

One Hundred Toymakers

Who Create Wood Toys
for Fun and Profit

2010
Volume One



Compiled by John W. Lewman
Edited by Cynthia A. Lewman

www.toymakerpress.com

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I love designing and building wood toys.

I started designing toys 45 years ago. That's me at the drawing board in my first commercial shop in 1970. That's my first wood truck right above my left hand. There are a couple of other fun designs on the drawing board along with wood match-plates for casting aluminum toy parts.

I guess you could say that I've been a toy designer and toymaker since 1948 when I was 4 years old. I tried to convince my dad that year to take me to the local toy shop with a toy I had cobbled together to see if the shop would buy a few.



Working in wood is my favorite material. I've also built a lot of toys out of medium density fiberwood. The fiberwood 1970 Moon Rover shown below is one of the most successful. My son was four at the time and I built the Moon Rover for one of his Christmas presents that year. His son is now eight and enjoys playing with it still.



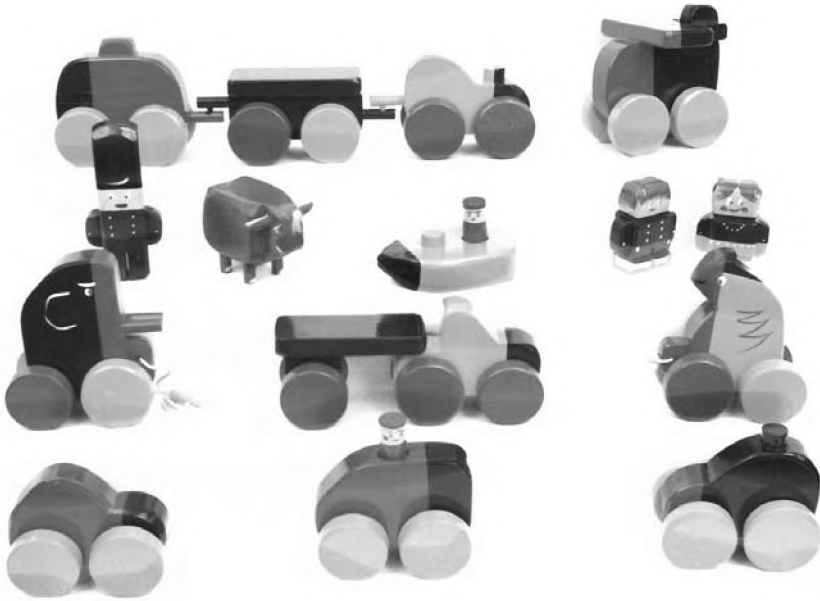
1970 wood Moon Rover for my son. His son still plays with it 40 years later.

I've put together this book to share with you my joy of toymaking and to show that all around the world, wood toymakers are alive and well.

There are a lot of wonderful reasons to make toys from wood. The first is because it is so exciting to work with and it is intoxicating to smell, touch and feel. I get a pleasant high every time I make a fresh cut for a new toy. It is also good for the kids because it let's them share the joy of the toy with it's toymaker. A wood toy also encourages kids to let their playfulness and imagination sky-rocket to new levels.

I hope that you enjoy this little book about a few of the world's wood toymakers and are inspired by it.

John W. Lewman



Shown is a line of toys we designed and produced in 1972. We sold the manufacturing plant to focus on what we do best. We design and publish books of fun to make toy plans and patterns for amateur and professional wood toymakers.

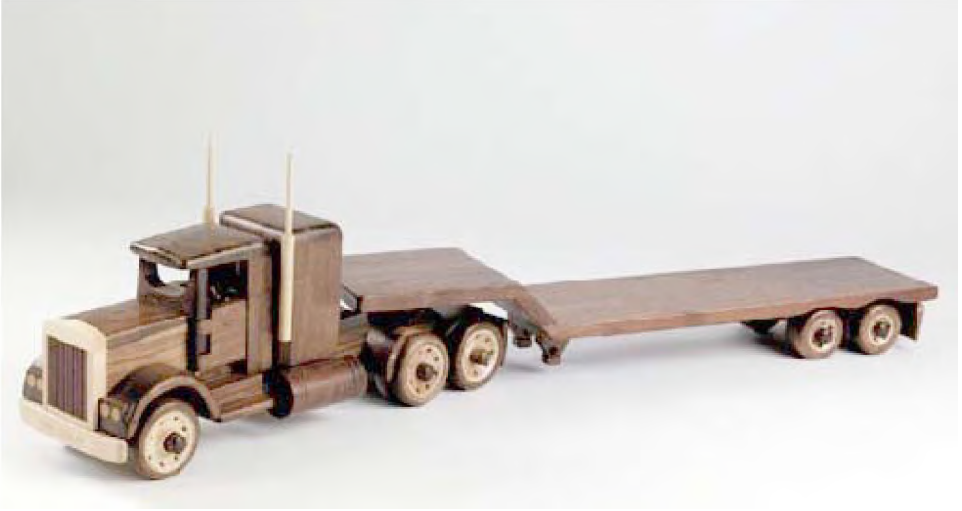
Attention Wood Toymakers and Wood Toy Designers

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in the next book titled **100 Toymakers 2011** please submit your story along with quality 300 dpi digital color photographs of your work by email to me, johnlewman@toymakerpress.com by December 31, 2010. The 2011 issue will be released August 1, 2011.

Baldwin Toys

www.baldwintoys.com





Baldwin Toys is a family-operated company that handcrafts wooden toys with quality reminiscent of yesteryear. Since 1976, our toys have been displayed at prominent arts and crafts shows, featured in publications and have received numerous awards. They have also been shown in Mannheim Steamroller's Christmas video "The Little Drummer Boy". The premise upon which we create our toys is simple. We want our toys to be around for generations to come. Our toys are sure to become treasured keepsake heirlooms.

