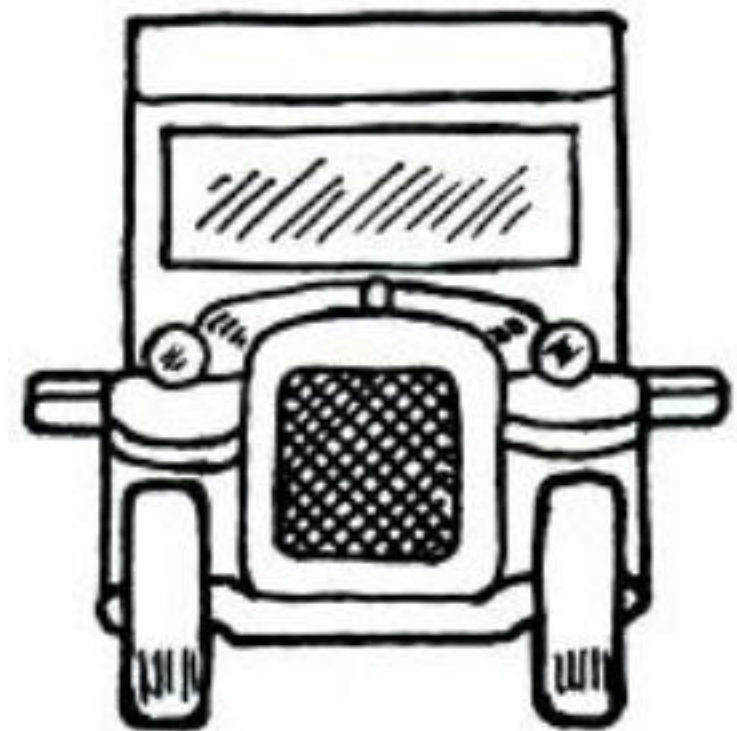
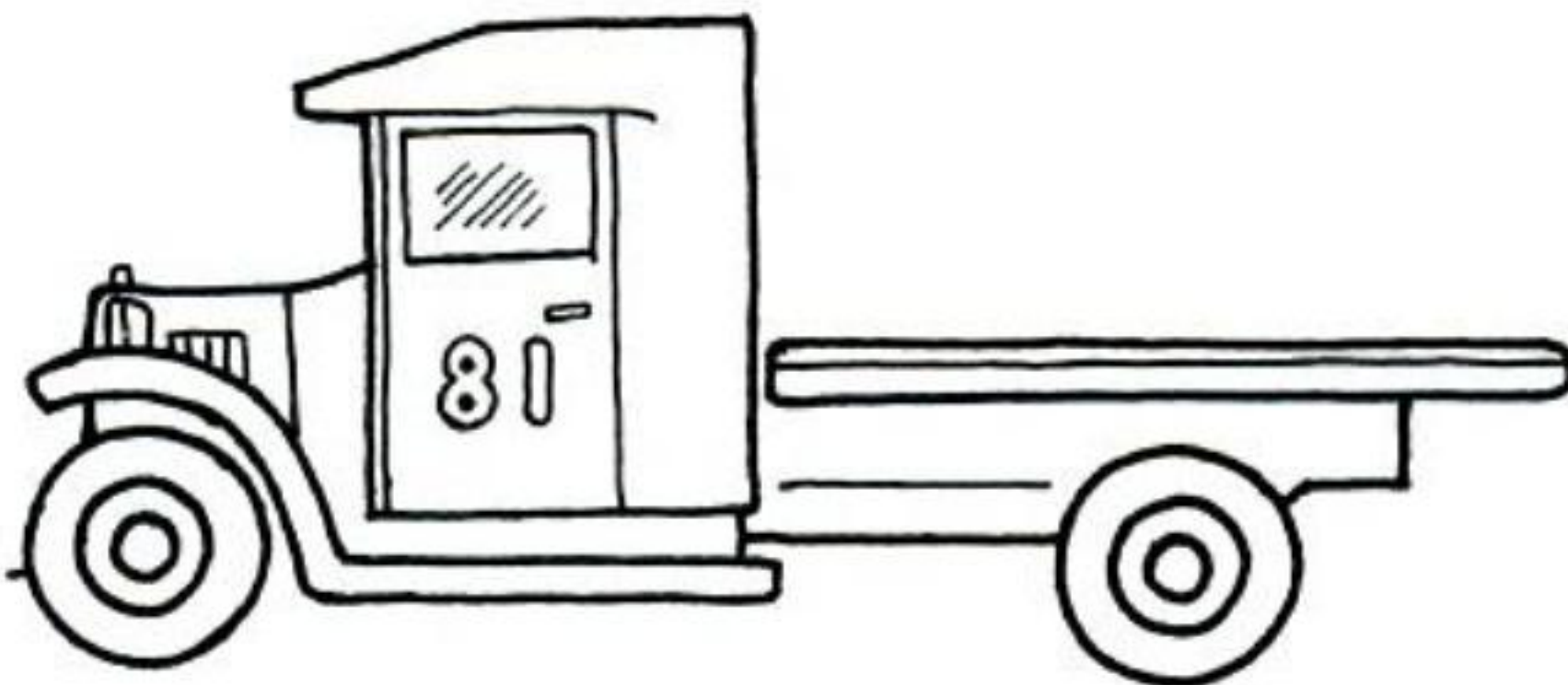
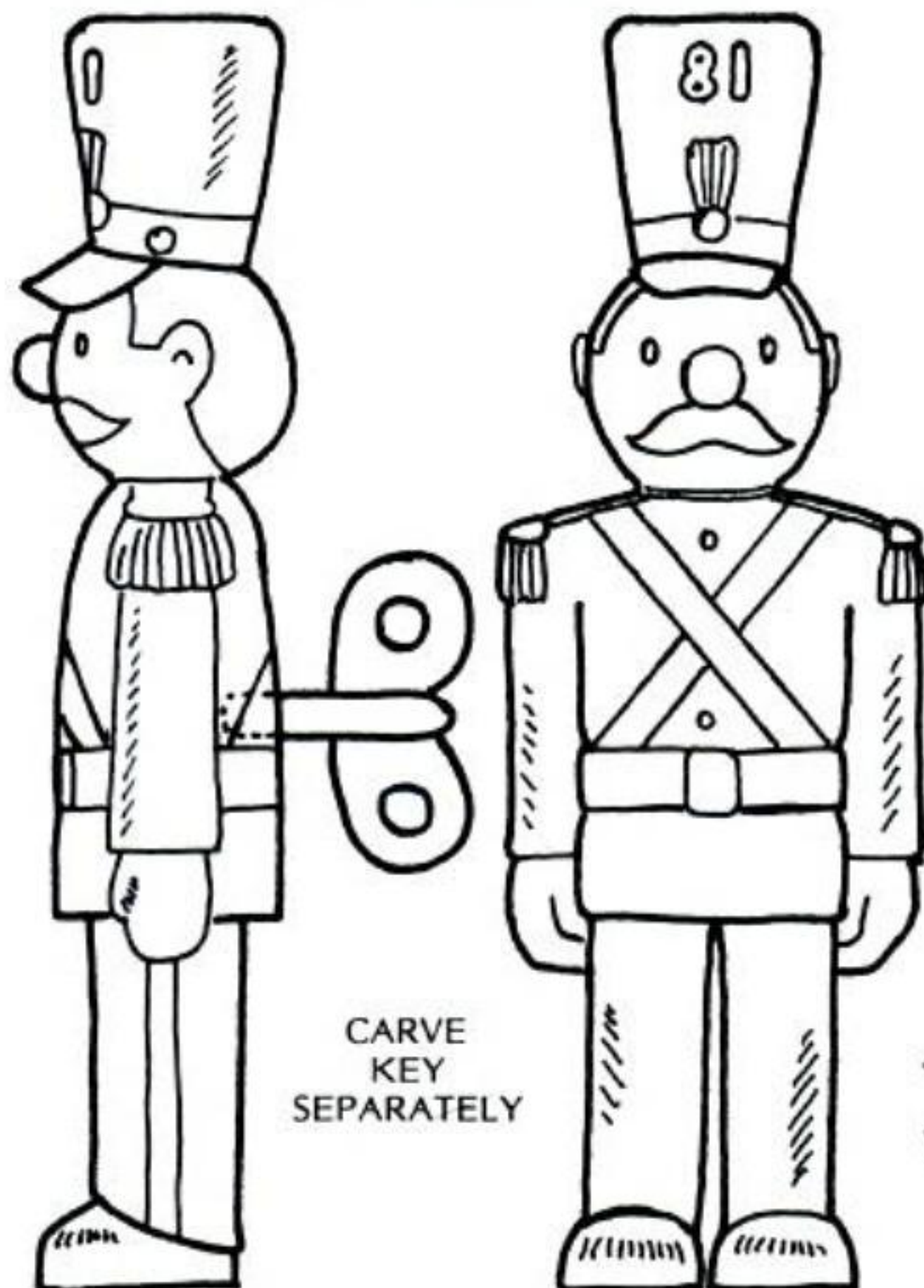




Figure 13

TIN SOLDIER

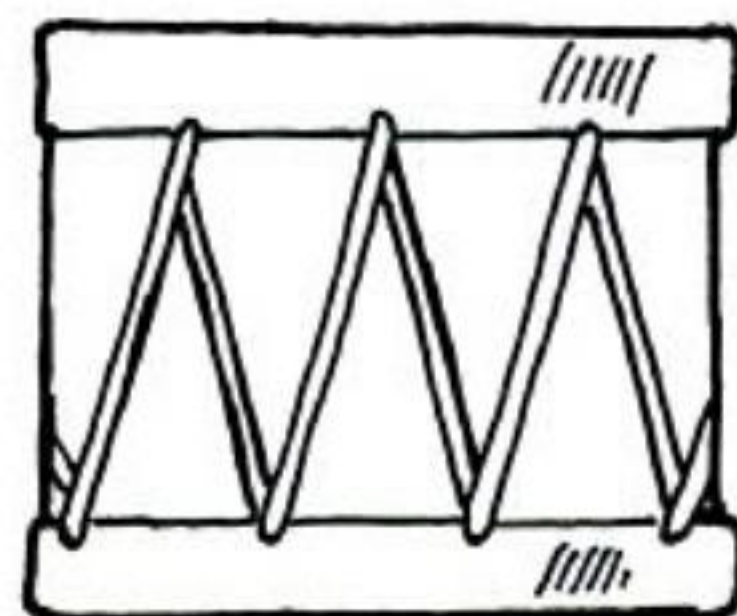
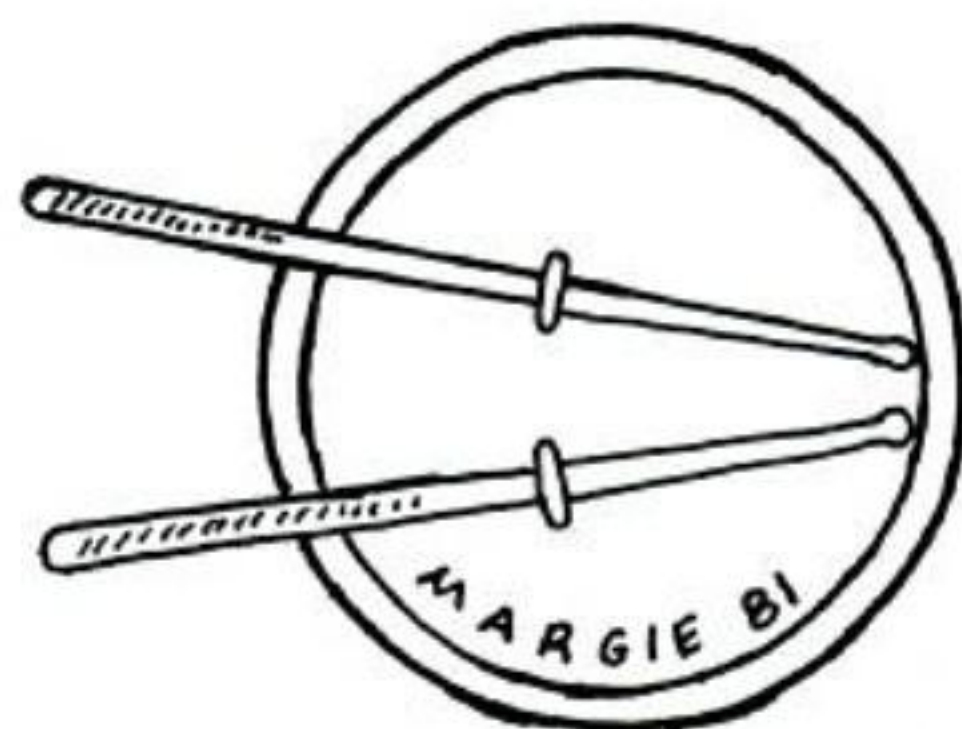


CARVE
KEY
SEPARATELY



Figure 14

DRUM



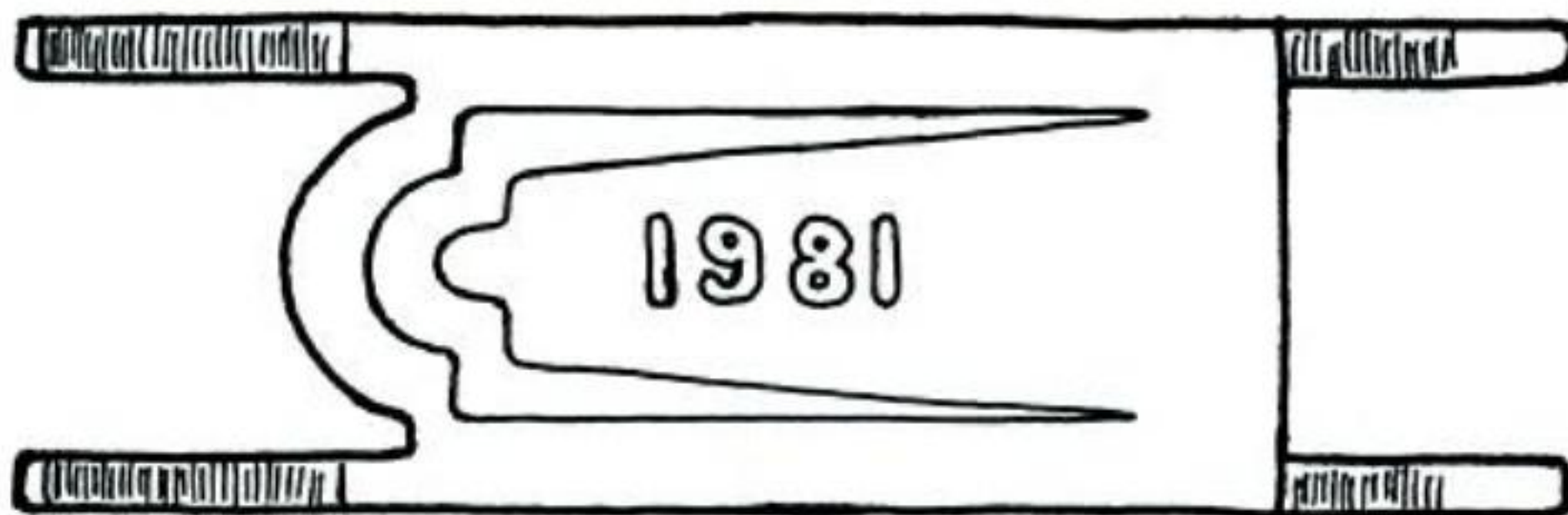
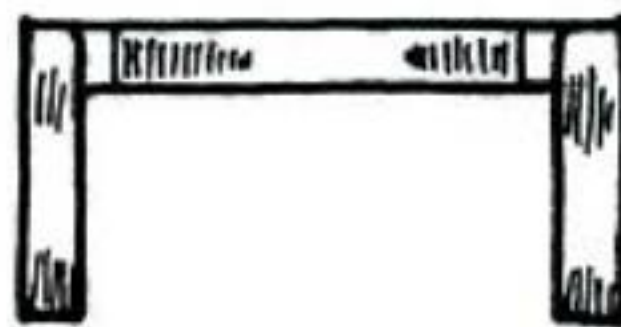
DRUM STICKS ARE
HELD WITH WIRE
STAPLES

ORIGINAL DESIGNS



Figure 15

SLED



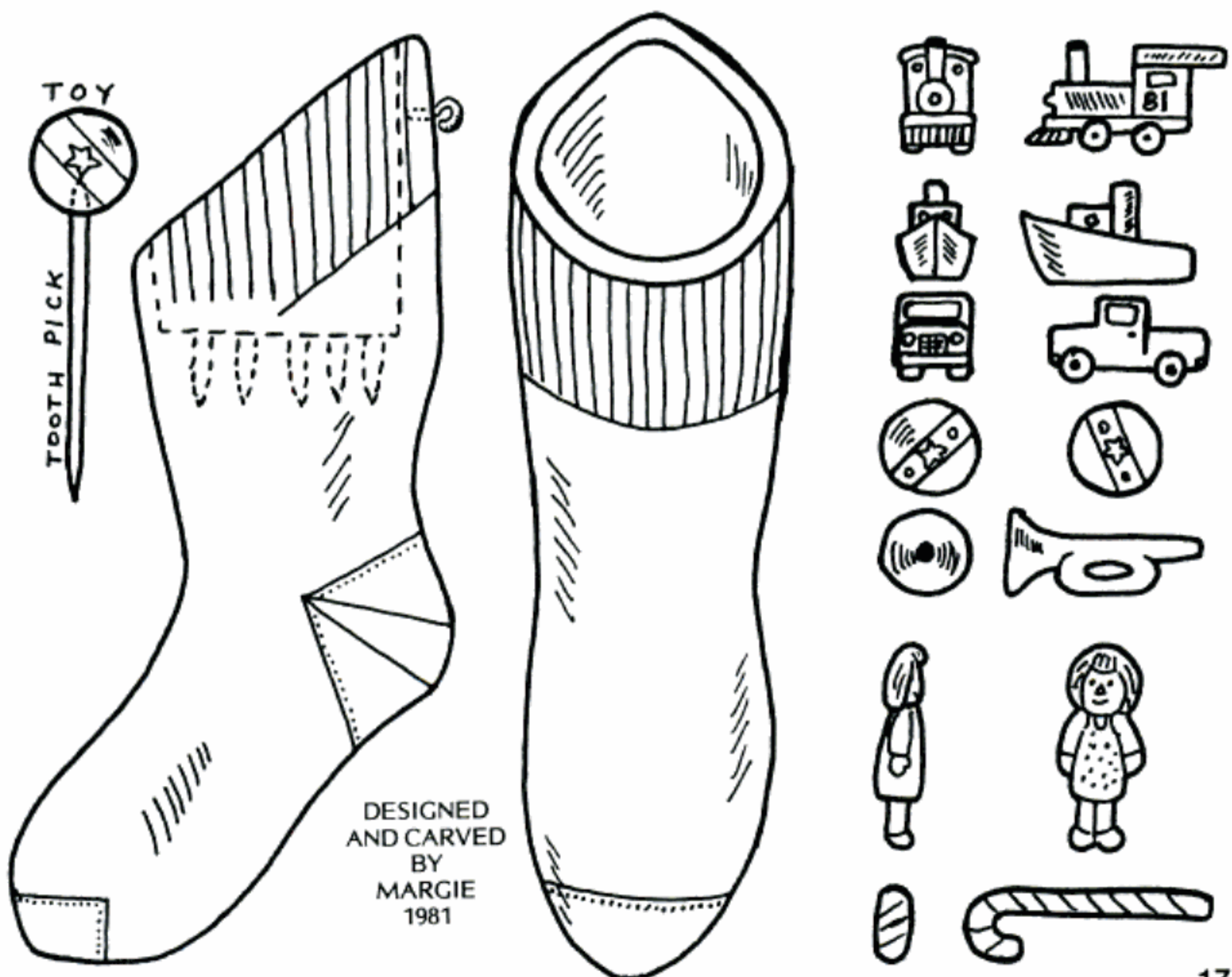
ORIGINAL DESIGN





CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Figure 16



TEDDY BEAR

HAIR TECHNIQUE
IS APPLIED WITH
3MM V TOOL



Figure 17

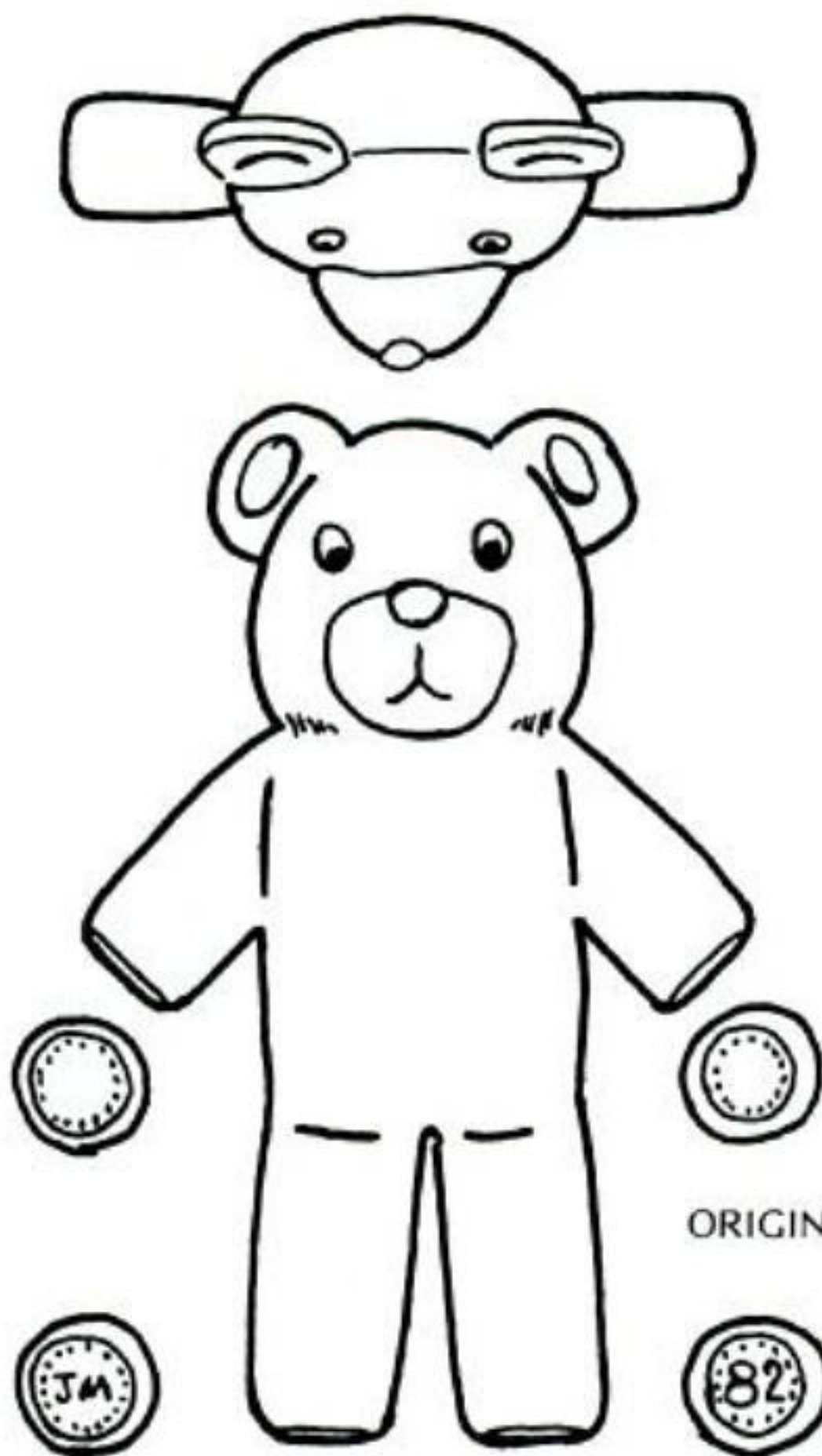
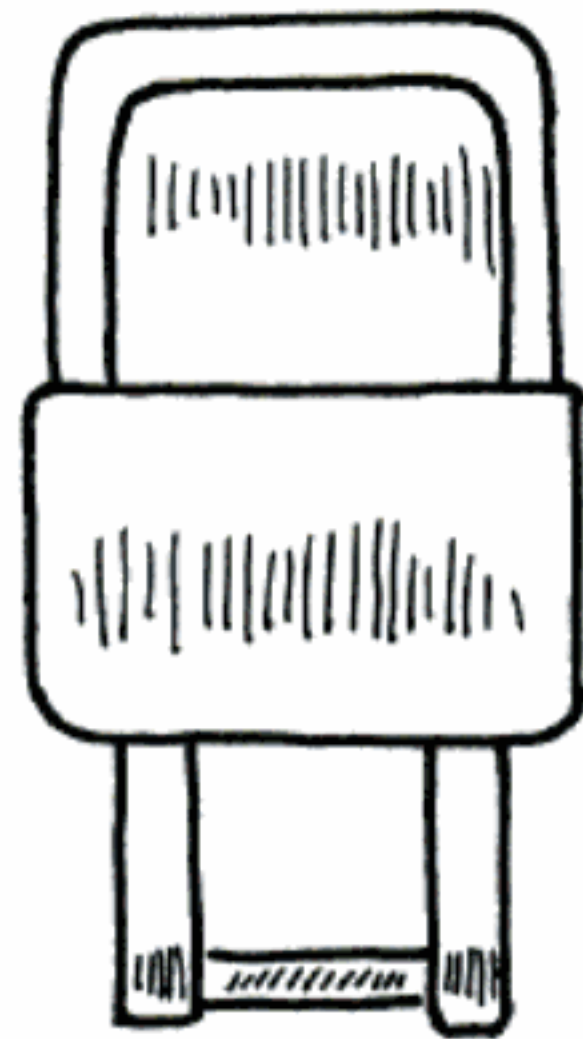




Figure 18

DOLL BUGGY



ORIGINAL DESIGN

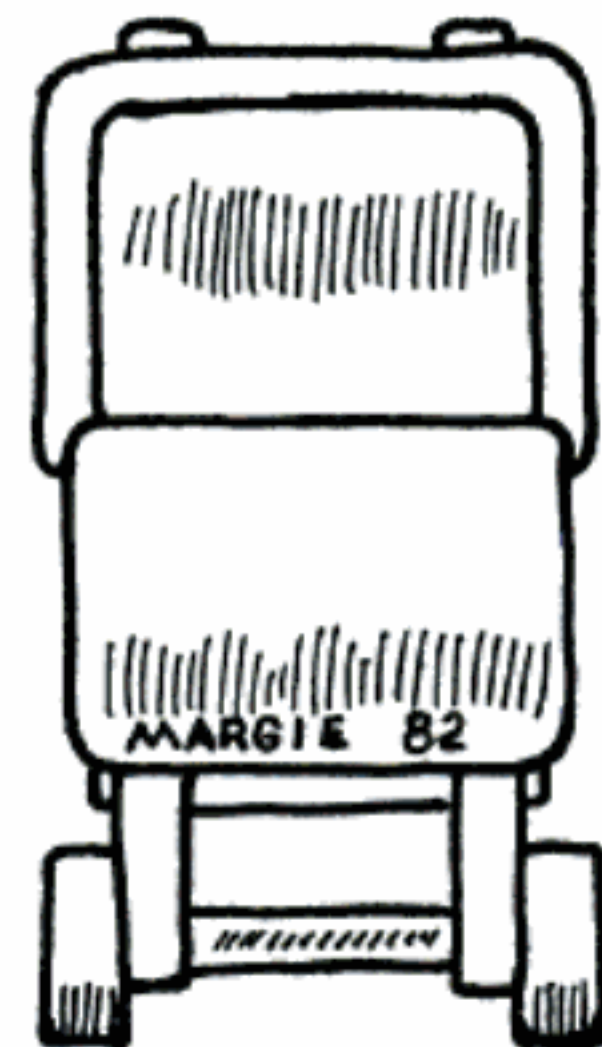
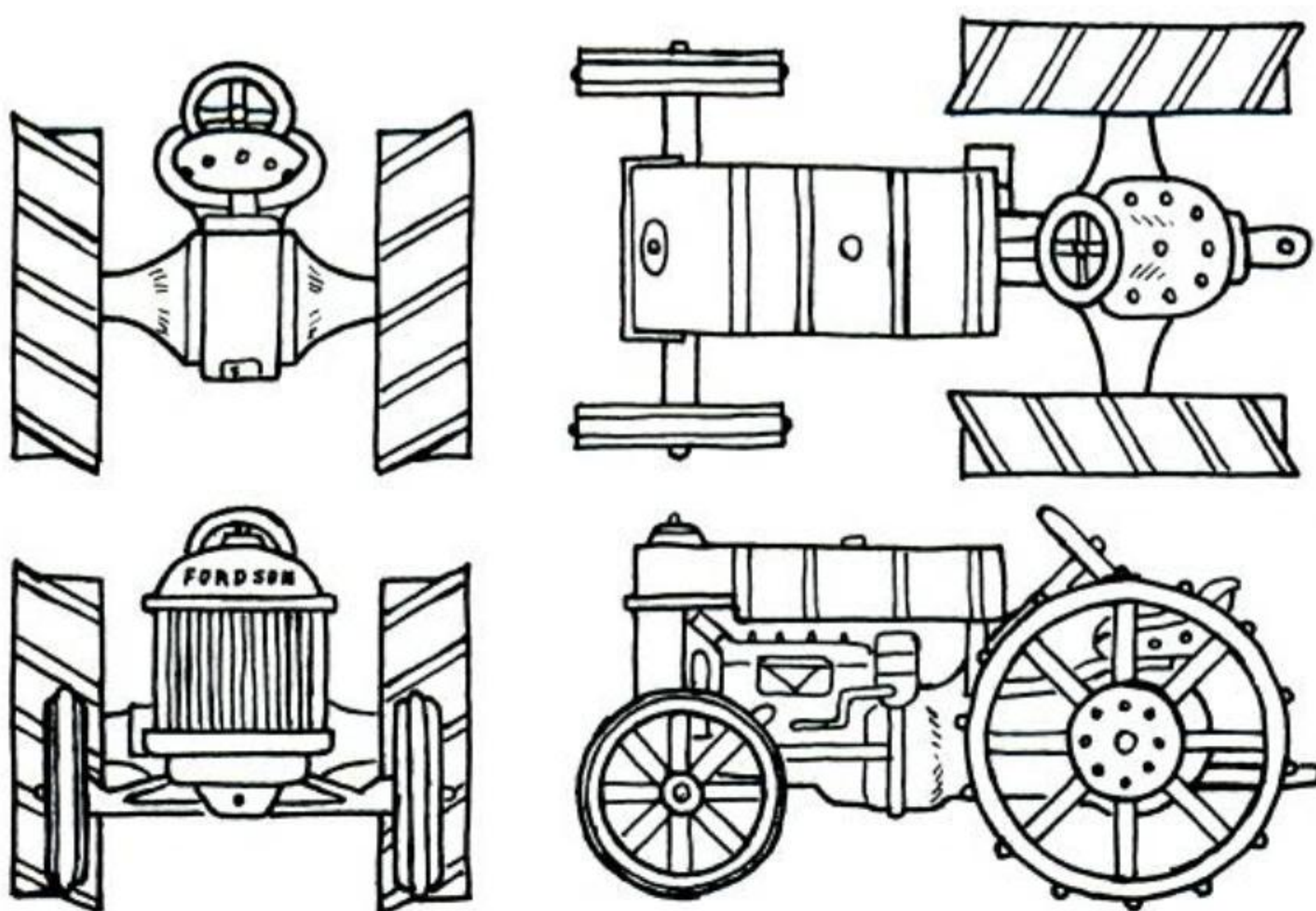