About the Artist: Steve Baldwin has been creating wooden toys since the late 60's. He started as an industrial arts teacher which eventually led to a woodworking hobby. In 1976 that hobby became a profession when he started Baldwin Toys. Retired from teaching, this is now his career.



Hrvatsko Zagorje

Traditional Manufacturing of Wooden Toys



There are only three places in Croatia where the inhabitants have been engaged in the manufacture of children's toys in an organized way and in great numbers, Hrvatsko zagorje, the Prigorje area village of Vidovec and village Zelovo in Dalmatian hinterland. While the production in Vidovec and Zelovo stagnated and finally completely died out, in Hrvatsko zagorje it grew. Their toys became recognized throughout Croatia, and even wider. They were sold in many parts of the world in the 1950s thanks to organized production and distribution. Toymaking is now an inevitable element of Croatian popular culture. From the beginning toys were made by wood carvers and self-taught habitants of villages Bistrički Laz, Stubički Laz, Gornja Stubica, Tugonica, Turnišće and Marija Bistrica.

These are all villages on the pilgrims' route to the international Marian shrine of Our Lady of the Snow in Marija Bistrica, where pilgrims come walking in prayer. It is understandable that in these villages where life was hard in the 19th century, families developed wood toy manufacturing. Toymaking made it possible for them survive.



Talented woodcarvers carved wood from the trees surrounding them. The area has an abundance of forests. From very simple reed toys the assortment widened to as many as one hundred and twenty different toys being produced at the same time. The method of their production has been passed on from generation to generation. In many families the traditional skills and have been kept to this day. It is a peculiar tradition that the toys are handmade by the men and mostly painted by the women.

The toys are carefully shaped by hand. There is an effort to never make completely identical toys. The material used is soft wood from the area and includes willow, lime, beech and maple. The craftsmen hew the lumber after drying and then cut and shape it with the help of wooden or cardboard models. Today about fifty types of toys are made ranging from various reed musical toys to tamburitzas and animal characters.



Woodix Toys

Driven by a passion for high quality wooden toys.

www.woodixtoys.com



Woodix Toys specializes in the production, distribution and sales of handmade wooden toys. The company was founded in 2007 by a team that is driven by a common passion for wooden toys. The offices of Woodix Toys are located in Bonheiden-Belgium, Mortsel-Belgium and Bangalore-India. The distribution and sales of our handmade wooden toys is managed from the offices in Bonheiden and Mortsel. The office in Bangalore manages the selection of our craftsmen and the production of our handmade wooden toys.

All of our wooden toys carefully designed by artisans. We also have a team of craftsmen with specialized skills in handcrafting specific categories of wooden toys. Every toy is carefully completed with lots of care to emphasize a child's learning, usage of toys and of course fun. Each of the toys is produced in India and are carefully handmade by professional craftsmen according to the specifications of CE standards.



As our wooden toys are all handmade, each wooden toy is a unique and original toy. We offer a wide range of wooden toys including wooden dinosaurs, wooden animals, wooden trains, wooden cars, wooden jeeps, and more for all ages. Every wooden toy is crafted with the highest care and passion by our craftsmen to satisfy the child's playtime needs.



Our wooden toys are sourced from India and are carefully hand made by professional craftsmen.

Bajo Wood Toys

**Fourteen different kinds of wood
are used in Bajo wood toys.**

www.bajotoysusa.com



BAJO was founded in 1993 by Wojciech Bajor, a sculptor and architect who also gives lectures on sculpture and architecture at the University in Cracow. In cooperation with Polish and German friends, he formed a group committed to seeking new projects. The company now has a couple of hundred designs for wooden toys for children of various ages. Those include Wooden Infant Toys, Wooden Lacing Toys, Wooden Educational Toys, Toys for Rehabilitation purposes as well as Wooden Furniture for Kindergartens.

The factory is to the south of Cracow, at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. Fourteen different kinds of wood are used in the production of these toys. The carefully chosen timber comes from local woods and orchards. In 1994, BAJO won a gold medal for their collection of toys at the Toy Fair in Posen. In 2000, they won a Gold Award Winner at Toy Fair in London, this time for games and puzzles.





In 2002, BAJO collected the German Design Prize for Wooden Toys at the International Toy Fair in Nuremberg and in 2003 one of their products was nominated for the Design Prize.

Bajo offers wide variety of wooden toys that are carefully crafted for ease of production and quality in manufacturing. All of their toys are built to the latest environmental and safety standards for children's toys. But most importantly, every toy is designed to be loved and cherished by the children that play with them.