Figure 19

PATTERNED AFTER AN ARCADE TOY COMPANY CAST IRON TOY,
CIRCA 1930'S, CARVED 1983.

FORDSON TRACTOR



JACK IN THE BOX

ORIGINAL DESIGN
CARVED 1983



Figure 22

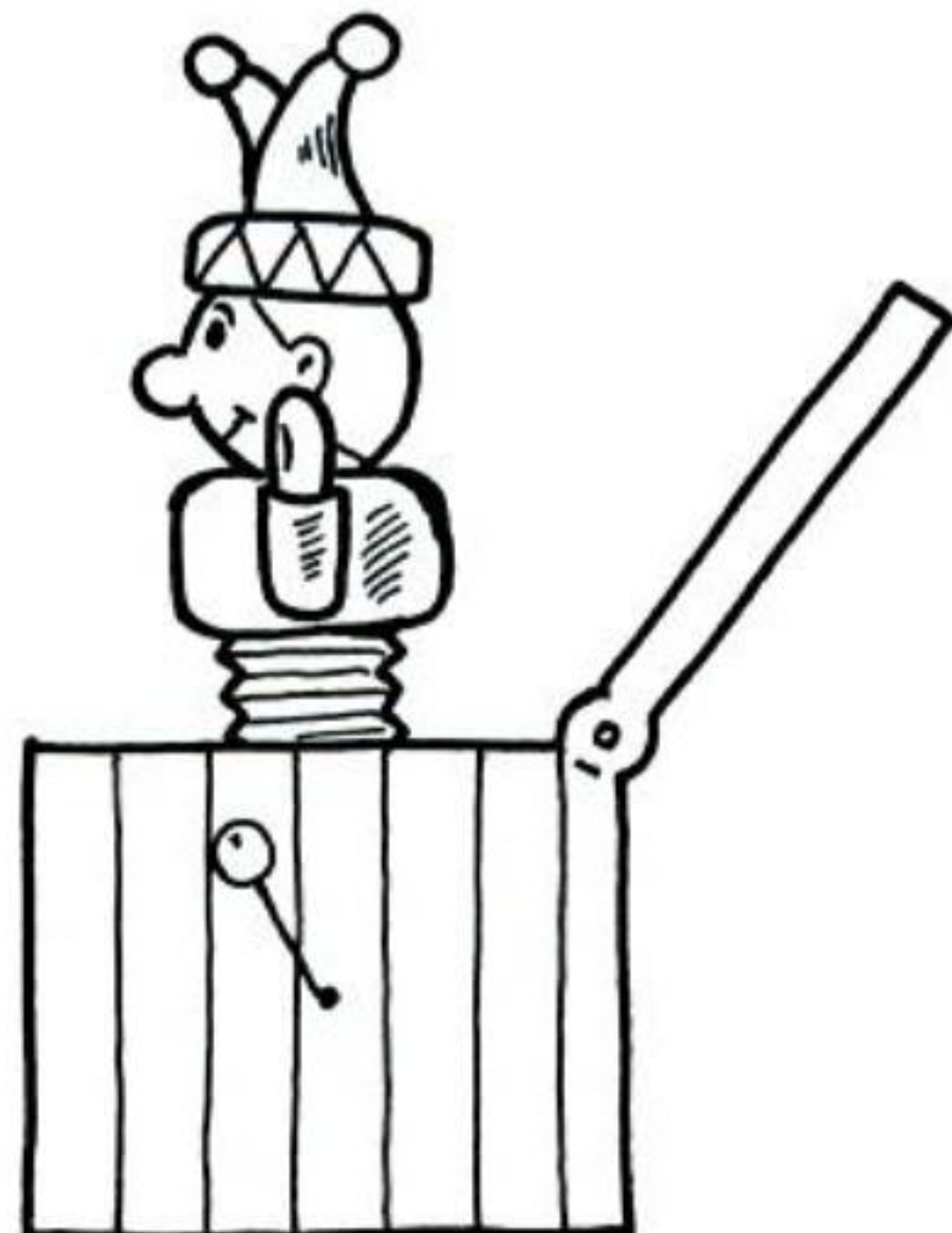
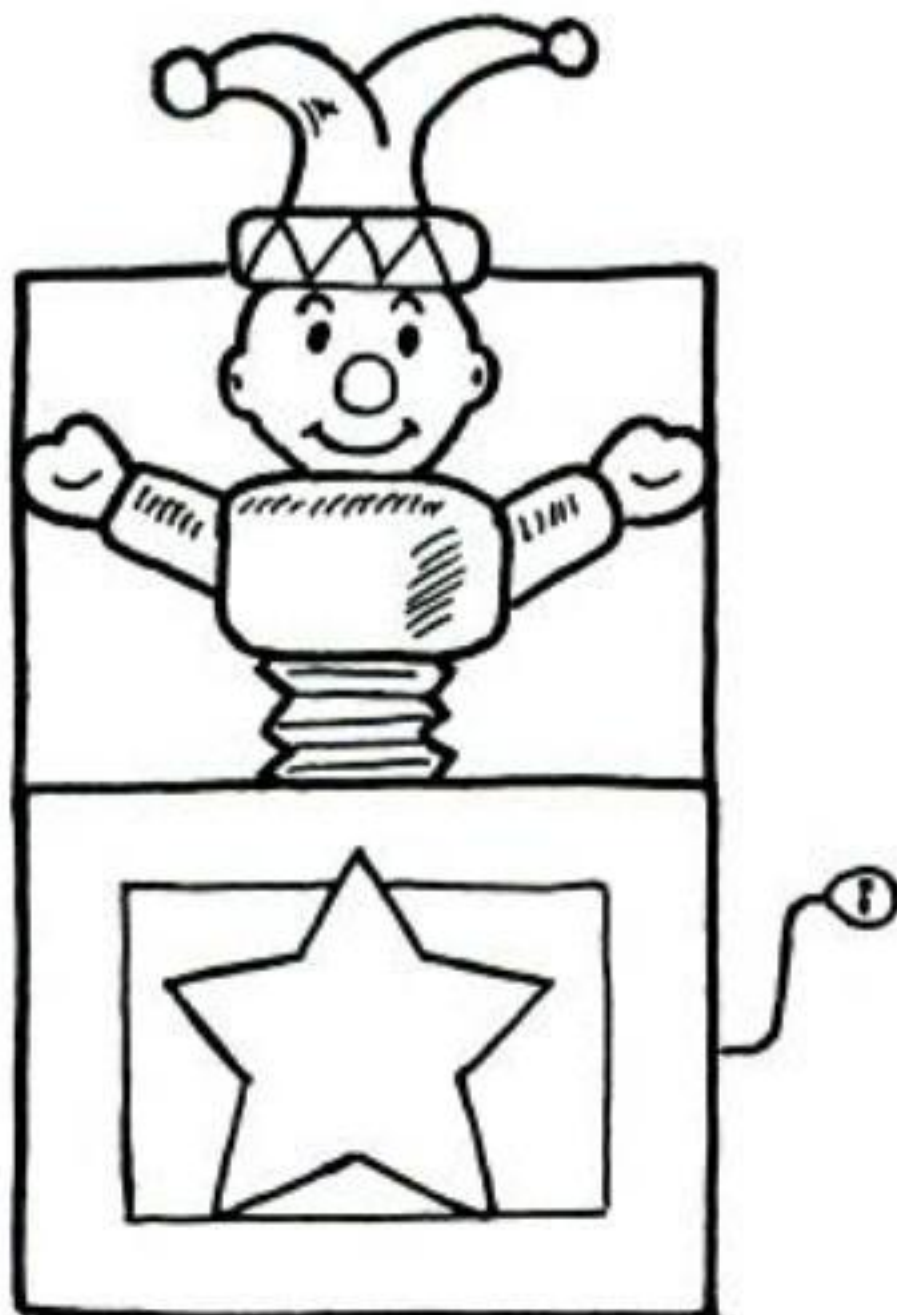
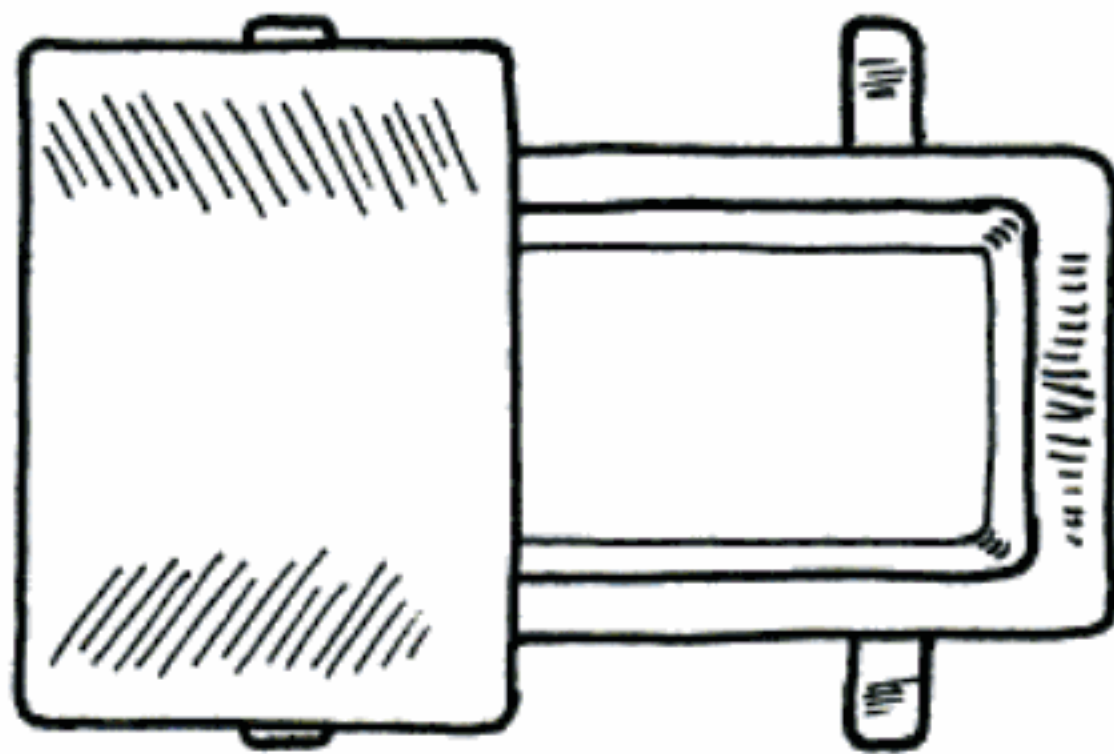




Figure 23



DOLL CRADLE

ORIGINAL DESIGN

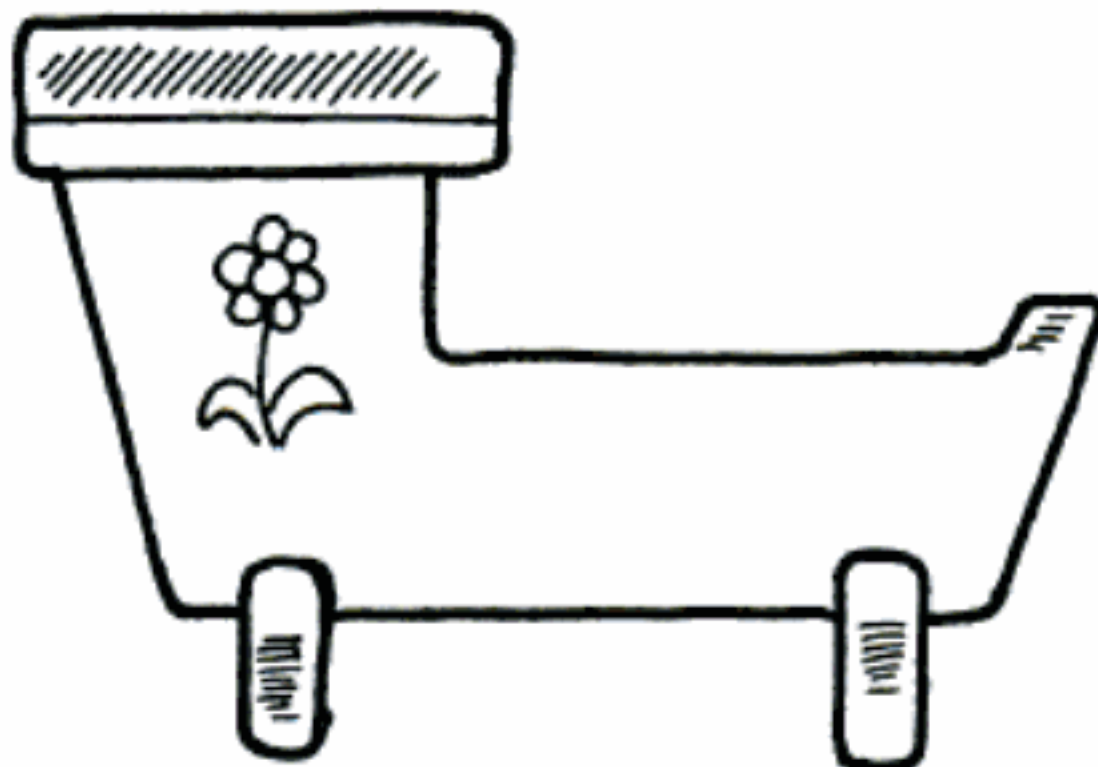
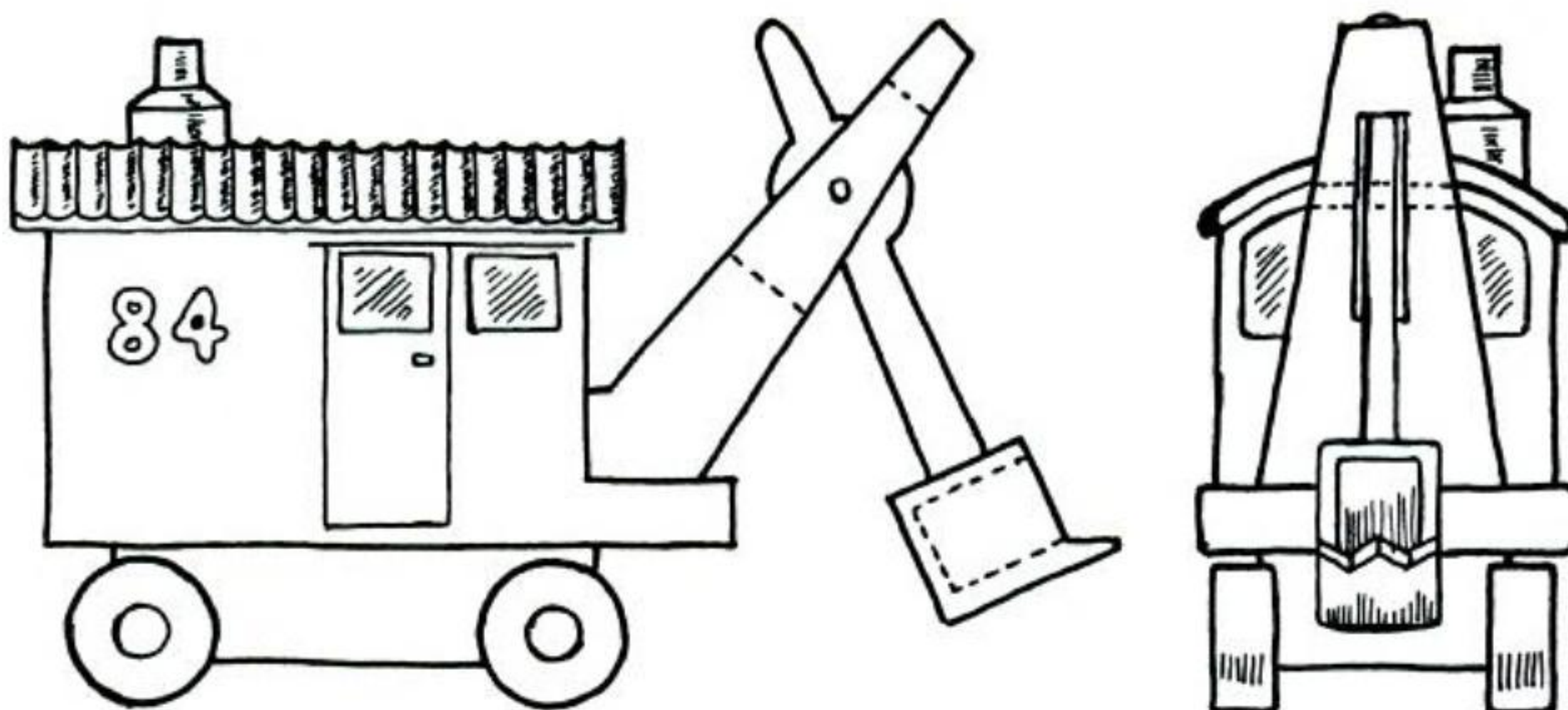




Figure 24

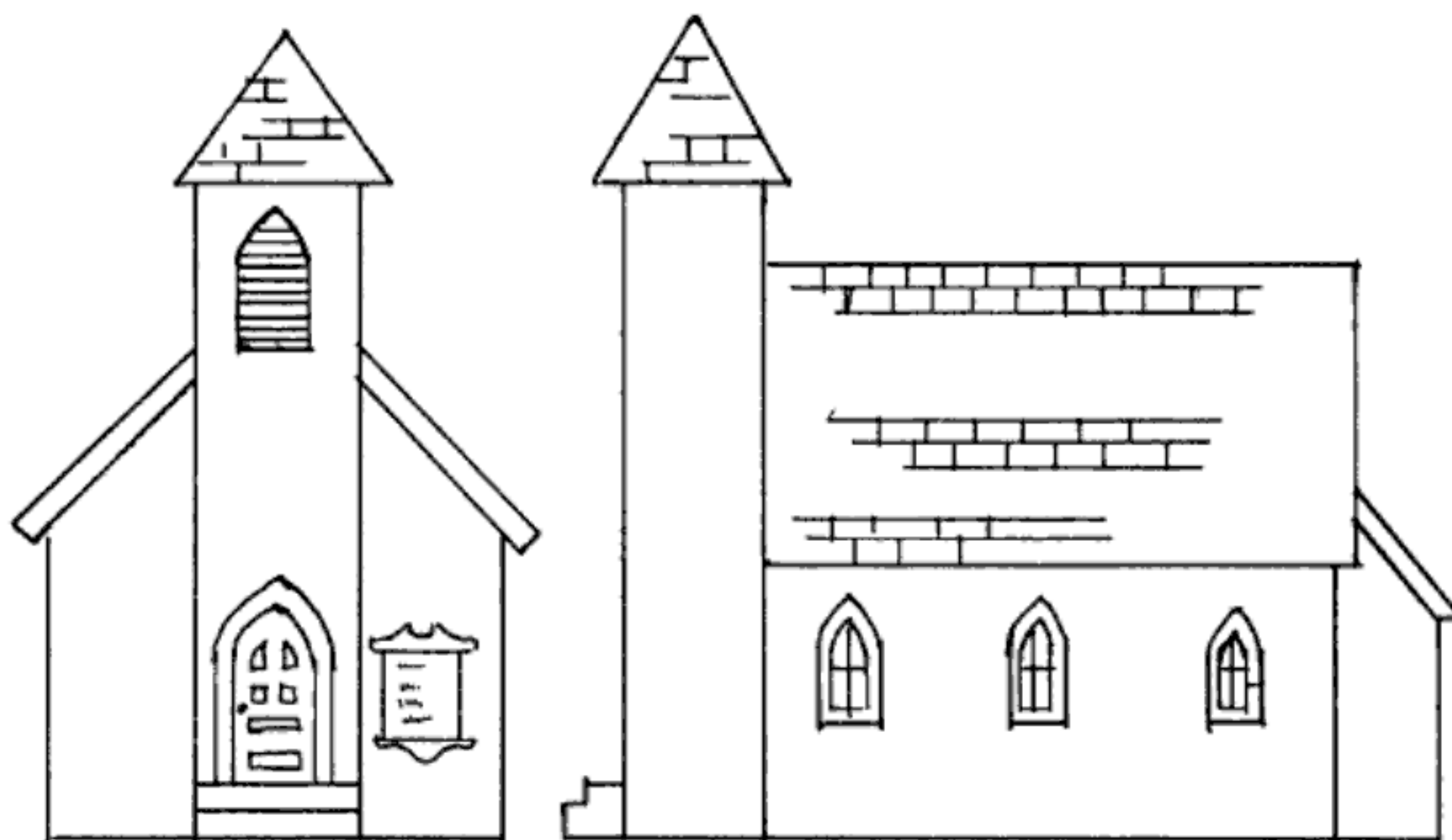
STEAM SHOVEL

ORIGINAL DESIGN



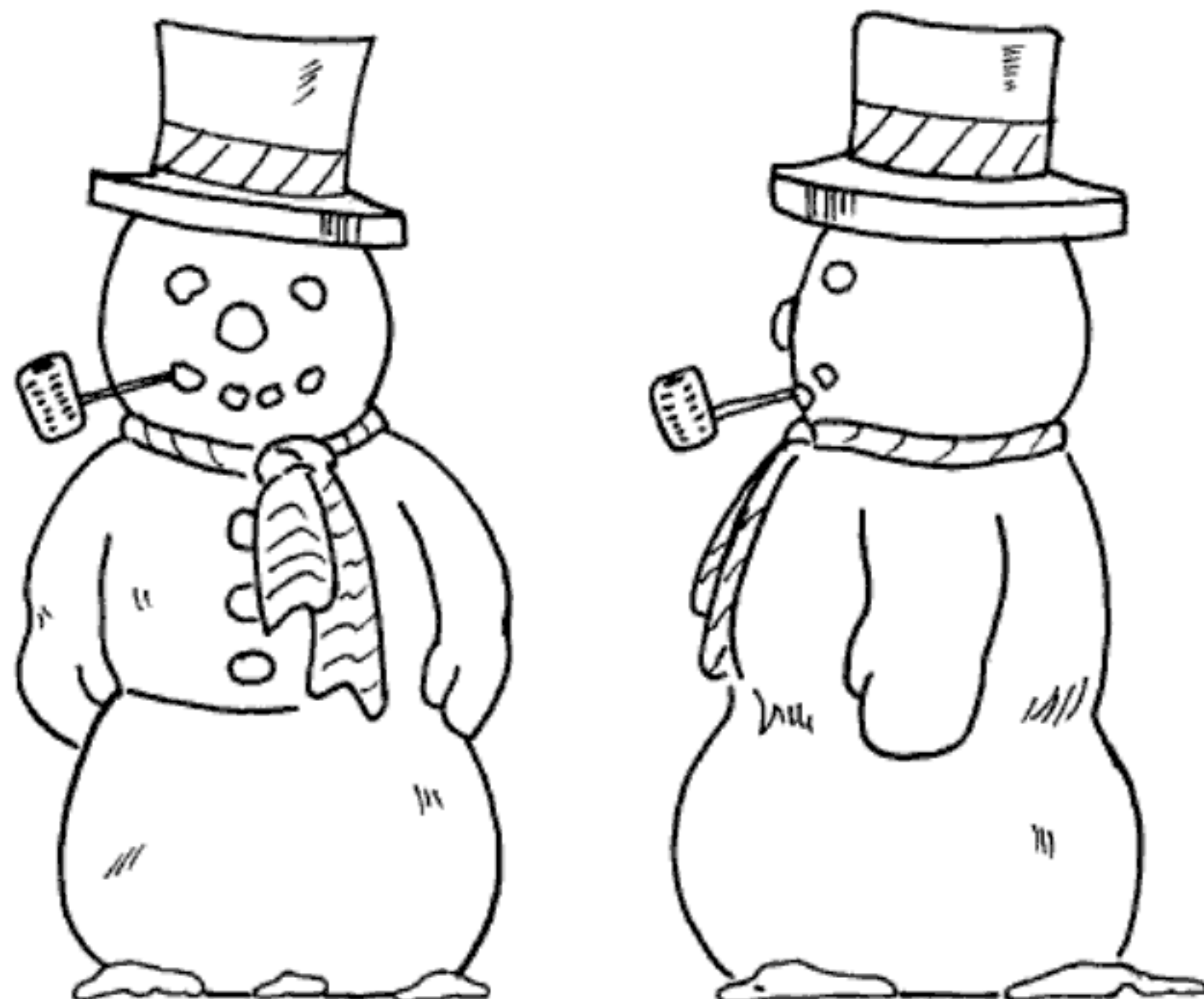
VILLAGE CHURCH

CARVED BY
MARGIE



ONE OF TODAY'S FASTEST GROWING CHRISTMAS COLLECTIBLES IS SMALL VILLAGE BUILDINGS, WE ADD TWO BUILDINGS EACH YEAR TO OUR COLLECTION WHICH BEGAN WITH THIS SMALL CHURCH. WE NOW HAVE A SMALL TOWN COMPLETE WITH A LIKENESS OF OUR OWN WOOD CARVING SHOP.

SNOW MAN



WINTER SNOW IS CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE BEST PART OF CHRISTMAS. I LOVE MAKING THE LARGE SNOW SCULPTURES AT CHRISTMAS TIME. BUT WHEN NO SNOW IS AVAILABLE I ALSO ENJOY CARVING SMALL ONES OUT OF WOOD.

THE PIPE IS MADE SEPARATELY AND INSTALLED LAST.