T.C. Wooden Toys

**T.C. believes in creating fun the
old fashioned way.**

www.tcswoodentoys.com

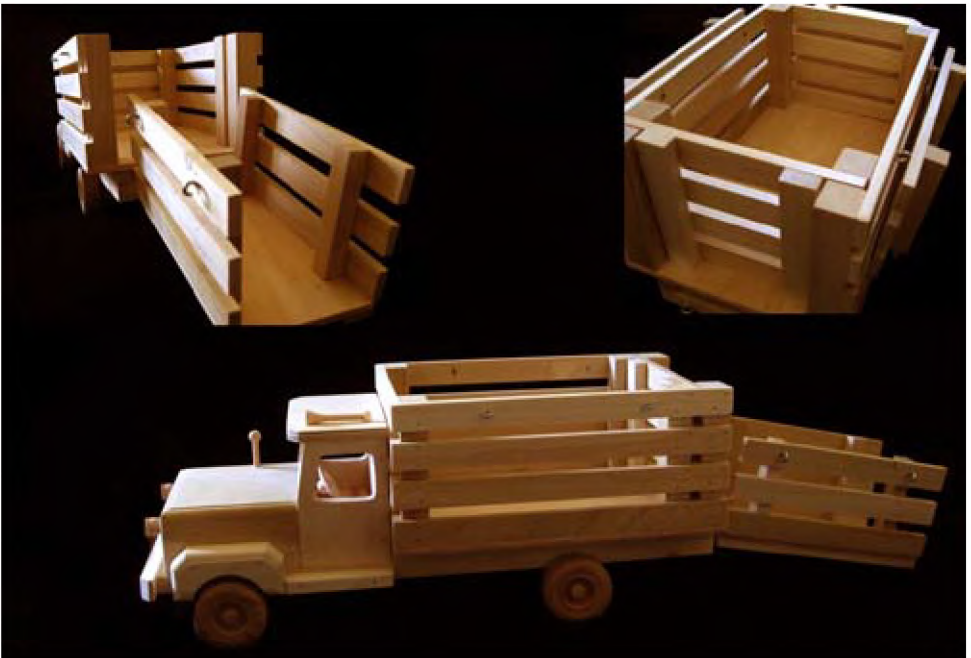


T.C. provides educational classic toys and quality handcrafted toys by an Amish toymaker and other local craftsmen. Made from poplar wood and other woods, these toys are great for a wide age range of children including preschool, toddlers and up to 10 years. All parents need to make the choice as to what toys are suitable for their children and T.C. toys are all wonderfully built to this end. The Amish built toys have no coatings and no batteries and they are durable and ready for tons of fun.

T.C. want to inspire imagination in children and let them dream. They have lots of toys to choose from to create endless fun not just for days but for years. The only requirement is their toys and a little imagination.



Whether you're ordering a freight train for a young boy or girl, or a pretend play pickup truck and trailer for your horses to ride in, you'll love playing with these detailed and carefully crafted toys.



Myriad

Natural Toys & Crafts

www.myriadonline.co.uk



Myriad Natural Toys and Crafts is a family run mail order business specializing in hand-crafted organically shaped natural wooden toys, plant dye art materials, craft supplies, books and musical instruments. Product is produced with reverence for the environment and the child, encouraging meaningful and creative play. The advantage of wood in preference to plastic and metal are many fold. Petroleum based products such as plastic take a huge toll on our environment. There are also growing concerns of the safety of such products, in particular with young babies and children. The wood used in products comes from European forest plantations, the wood is indigenous, and the wood scrap from manufacturing the toys is either recycled or used for heating.

P'kolino Wood Toys

**Playfully challenging kids to
fine-tune their motor skills.**

www.pkolino.com



P'kolino founders, J.B. Schneider and Antonio Turco-Rivas, started with a clear goal: to make better products to improve play at home. This mutual goal was realized during their MBA studies at Babson College, the leading entrepreneurial school in the country. There they began an intensive research and development project with 20+ international design students from the Rhode Island School of Design.

With the continued collaboration of an international network of designers and some homegrown talent, P'kolino has expanded to offer playfully smart products that are enjoyed by children and families worldwide. Through the insight and passion of our founders and designers P'kolino has developed a playfully smart design philosophy.

Ecotot toys

All natural organic teething toys from Oregon maple finished with beeswax.

www.etsy.com



Ecotot toys creates a quality all natural organic teething toy. The toy is perfect for baby to learn to grasp and manipulate and is great for teething infants who put everything in their mouths. Little children love this shape and like to chew on the head. Teether is 3"H by 6"W. The toys are lovingly made from organic reclaimed Oregon Maple. It is sanded smooth and lightly coated with beeswax to clean and bring out its natural beauty.



Toymakers of Channapatna



Channapatna toys are a particular form of lacquerware made specially in the town of Channapatna using wood decorated with safe glossy vegetable dyes in simple and colorful forms. Shown above is a workshop that has been setup as a common facility center where anyone can use the lathes for a low monthly rent. Several benches of eight stations of lathes each are powered by a single motor and distributed with belts which can be engaged and disengaged by a easy flip of the hand.

Little Sapling Toys

Natural wooden teether toys for infants and toddlers.

www.etsy.com



Little Teething Toys are the ideal first toy for babies to grasp and chew. Each of the teethers is sanded satin smooth and is left unfinished. The teether toy arrives ready to give in a USA made cotton drawstring bag with a tag that includes the wood used, a bit about the Little Sapling family business and care instructions.

Ghazar (Rojer) Khodadadi

www.zzpztoys.com



In early 2007, Rojer picked up his wood crafting tools and decided to pursue his passion of creating beautiful accessories for children. His effort and talent finally culminated into creation of z.z.p.z. The name z.z.p.z. refers to something small and cute in his Persian and Armenian culture, so it was only fitting to name the company after it. Currently, z.z.p.z. is offering a line of adorable children's hangers called Hanging Friends, along with wood accessories that can brighten up any room. Z.z.p.z. was born as an idea over 30 years ago. Rojer had a toy store for kids back in his native country of Iran where he explored woodcraft by making hand carved and painted, one of a kind items. Since then, Rojer has relocated to the United States where he continues his experiences with wood.

LIKEaBIKE

German designs with pneumatic tires perfect indoors and outdoors.

www.likeabikeusa.com



Made of high quality varnished birch plywood, high-grade steel, felt, textiles and rubber, the bikes are built to withstand any amount of rough and tumble. The most popular, bestselling LIKEaBIKE is the Mountain. Its all wood design paired with pneumatic tires make it perfect for indoors and outdoors. Because the Mountain has been so popular it is available in five different seat colors.

On shopping trips owners are stopped by curious people over and over again. Moms, dads, children, everyone start asking about this wonderful little vehicle. When the owners of toy and design stores in the Park Slope neighborhood started asking where they could get LIKEaBIKEs, it was obvious that the VW Beetle was no longer the only cute little German import ready to win hearts in the New World.

Playsam Designers

Best known for sophisticated and playful toys.

www.playsam.com



Classic and contemporary. Fanciful and functional. Simple and sophisticated. At first glance, these characteristics may seem slightly contradictory. But Playsam firmly believe that opposites attract. As the leading Scandinavian design company in its class, Playsam creates innovative and timeless wooden toys for the young and young at heart.

With each and every toy, Playsam strives not only for physical functionality and perfection, but also for an art form that challenges pre-existing artistic concepts and conventions. Take your pick from their exclusive products-choose the miniature Saab Keychain Car to the Streamliner series to Playsam's wonderful Rocking Rabbit or give some of the best of Swedish design as a baby, birthday or business gift.

Orange Tree Toys

Bold, bright and stimulating toys for young children.

www.orangetreetoys.com



Designed for maximum fun and safety, this exclusive range of beautifully crafted childrens toys includes backpacks, carry bags and purses, jewelry, rag dolls, pens and pencils, wooden toys, wooden puzzles, height charts, bookends and skipping ropes. And for the youngest children, carefully crafted baby nursery toys make it easy to create a colorful and stimulating environment for newborns.

Anamalz toys

Life-like characteristics in an artistic and moveable form.

www.anamalz.com



Give them the environment and the Anamalz will roam. Natural wooden animals crafted with life-like characteristics in an artistic and moveable form. Each animal can provide kids with hours of role play, story telling, companionship and life long memories. Made from organic maple, each piece is made an original by the natural grains of the wood and the touch of the craftsman. All Anamalz are made from non-toxic European materials and quality is never compromised. For ages 4+.

Anamalz award winning shapes are designed in Australia and are carefully crafted from sustainable maple wood and quality textiles.

Charles and Donna Cooley, Toymakers

To the many children who have never had a toy.

www.happyfactory.org



Sometimes living in this land of plenty we forget those who live in the land of nothing, especially the little children. Charles and Donna Cooley have not forgotten. This is Charles and Donna's story of how the Happy Factory came to be: We're so grateful we've been given this opportunity to serve the little children. We didn't start out to be The Happy Factory. In fact, we didn't start out to be anything. We started out to make a couple of lawn ornaments. Then we found some toy patterns and made toys for all the neighborhood kids and we just keep making toys.

Read the whole story. www.happyfactory.org

Tish Tash Toys

Wonderful designs for babies and young children.

www.tishtashtoy.com



Sharon and Daniel hand-pick all the traditional and educational toys which are featured in their mail order catalogue from a range of high quality manufacturers like Pintoy, Le Toy Van, Manhattan Toy, I'm Toys and Plan Toys. They only choose toys they ensure are safe and have been tested within approved guidelines. They particularly like colorful wooden toys and find that these classic toys are very popular at the moment.

Alexander Girard

**They are a delight for collectors,
these wooden dolls.**

www.girard.houseind.com



They are a delight for collectors, these wooden dolls from Alexander Girard. Girard (1907–1993) is famous for lively patterned and rich textile designs. He had a deep interest in the folk art of South America, Eastern Europe and Asia, and was inspired by traditional handcrafted artefacts. The palette, patterns and motifs that account for the distinctiveness of many of his designs can be traced back to these cultural roots.

A wooden play kitchen set, likely made of pine, featuring a fruit stand with shelves for fruit and jars, and a lower section with a fruit basket and a cupcake. The fruit stand has a curved top and a small shelf with a yellow box of 'Fruit & Veg' and several fruit. Below this are four small drawers. The lower section has a fruit basket filled with fruit and a cupcake with chocolate frosting and three chocolate chips.



A wooden tea set featuring a teapot and four cups, each adorned with a red cherry. The cups are placed on small wooden saucers, some with cinnamon sticks and tea bags. The set is arranged on a light-colored surface.

Tom-Toys

www.madcattoys.com





Tom-Toys are handmade of hard, smoothly polished beech wood in a workshop near Saxony — the birthplace of wooden toy production in Germany. Typical of all the Tom-Toys, the classic toys shown offer the best-of-class in design, materials and workmanship and each has a timeless appeal that will please any child or collector.



Each is handmade in a small workshop near the mountainous Erzgebirge area of Germany and are ready for highway transport or off-road action.



Rockin Choppers are built with cabinet grade plywood and poplar dowels. Rockin likes the idea of taking an ordinary material like plywood and making something extraordinary out of it. The seats are upholstered with real leather which they can do in a variety of colors to compliment the finish on the Choppers.

www.rockinchoppers.com

Momoll Toys

www.momoll.com



MOMOLL designs and produces modern wooden toys for children. Toys with a strong Scandinavian design influence are reduced to the essential, minimalist and are pure in form and color. Momoll provides children with some time to themselves to be able to relive their favorite stories again and again or to flip through well-worn pages or tune into their iPod. Parents appreciate quality of the children's furniture that also looks up to date. Momoll toys create an acoustically and visually protected nest for storytime and make-believe. Each toy features easy-to-wash exchangeable upholstery. Every design has age-appropriate arm and back rests.