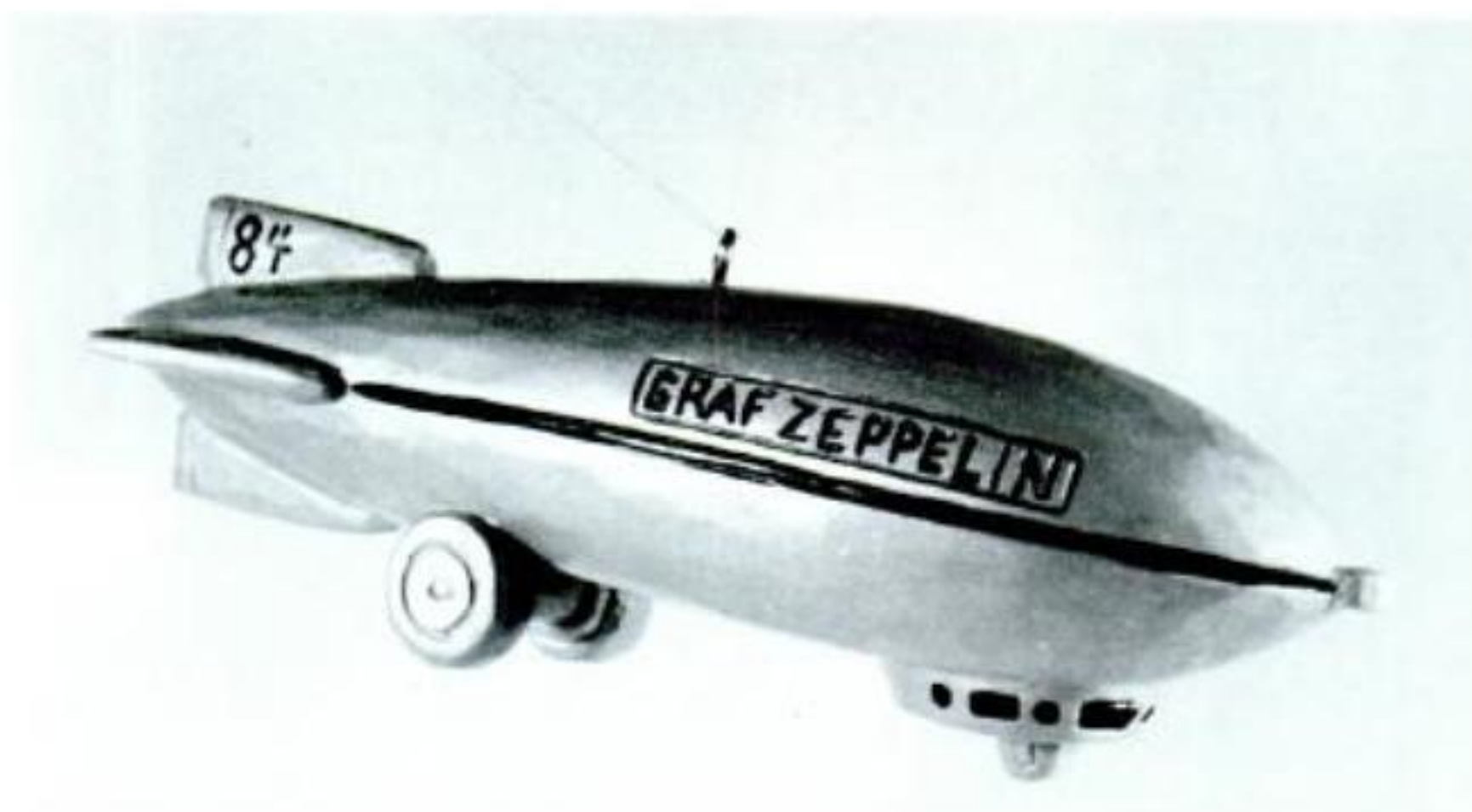
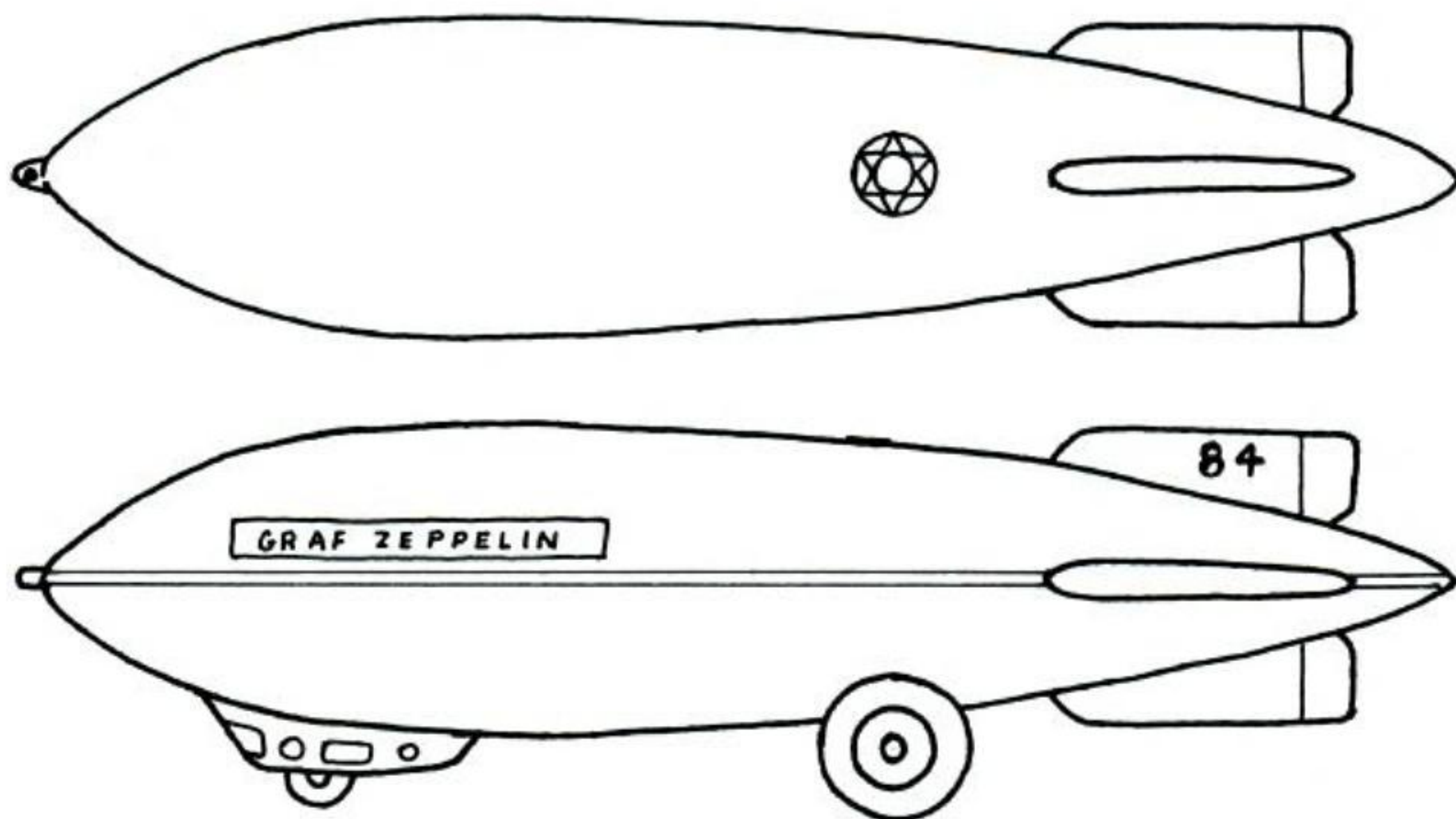


Figure 26

GRAF ZEPPELIN

PATTERNED AFTER A STEELCRAFT TOY 1930'S





RAG DOLL

TRADITIONAL DESIGN

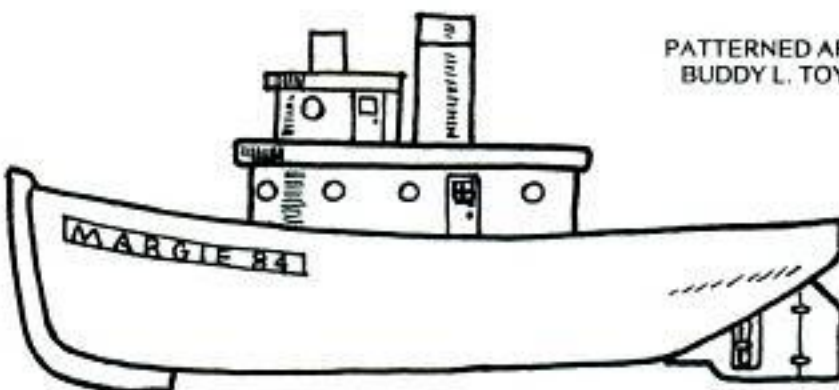
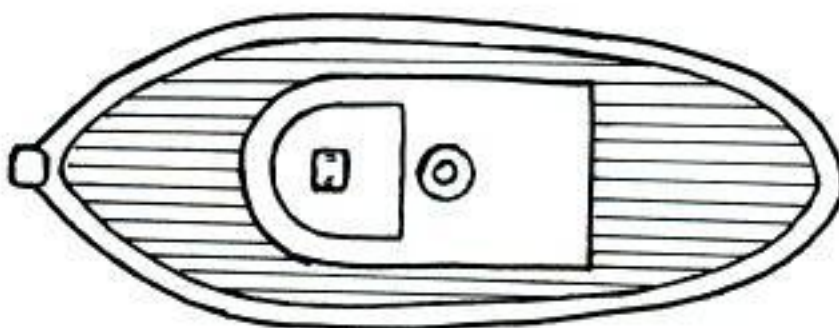
Figure 27





Figure 25

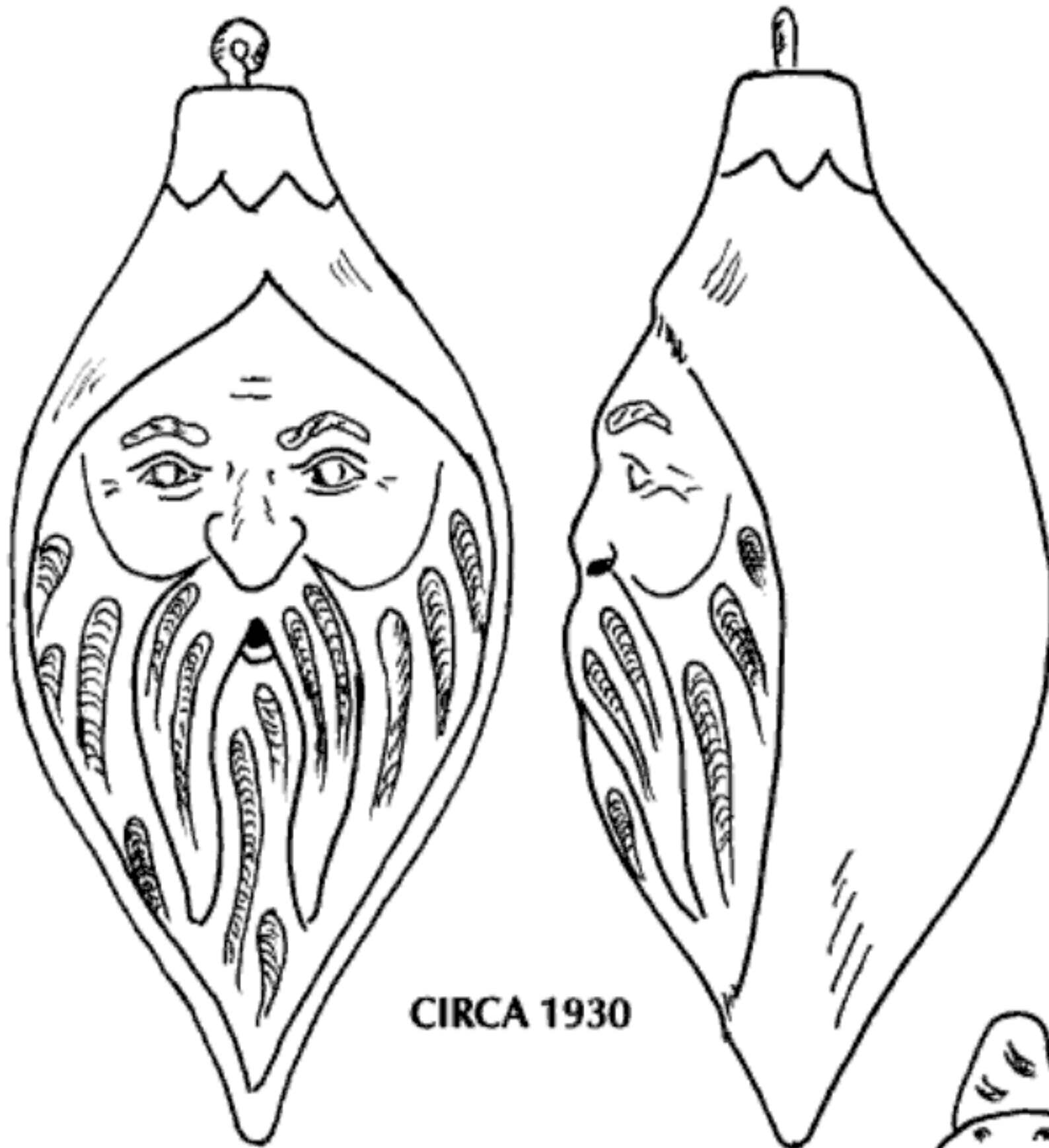
TUG BOAT



PATTERNED AFTER A
BUDDY L. TOY 1928



GLASS SANTA FACE



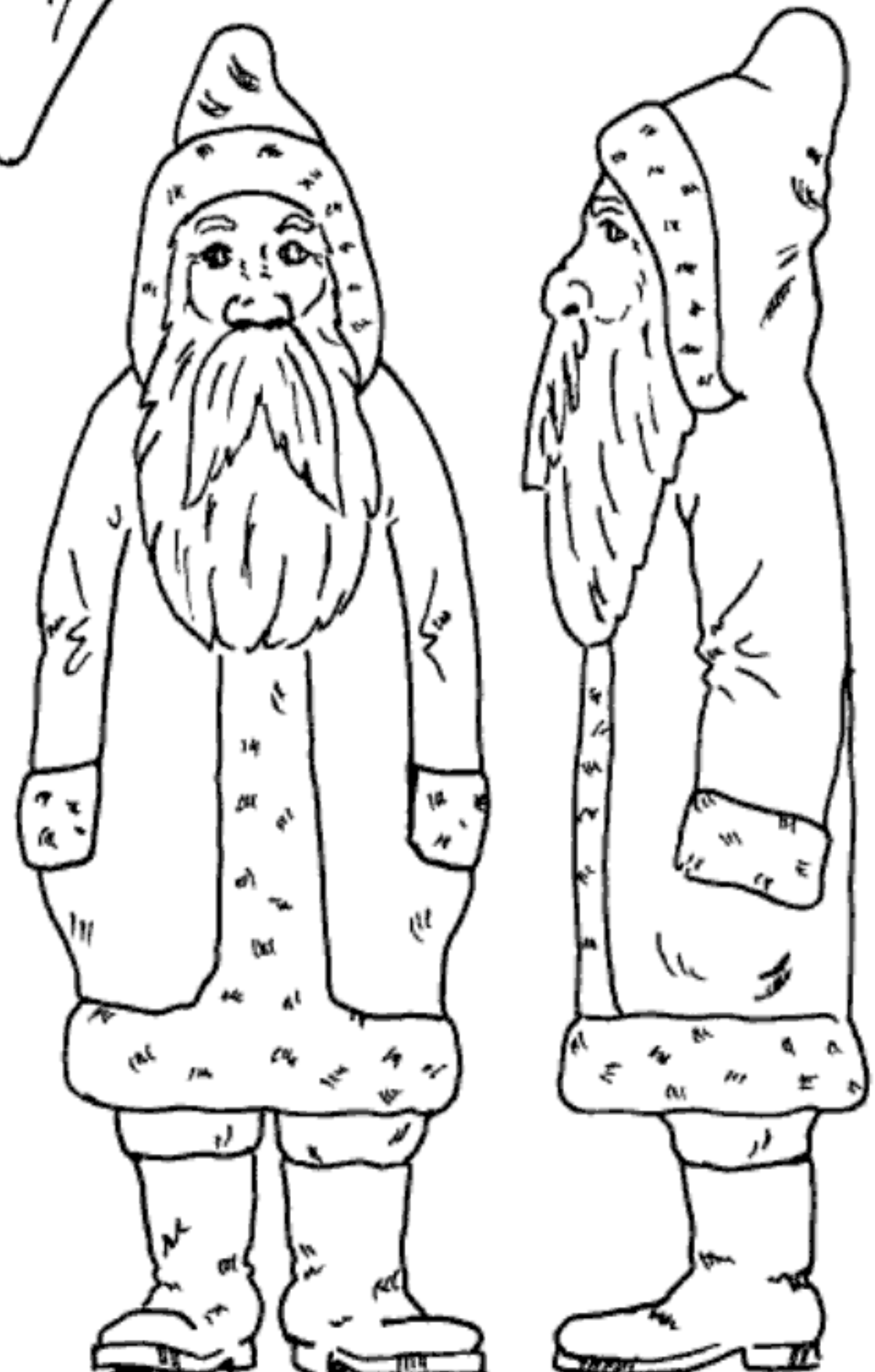
OLD GLASS ORNAMENTS HAVE NO SHARP EDGES. ALL DETAIL SHOULD BE SMOOTH AND SLIGHTLY ROUNDED. THE BEARD IS FORMED BY MAKING SHALLOW CUTS WITH A 4MM GOUGE. SAND LIGHTLY WITH VERY FINE SAND PAPER.