HABA TOYS

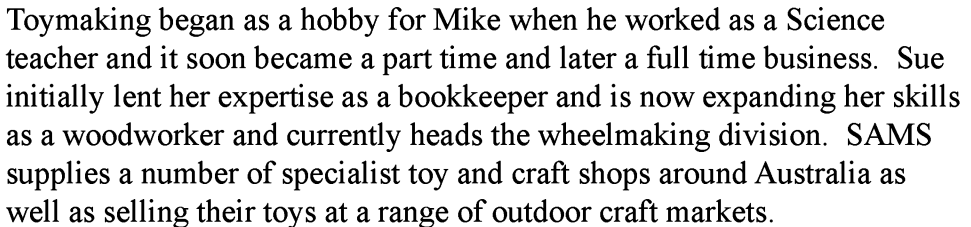
www.haba.de

Haba is a wood toymaker known for their high quality baby and children's toys as well as children's games and furniture. Haba is a single source supplier for children and is expanding their product portfolio beyond wood products using the same high quality standards for which their wood toys are known. HABA products may be found in well-stocked toy stores around the globe.



These thoughtfully designed blocks offer curious children a variety of sensory activities. One block rattles, another has a child-friendly mirror, the next offers a kaleidoscope, another has a red push-button, and the last block has a bell that chimes gently with baby's touch. The blocks are made of hard wood and finished with completely non-toxic, child-friendly paints and finishes.

www.samscrafts.com



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John M. Linck

Fine hardwood toys built in Illinois

www.woodentoy.com



John Michael Linck says fine woodworking has been his living for the past 32 years and a family tradition for more than a century, starting with John's great grandfather in the Black Forest. Upon completing his cabinetmaking apprenticeship he sailed to America in 1867. Here he taught and worked with his son, John's grandfather. John see the results of their partnership in the ornate wood interiors of many churches and public buildings in his home town, Danville, Illinois. One hundred years later, he continues their tradition in fine hardwood toys.

Ray Kendrick

Fine hardwood toys built in Florida

www.woodentoy.com



Orlando Sentinel says that Ray Kendrick works six days a week through the heat of summer in his Orlando toy-making workshop with only a fan to provide a breeze. He has a Christmas deadline and there are no elves or a Santa Claus to help him meet it. Kendrick 74, makes toys year round.

He spends his days creating wooden cars, milk trucks and small, old-school crayon boxes in the hope of bringing a smile to thousands of abused, homeless and sick children in Central Florida. Last year he made more than 3,100 toys for needy children.

Petra Toys

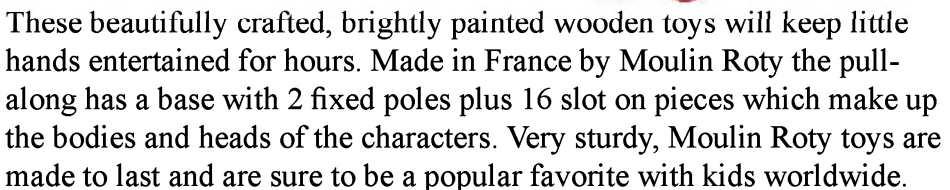
Fine hardwood toys built in Europe

www.petratoysusa.com



Petra Toys markets a wide range of top quality push-pull wood toys in addition to a complete line of collector and educational toys.

www.moulinroty.fr



North Star Toys

The most wonderful activity on the planet.

www.northstartoys.com



Since 1978 the North Star Toys family has been making quality, non-toxic wooden toys at affordable prices for the modern family. Walnut, oak, alder and other fine woods are handcrafted into smooth, durable designs and rubbed with a non-toxic oil to allow the natural beauty to shine. Recycled materials are used whenever possible and top priority is given to environmental sustainability.

At North Star Toys it is believed that conscious parenting is one of the most wonderful and challenging responsibilities on the planet. It is their hope to support this important endeavor by offering simple toys that stimulate creative, imaginative play. They truly care about the toys we make and hope that they add to the nurturing experiences of childhood.

Children deserve beautiful, functional toys. Northstar Toys provides the best toys possible followed up with responsive service. Their toys reflect a personal warmth and bring pleasure to each of their customers.

Eva Toys

Whimsical wood toys from China.

www.eva-toys.en.made-in-china.com



We are the EVA Toys Factory, a subsidiary of the Wenzhou Times Co. Ltd group. Established in 1995, we are located in Jiaoyang Industrial Zone of Taishun County, Zhejiang Province. Currently, our facilities cover an area of more than 10, 000 square meters, and we employ 500 full-time employees, including 10 designers.



Strawberry Toys

Karen sells wood toys to Moms through parties, fairs and charity events.

www.strawberrychildrenstoys.co.uk



Strawberry Children's Toys is run by Karen, a mom of two from Brighton, East Sussex. She's been running the company since Spring 2004 selling good quality attractive educational and traditional wooden toys through party plan, fairs and charity events.

The events she attends are high quality and well organized including many with a cafe, ample parking and creche facilities. When she attends these events Strawberry Children's Toys donates a percentage of their takings to the organizers chosen charity. Last year these included NSPCC, British Red Cross and Action Medical Research. Karen is very proud that Strawberry Children's Toys is now a member of the Charity Fairs Association.

During the first year Karen was asked to produce a catalog or start a website. She decided on the website which she hopes will provide some great gift ideas for her customers.

Mississippi Playhouses

High quality from the Old South.

www.msplayhouseco.com



Mississippi Playhouses founded their company with a simple idea based on traditional family values and quality craftsmanship. Each uniquely designed playhouse is handcrafted by Rick and Debbie Collins there in McComb MS to provide a high quality product at an affordable price. Each playhouse is virtually perfect in its construction and designed with the customer in mind to provide generations of enjoyment. They offer custom built playhouses constructed to only the highest standards, just like a real home. Not a kit, these little houses are delivered to the customer completely assembled and ready for use.

PlayMor Toys

The most amazing play yachts.

www.playmorswingsets.com



Play Mor says that the little sailors in the family will be overjoyed to clamber aboard the Youngster's Yacht from Play Mor Swing Sets. Once on board they will find plenty of room in which to occupy themselves. Above deck the crew can shoot marbles or play jacks on the spacious front deck while the watchful skipper carefully guides the vessel from the Captain's Booth on the upper deck.