FOLK ART FATHER CHRISTMAS

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THIS FIGURE RANGING FROM VERY CRUDE TO SOME THAT LOOK VERY PROFESSIONAL.

SOME VERSIONS FEATURE SANTA HOLDING CHRISTMAS TREES AND/OR TOYS.

THIS FIGURE WAS CARVED BY MARGIE. SHE PAINTS THEM IN A VARIETY OF OLD WORLD COLORS.





ROLY POLY SANTA

CIRCA 1920

ORIGINALLY MADE OF LITHOGRAPHED TIN, THESE HAPPY LITTLE SANTAS WOULD UPRIGHT THEMSELVES WHEN TIPPED OVER. DETAILS SHOULD BE CARVED VERY SHALLOW TO CREATE THE LOOK OF PAINTED TIN.

SLEEPING SANTA



THIS IS ONE OF MY OWN ORIGINAL
DESIGNS-A CARICATURIZED SANTA.

A JIM MAXWELL ORIGINAL

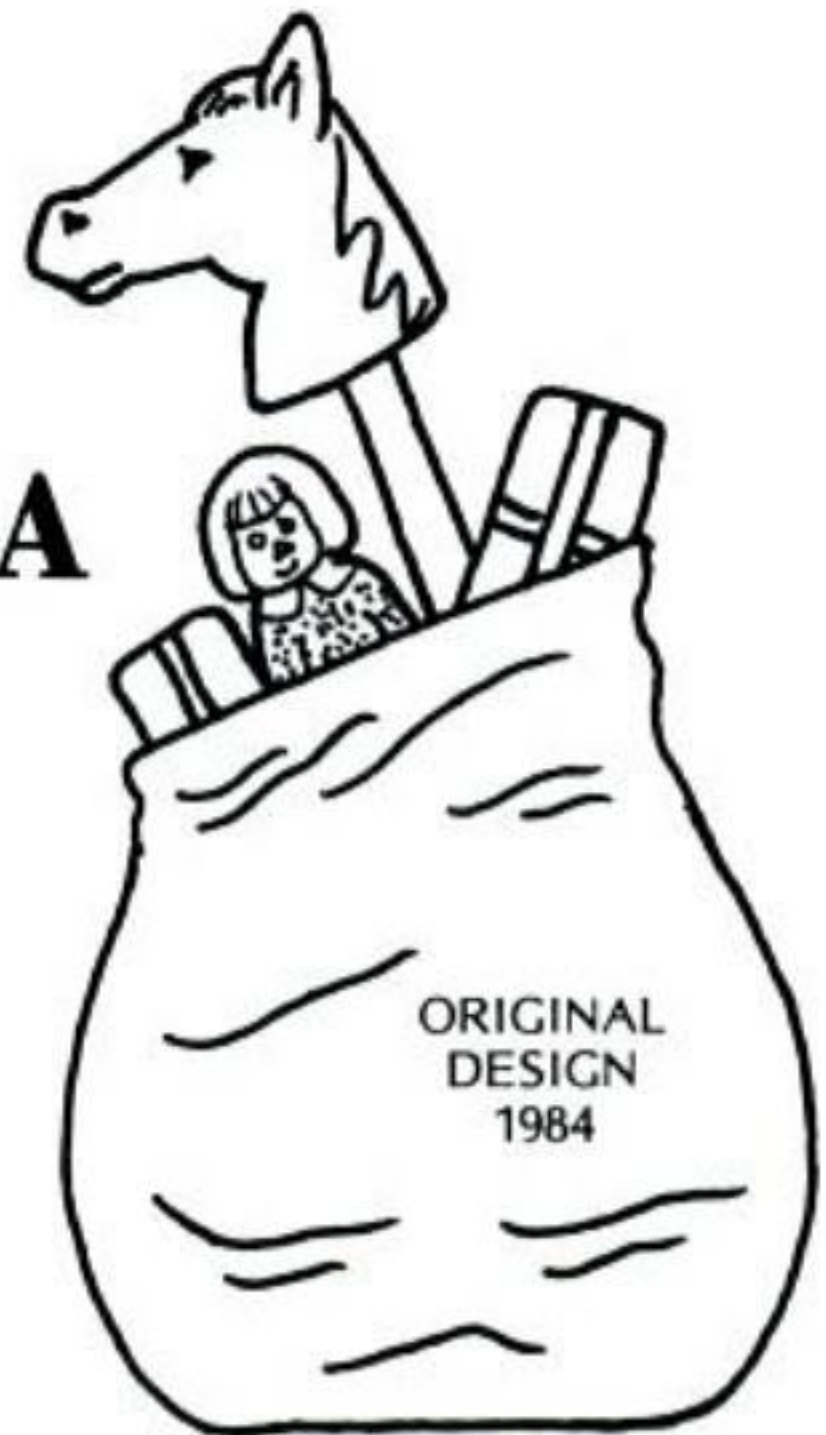


"SLEEPING SANTA" IS ONE OF MY PERSONAL FAVORITES. A NICE PROJECT FOR THE CARVER WHO WANTS AN ADVANCED PROJECT.

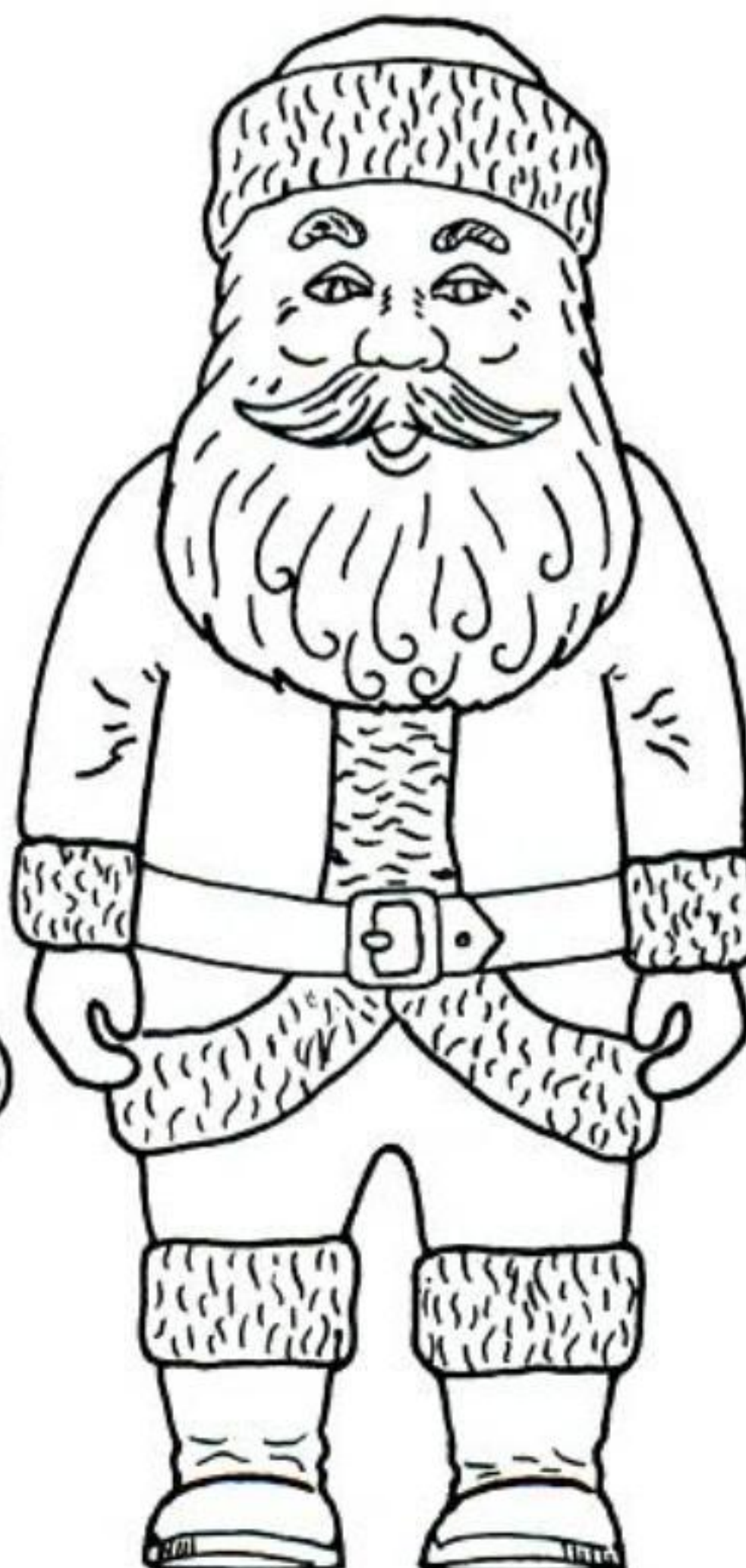
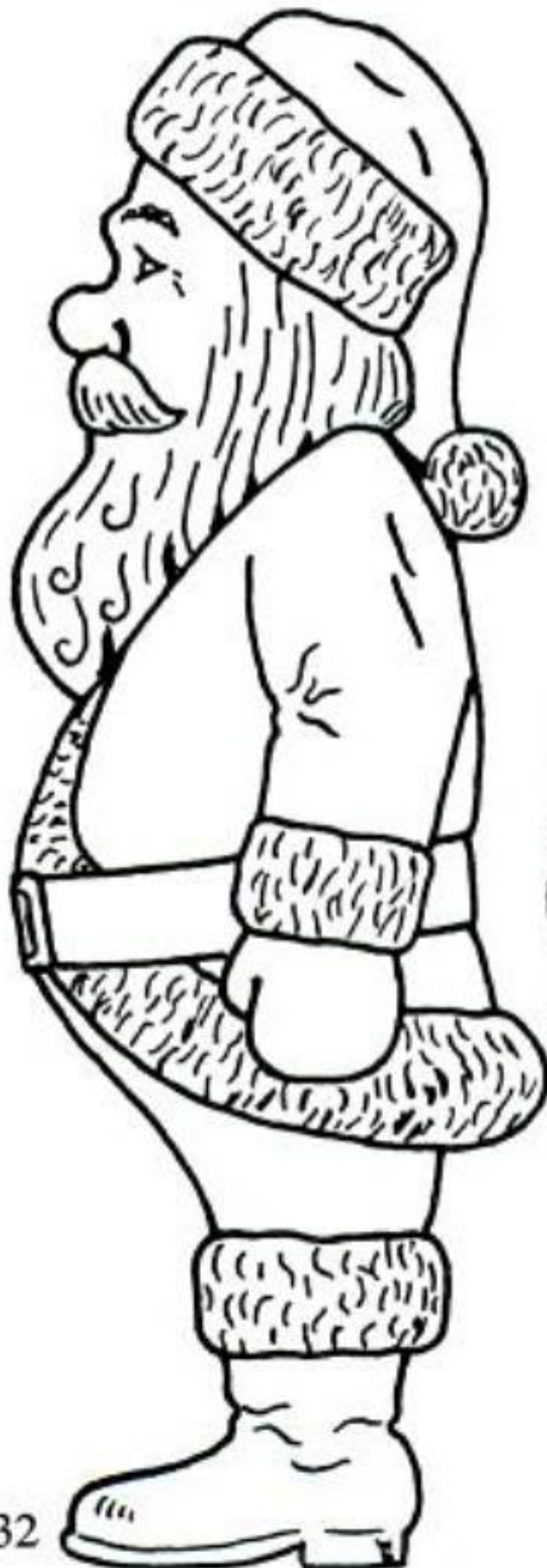