On the front deck a 12' Gang Plank, 10' slide, 5' Hanging Bridge, or 5' Ladder tightly fits the two standard openings. A 14' Scoop Wave Slide or Turbo Tube Slide helps nicely equip the standard opening on the upper deck (7' level).



One Step Ahead

Outdoor toys for infants and toddlers.

www.onestepahead.com



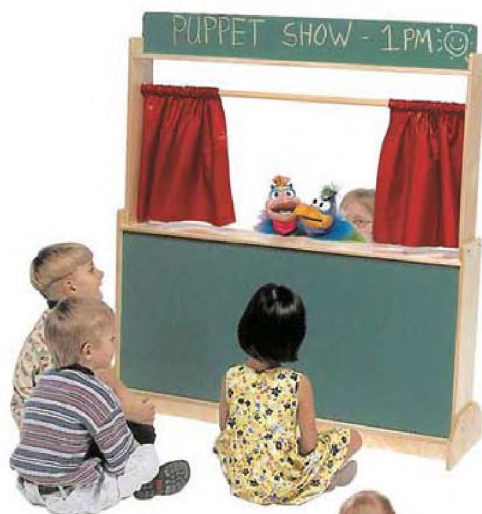
The woodcrafting company Chelsea & Scott literally is a parent company. It was founded by two real life parents, Karen and Ian Scott, who wanted the best for their own children. The Scotts traded in careers to pursue their vision of a different kind of baby company.

One Step Ahead subjects its products to tough, hands on testing, by both professional merchandisers and an independent Parents' Panel. One that does the comparison shopping up front, and then offers only the top performers. One that tracks down innovative, hard-to-find helpers and when they can't be found, has its Design Team create them from scratch.

Steffy Toys

Classic toys for schools and nurseries.

www.steffywood.com



The Steffy line of children's toys and furniture combines practical design with quality workmanship that builds to last. Each item is designed for rugged play and is ideal for the classroom or playground.

Big Boy Toys

Affordable mahogany wood vehicles.

www.mahoganymodels.com



Mahogany Models offers a fine selection of high quality, affordable wooden models of military and civilian aircraft, helicopters, tanks, rockets, cars and motorcycles for the enthusiast or collector. All wooden models are unique handmade creations and are hand carved out of mahogany and imported from Southeast Asia. The high gloss finish reflects the beauty of the woods natural color and texture, which gives each hard wood model an individual high class look. These wooden models will add a touch of class to any room of your home or office and make a great gift. You really must see the models in person to truly experience their great detail and beauty each piece is truly a work of art. The company is so sure that customers will be happy their purchases are backed by a satisfaction guarantee.



Nova Natural

By Konrad Keller Holzspielwaren.

www.novanatural.ws



Nova Natural focuses on children's well-being is at the center of their work. Toys should further children's inner development allowing them to express moods and feelings freely and have an open-ended experience. They take seriously their responsibility to bring items on the market that stimulate free play. To quote Joan Salter from her book *The Incarnating Child*: The little boy or girl who loves a special doll, caring for it tenderly, singing a lullaby as it is put to bed, is the adult who will be the loving, caring parent, nurse, doctor or welfare worker. The child who is able to solve challenging situations when he becomes a rescuing hero with his fire engine will be the adult able to resolve difficulties in the office, laboratory or factory, and rescue the work situation. Play prepares the future, and playthings and the play environment provide the opportunity for this.



Maris Peics

is among world's top toy designers.

www.basltic-course.com



The Baltic Course says that Varis construction sets designed by Latvian Maris Peics are now placed among such well-known and loved toys and games as Lego bricks, Barbie dolls, Teddy Bear plush toys, Playmobil toys, the Settlers of Catan board game, Nintendo Game Boy game consoles, Rubik's Cubes and many others. The book *Toy Design* is published by Braun Publishing AG, and was written by architect Chris van Uffele. The book presents the world's current 115 top toys, based on uniqueness of design, product quality, and historical development of toys with long traditions and history.

The origins of Varis Toys go back to the founding of the company Saime in 1988. Saime produced various wood products for export. In 2000 it became Varis Toys and devoted its activity to the production of wooden toys. All products are sold with the trademark Varis. The company has received several awards in both Germany and Latvia.

Wonderworld

Smart Gear's unique toys are high quality.

www.smartgeartoys.com



Smart Gear says that the Smart Gear Wonderworld Hopping Bunny Walker and Fire Engine Walker are great ways for crawlies to take those first steps. As they push the Hopping Bunny Walker forward they can watch the 2 bunnies hopping up and down with tapping sounds in rhythm to the movement. A special feature of the Smart Gear Walkers is a unique wheel-friction system that helps to control the speed of the walker so the child doesn't fall as easily. The control can be set to slow down the speed when the child is young and unstable and changed for faster speed as a child develops.

Vilac Cool Cars

Sleek, highly varnished wood toys.

www.revilotoys.co.uk



Toy retailers are crazy about Vilac's new range of cars. They think the kids will like them too. The cars are all sleek lines, highly varnished, tactile, and are great for pushing along and imagining being a racing driver. They and look pretty amazing when just sitting around between playtimes.

Petit Flaneur

Whimsical artistic wooden toy blocks.

www.petitflaneur.com



Petit Flaneur provides hand crafted children's products such as toys, art and clothing. Their focus is on quality design using natural materials that are locally sourced and produced.

Petit Flaneur also provides custom design services in the areas of product, graphic and packaging design. Petit Flaneur's slogan is: Crafting wonder into the lives of young and old.

Sassy Earth Brights

Inspired by nature.

www.mahoganymodels.com



Sassy is inspired by nature and Sassy Earth Brights™ include a variety of rattles with nature themes such as Spring Bouquet, Wooden Dove, Lil' Twig Rattle and Cherry Tree Rattle. The line also includes a cuddly doll in boy or girl colors and a trio of soft photo frames clipped together on a wooden ring. Because of their unique developmental properties, Sassy Earth Brights™ will remain a special keepsake, long after baby has grown to adulthood.

Playwood Toys

Riding toys with style, safety and value.

www.playwoodtoys.com



Playwood Toys aims to provide customers with quality products that will last for years and years, providing a lifetime of fun and memories. It is of particular concern to them that all their toys are crafted from woods sourced from sustainable forests. Equally important is the safety of each toy and they make sure that all paints and varnishes used on their products are totally non-toxic and CE approved.

Norbert Verneuer

Good toys should not be disposable.

www.verneuer-shop.de

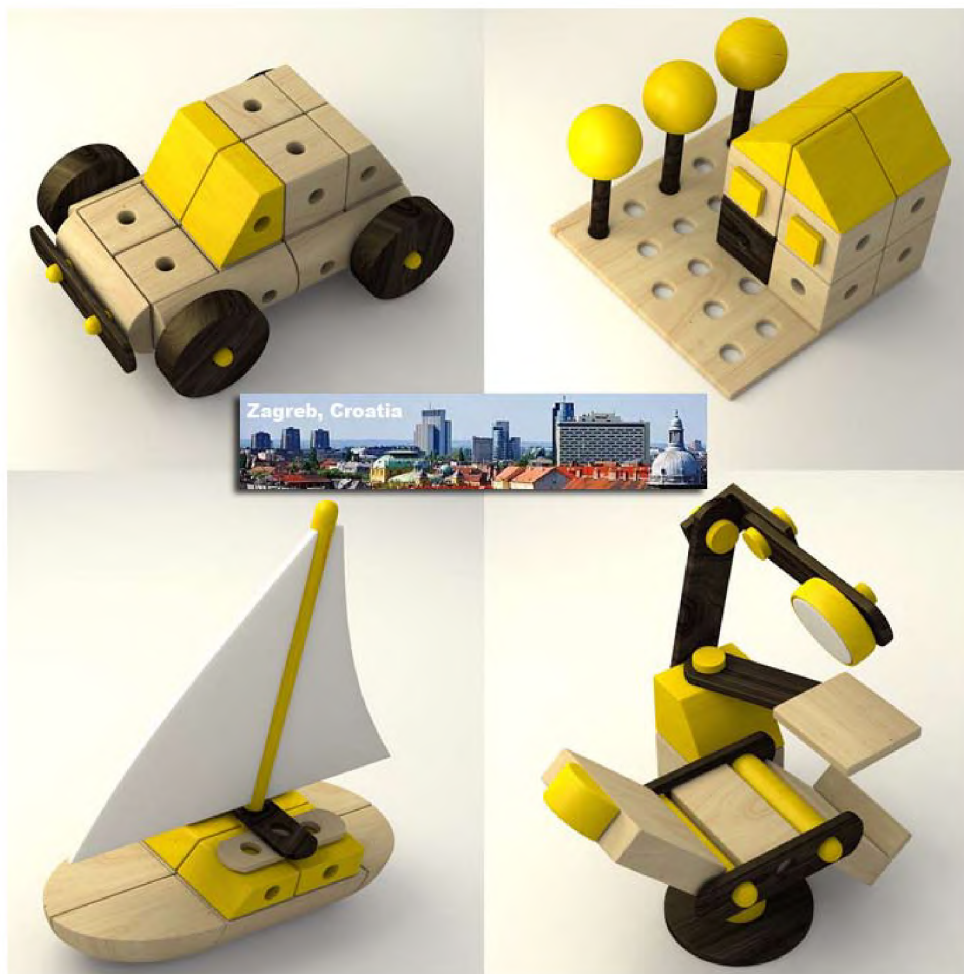


Norbert Verneuer uses only domestic woods such as spruce, pine, beech, alder found in their immediate vicinity. The design for manufacturing of their toys is derived from these trees found in nature. The rounded and curved shapes of the toys encourage the creative thinking of a child more than just edged forms. The treatment of the surfaces is natural oils, waxes and colored glaze. The surface retains its natural texture and is soft by touch. Toy safety is insured with planning and processing of the highest priority. All products comply with EN-71 safety regulations for toys.

Designer Hendrih

Trendy and timeless wood toys from Zagreb.

www.studio-hendrih.hr



Hendrih works in Zagreb is the beautiful capital and the largest city of the Republic of Croatia. It is situated in the northwest of the country, along the Sava river, at the southern slopes of the Medvednica mountain. In 2008 the population of Zagreb was 804,200. Zagreb's favorable geographic position in the southwestern part of the Pannonian Basin, which extends to the Alpine, Dinaric, Adriatic and Pannonic regions, provides an excellent connection for traffic between Central Europe and the Adriatic Sea.

Playme Toys

Happy playing. Happy learning.

www.playmetoys.com



Playme Toys motto is Happy playing! Happy learning! They hope that children can learn and liberate their creativity when playing. To create the value of playing they integrate fun and education into our product design. It is the most precious thing that children can grow up happily with their toys. When Playme sees the bright smile on the naive face of children and find the learning and creativity from them, the value of PlayMe has surpassed the toy itself. The products of PlayMe are not only objects to the children. The toys play the role of companion, helper and education instrument. The toys are an unforgettable experience and their memory.



I'm Toys

Creating excitement and engagement.

www.playwoodtoys.com



Distributed in the UK by wooden toy supplier Marbel, I'm Toys is a family run company with over 20 years experience in developing high quality wooden and fabric children's toys.