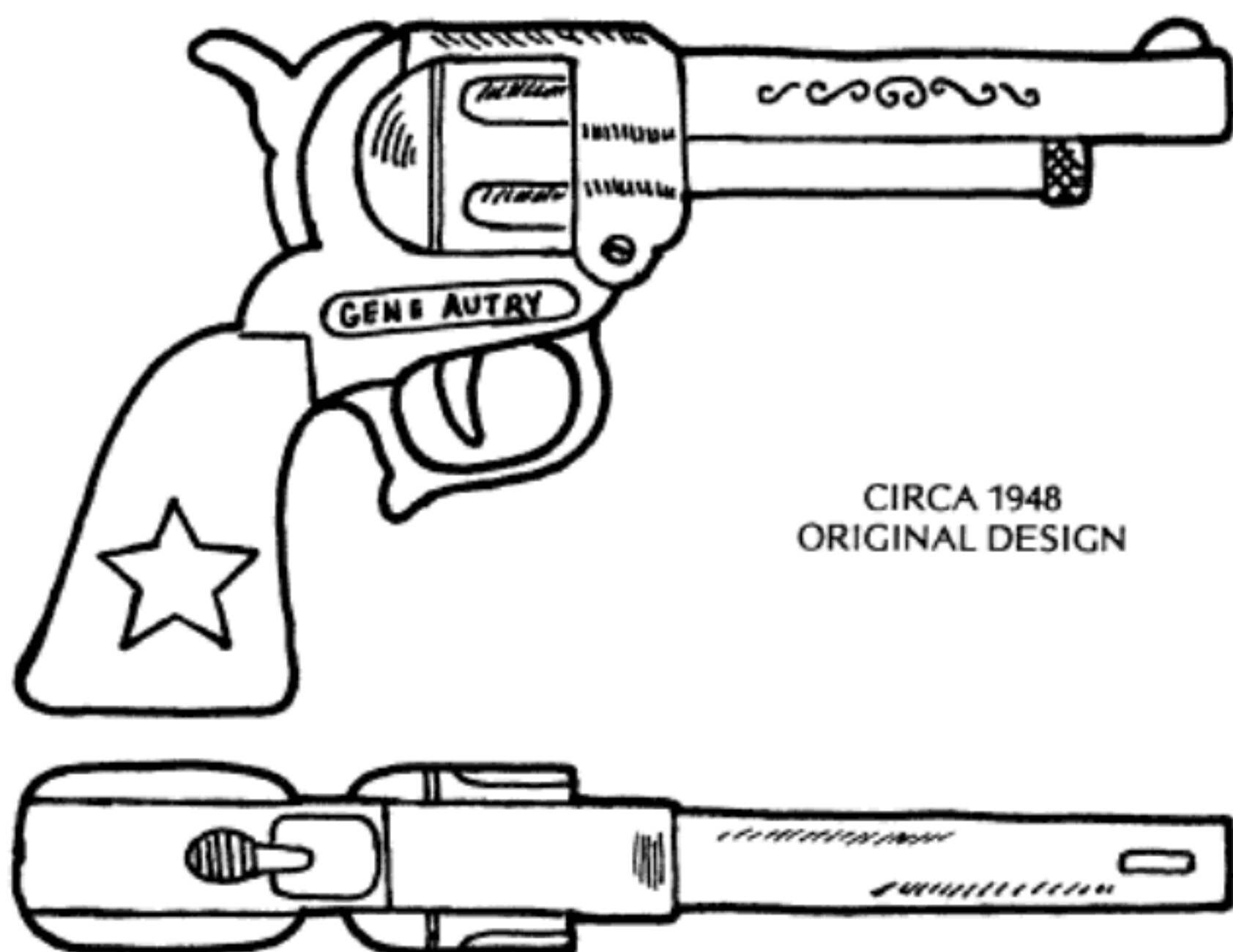
SANTA

Figure 28



For additional instructions — refer to
CARVING CARICATURES FROM THE MISSOURI
FOOTHILLS by Jim Maxwell © 1982

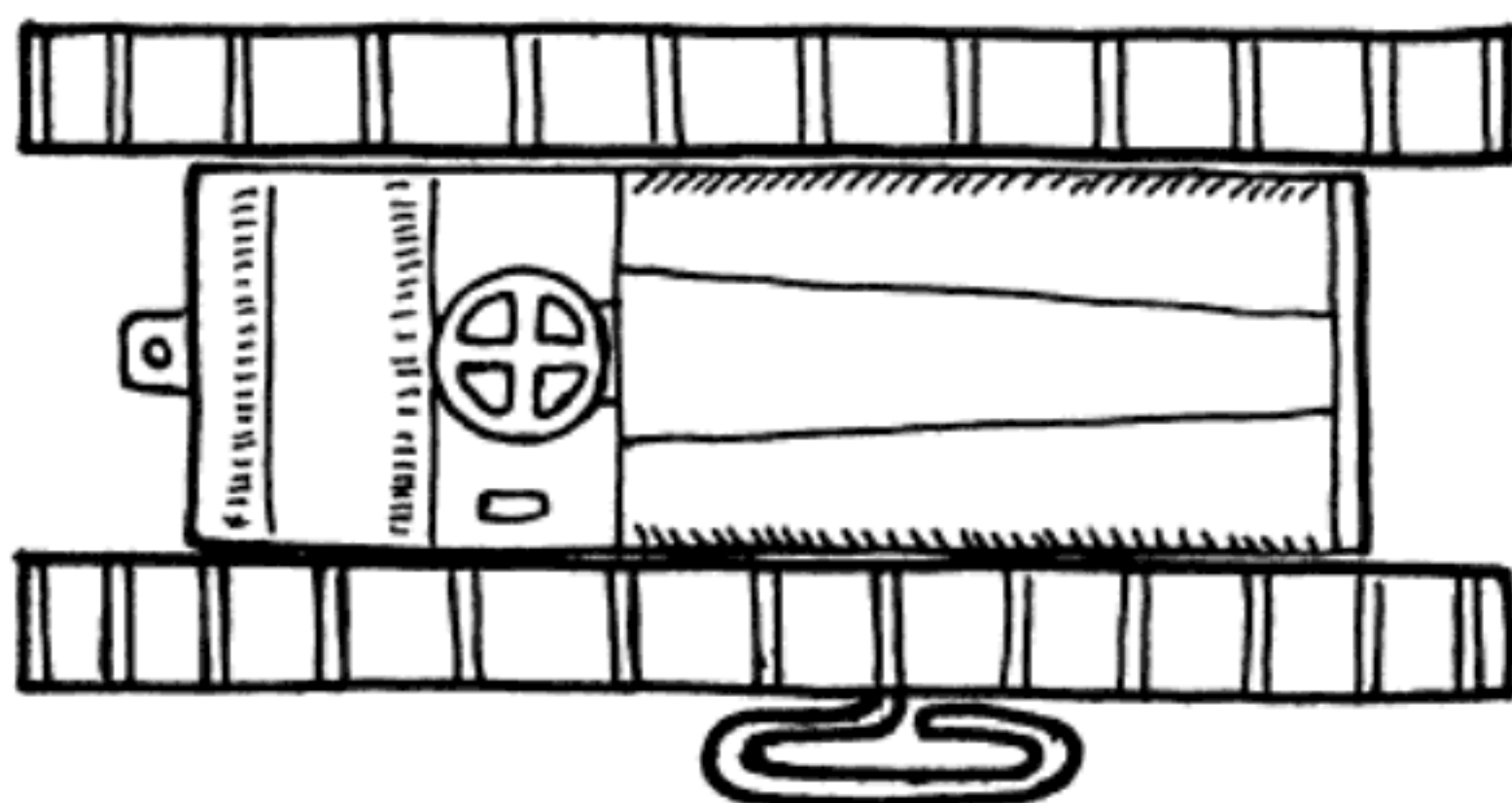




CIRCA 1948
ORIGINAL DESIGN

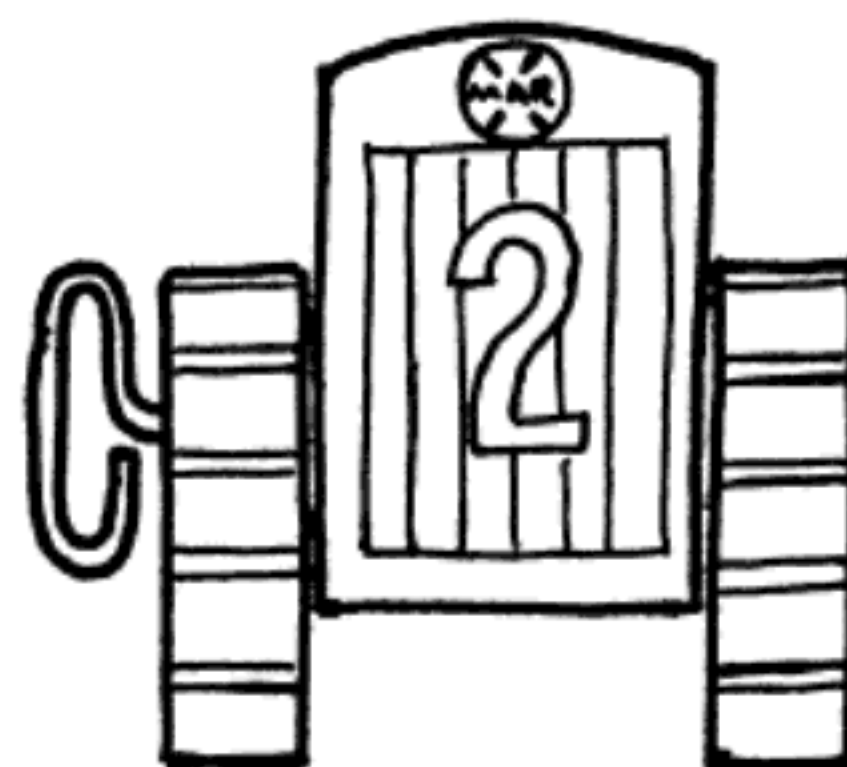
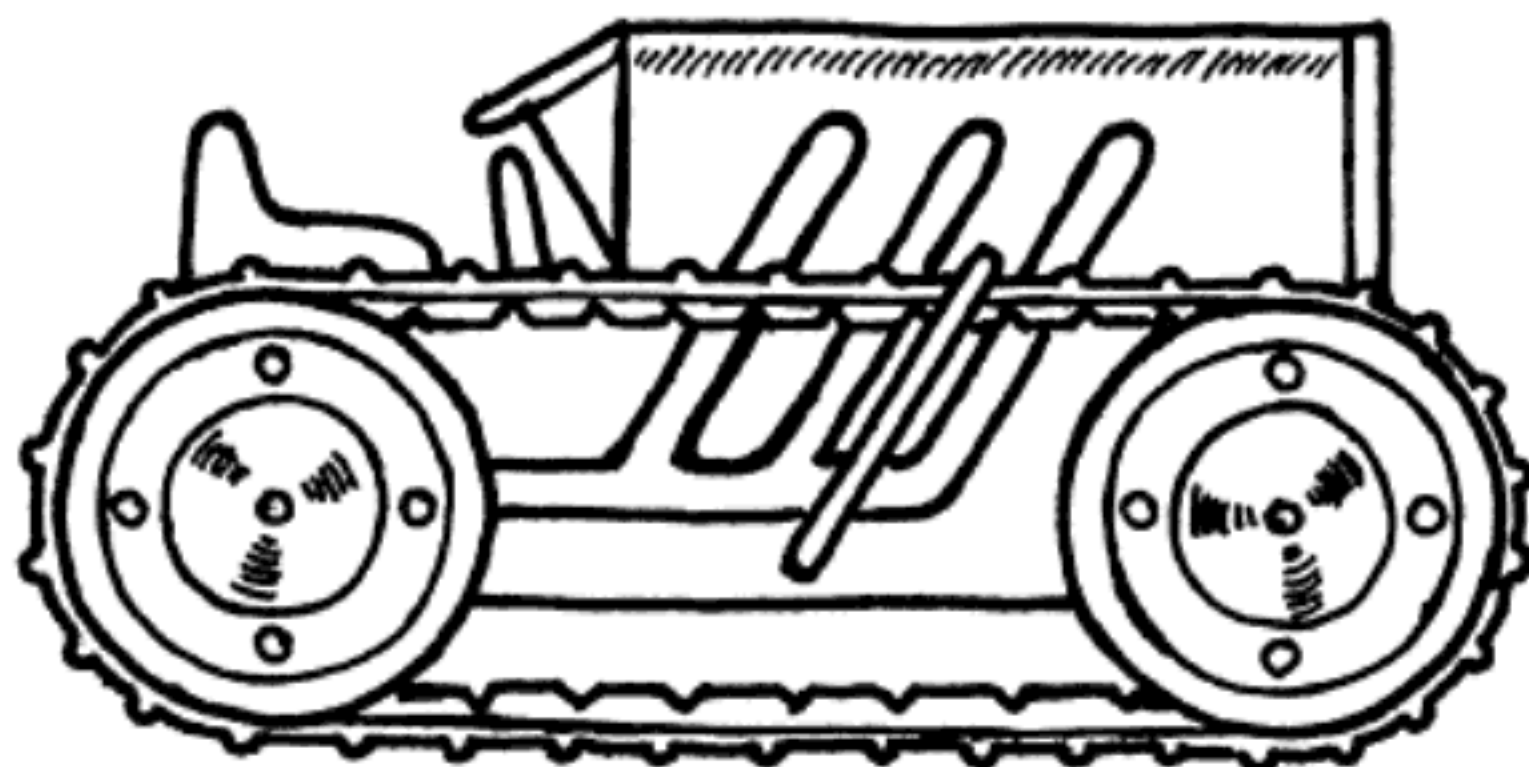


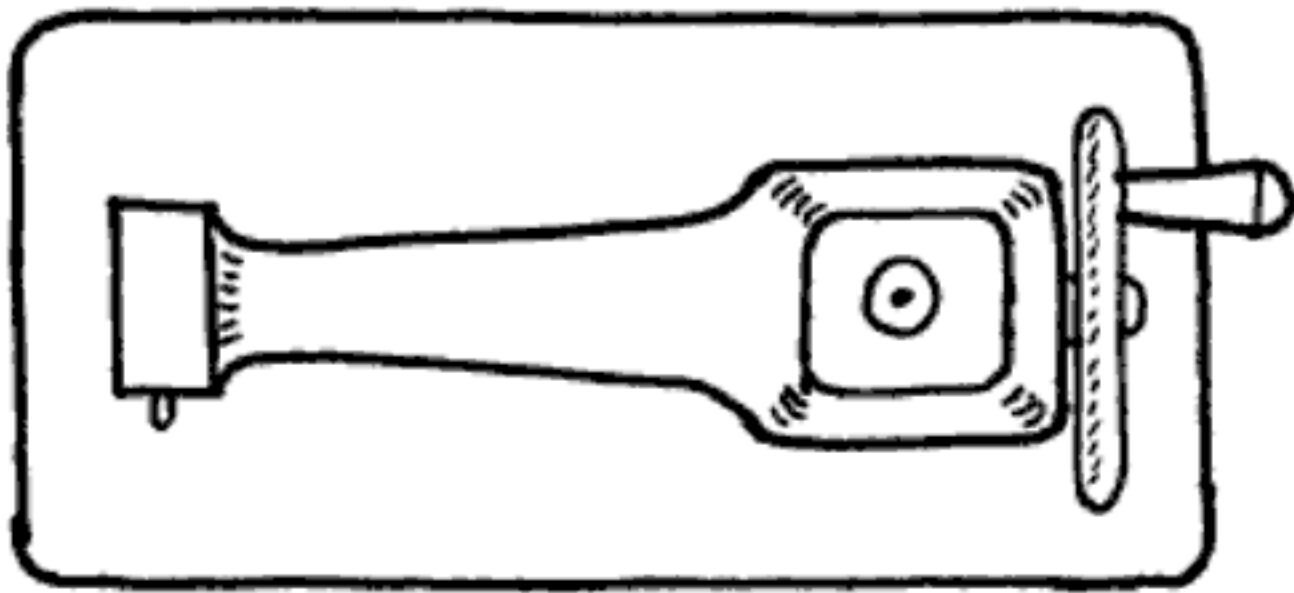
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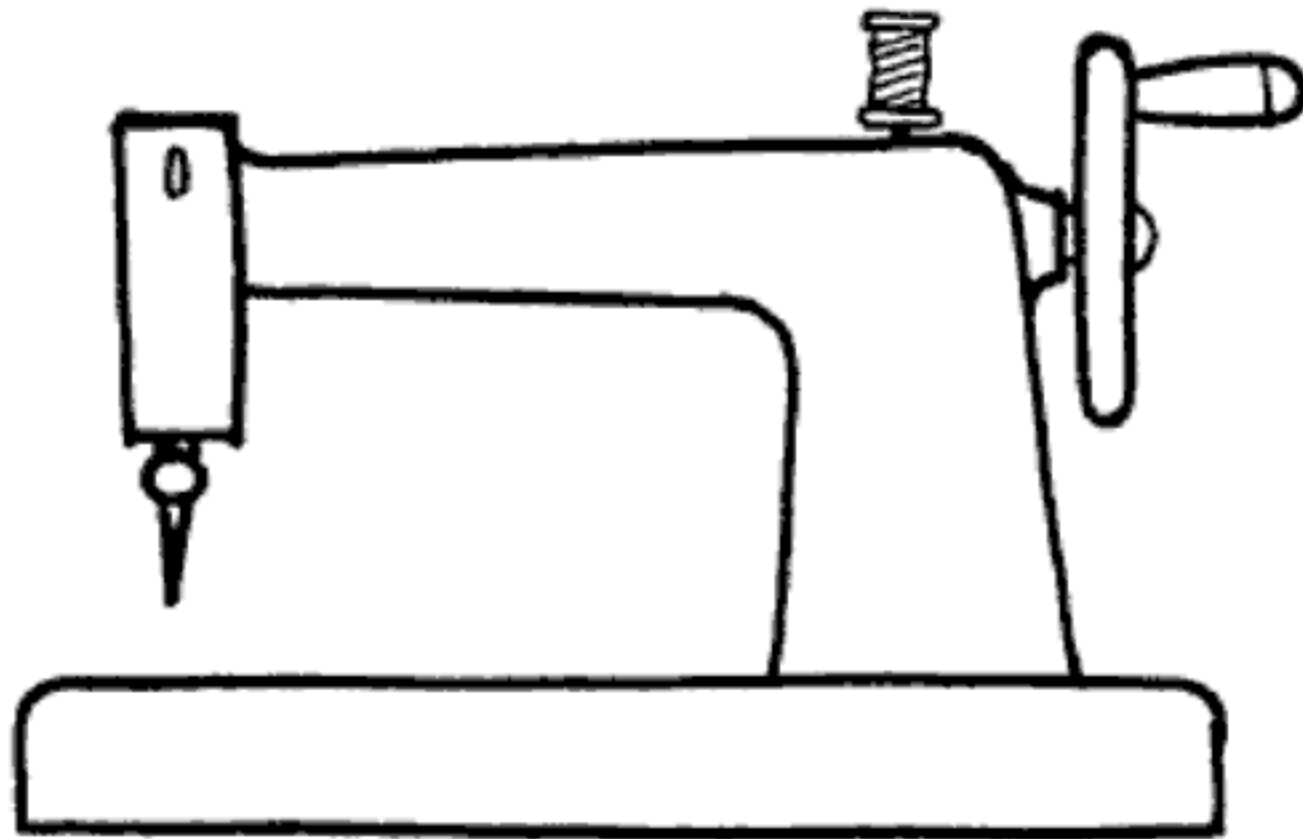
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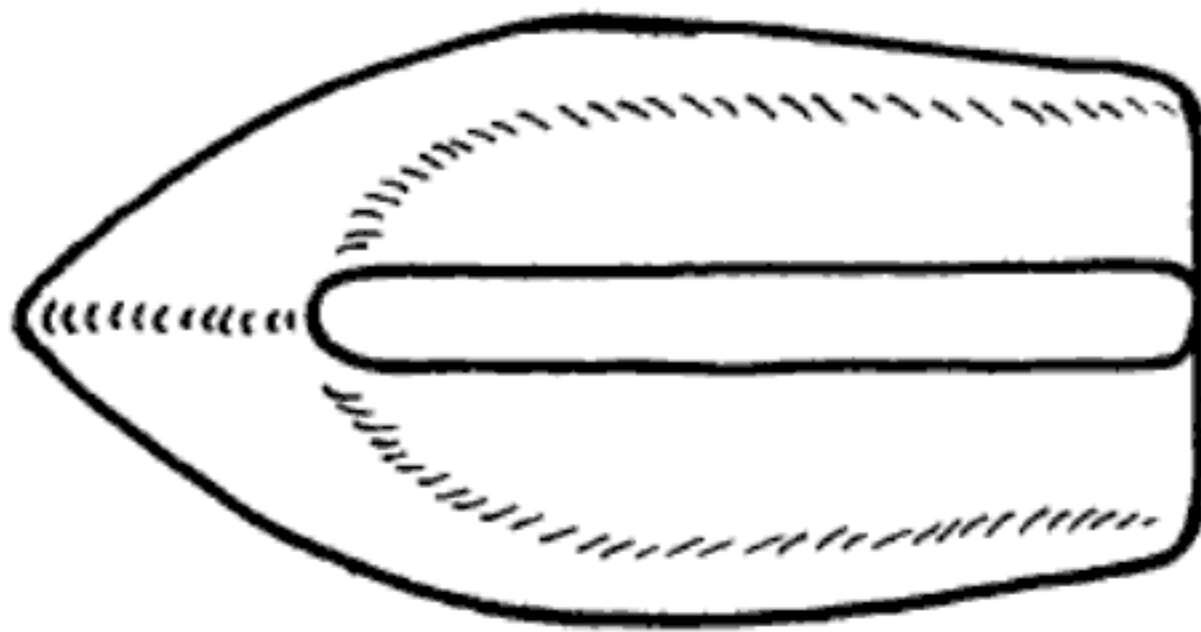
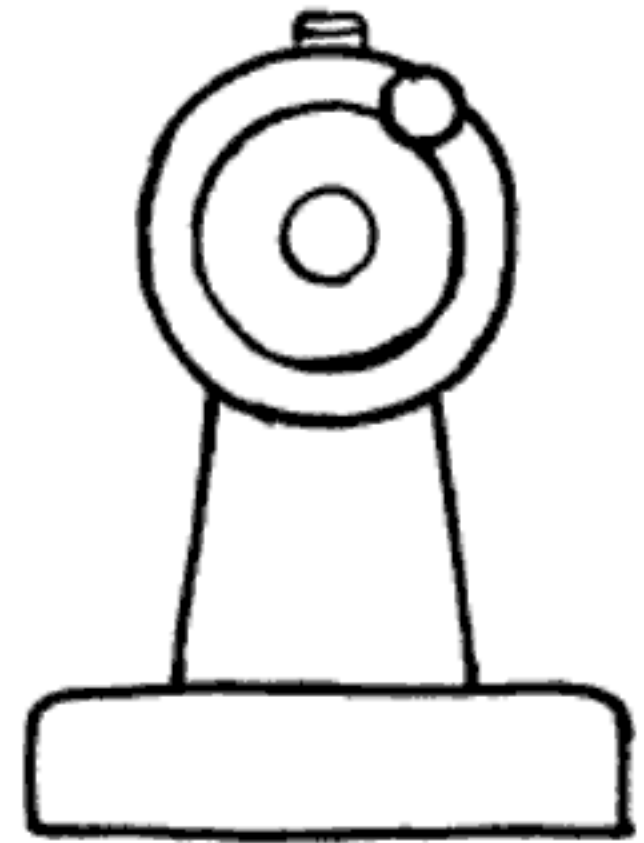




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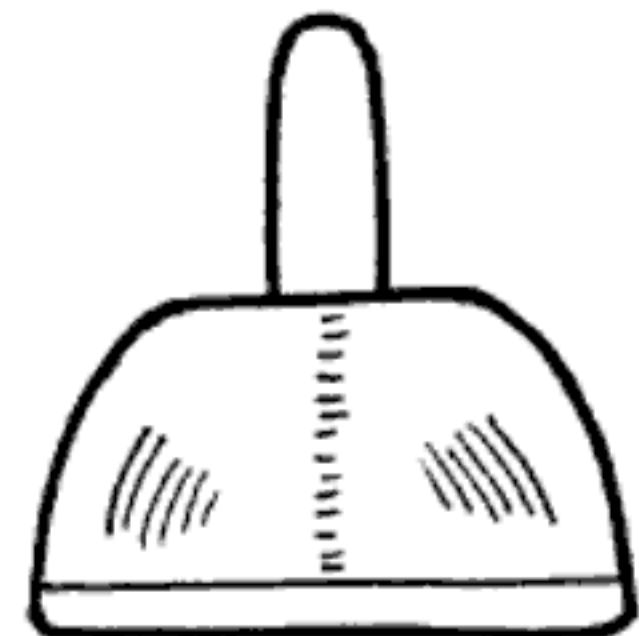
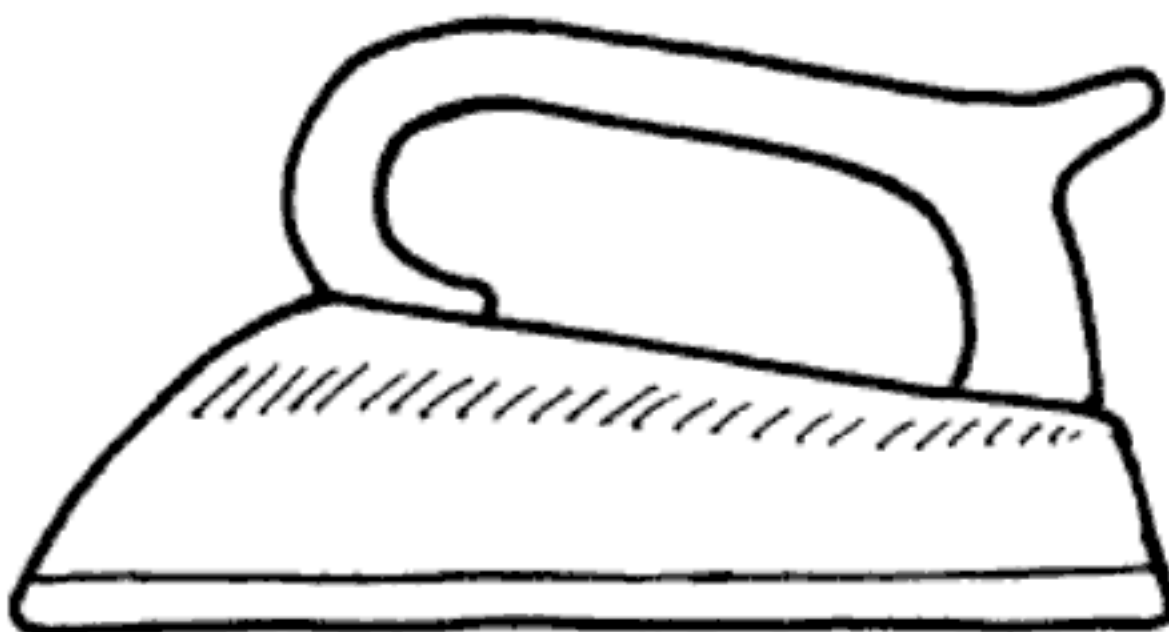


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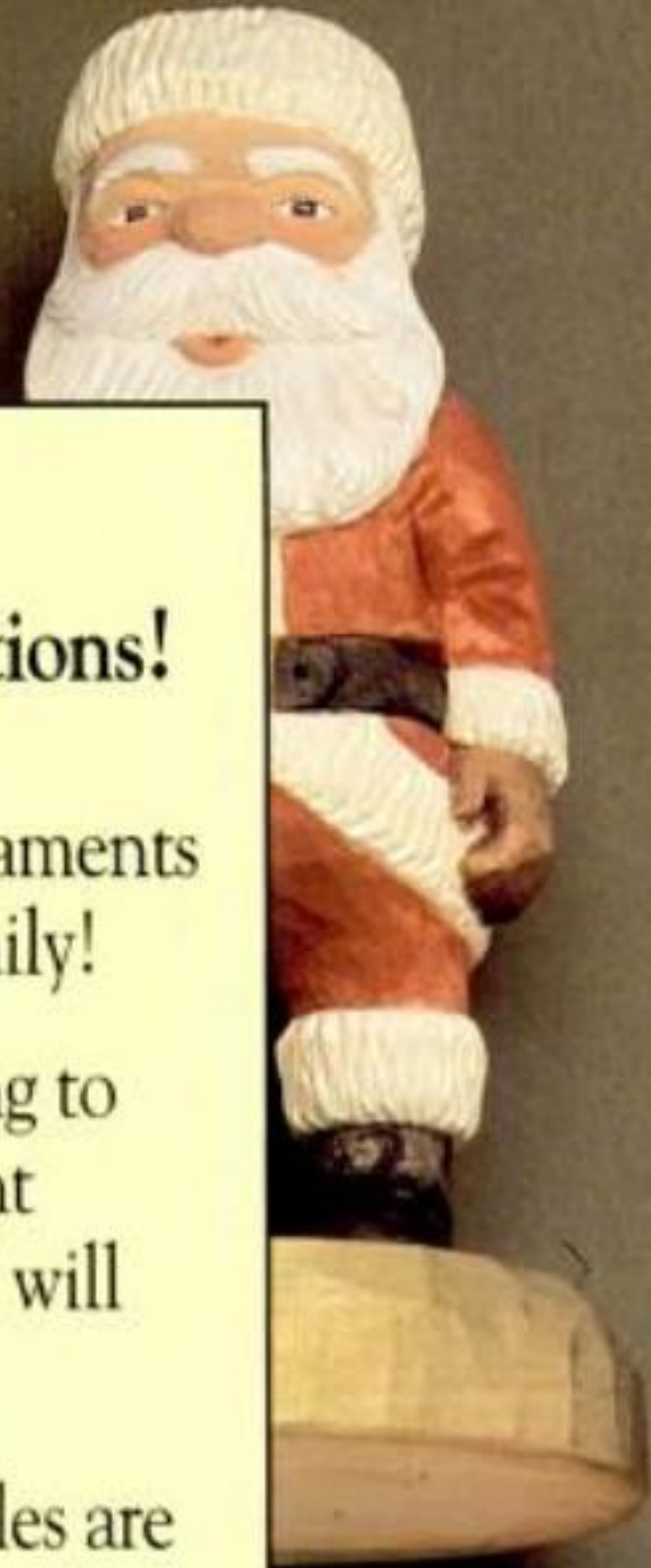
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