All I'm toys are designed to aid the child's mental, physical and social development while offering excitement, amazement and interest time and again with each of their toys and use sustainable rubber-wood, natural paints and finishes, I'm Toys have a strong environmental policy and strict safety regulations, passing the latest American (ASTM) and European (En71) tests.

I'm Toys strive to push the boundaries of creativity, environmental toy manufacture, production processes and safety standards while being an active force within the toy industry.

Tag Toys Mission

Is developing intelligence in children.

www.verneuer-shop.de



TAG (Think And Grow) was established in 1976 in response to the lack of materials available to train intellectual deficits among children with learning disabilities. Dr. Lawrence Mestyanek, the founder earned two separate Masters degrees in Psychotherapy and Educational Psychology as well as a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. His wife Judy, daughter Barbara Villafana, son-in-law Javier Villafana and nephew, Erik Wilson form the heart of the business management team.



ImagiPLAY

Inspiring exploration and imagination.

www.imagiplay.com



*Barbera Aimes
Founder/President*

Founder and President Barbera Aimes offers children toys that represent her true passion: the planet. In her mid thirties, she found that the natural beauty of Boulder, Colorado was the ideal place to call home, establish her business, and create a positive change for the people around her. "All my life I've wanted to leave this earth a beneficial legacy.

If there is one thing I can leave on this earth, it would be to help children appreciate our world."

Through the language of play, Barbera and ImagiPLAY have inspired children to discover the world on their own terms and communicate with the environment. With ImagiPLAY's child and earth safe toys, games and collectibles, children enrich their ability to count, learn the alphabet, and identify different animals while gaining a true sense of the world's beauty and diversity of species.



Boikido Wooden Toys

Champions of active, self-driven play.



Boikido Wooden Toys launched their full line of imaginative wooden toys at the New York Toy Fair and was exhibiting at the ABC Kids Expo (Booth #1530) in September 2009. Based in France, Boikido champions active, self-driven play for kids in lieu of more passive, electronic toys and games. Their fresh approach to an old classic offers parents and young kids a wide variety of musical, educational and toddlers toys, along with a newly developed eco-friendly line of wooden toys, painted in whimsical colors and patterns.

Ole Søndergaard

Childlike joy helps Ole forget time and place.

www.wooden-toys.cz



Plane is a simple wooden aeroplane for children of all ages designed by the Danish graphic designer Ole Søndergaard. In the summer of 2005 Ole Søndergaard wrote the following in his diary: "Above me, in the distance can be heard the sound of the engine of a little sports plane. It is summer and the air is completely still. The sky is a brilliant blue and as always I am drawn when I see a plane in the sky. With an almost childlike joy I can permanently forget both time and place and soar up into the wide blue yonder". This extremely simplistic, minimalistic and almost symbolic approach to product design is a characteristic trait of Ole Søndergaard.

Noverin Toys

Wood is a living and beautiful medium.

www.noverin.com

Noferin says that wood has a weight to it with a true sense of solidity. Wood is living. It has grain, pits and pores and is a beautiful medium to work with. Not only that, if the right wood is sourced it is a truly sustainable resource. Noferin utilizes wood from the rubber tree. Rubber trees are grown for their latex but after around 20 years their latex yields start to diminish. At this time the wood is often burned in huge piles on the rubber farm. Noferin saves this beautiful wood from the fires and uses it to create their wooden toys.



PINTOY

Beautiful, traditional and fun wood toys.

www.pintoys.com



The John Crane brand covers a wide range of products for children and families including PINTOY toys baby products, children's games, gift items and children's furniture. Designed to combine beauty, educational value, enjoyment, safety, functionality and durability PINTOY toys are tested using the thorough European toy safety standard EN71 to ensure physical and mechanical safety, freedom from hazardous lead and heavy metal migration.

PINTOY products are manufactured in Thailand using rubberwood from latex plantations. The trees are removed for replanting when they no longer produce enough latex. The wood is then recovered as a by-product. Studies show that rubber plantations can be as efficient as natural forest in removing carbon-dioxide from the air by converting it into rubber latex and wood products like children's toys and furniture.

Voila Wood Toys

Designed to stimulate imaginations.

www.koertoy.com



This Viola playset provides you with two dolls wearing removable vests with hoods, a wide array of camping equipment, and a sturdy vehicle that can transport the dolls and equipment on adventurous camping trips. The equipment includes a tent, a mat, a reversible sleeping bag, a pillow, a folding chair, a boat with paddles, a versatile table, a barbeque, a portable stove with a pot and a kettle, a lantern, a basket with small flask and 2 soft drink cans, a fishing rod, fish, a water bottle, a camera, a telescope, a guitar, a backpack and a cap. The car has a removable canopy that can hold equipment and can be secured on the roof during transportation.

Voila castle block sets provide hours of creative play that stimulates the imagination with role-playing and story telling.



Vitool Viraponsvan

Preserving the environment with toys.

www.plantoys.com



The successful Thai company PlanToys creates toys that inspire the imagination as well as promote children's physical and intellectual development. Intrinsic to each toy design and production are eco-friendly principles, materials and processes.

Founder Viraponsavan says that almost three decades ago Plan Creations Co Ltd was founded by a small group of dedicated people determined to create safe, high-quality toys for children. They believed that their efforts would be of value not just to youngsters but to the whole society. Even though they were just a small organization and realized that they could not change the world they believed that with positive thinking and action and through producing environmentally sound products they could lead their young company to sustainable growth for the benefit of all.

Over the years their simple belief in positive thinking has not changed. In fact the word “positive” has become a cornerstone of the philosophy that has actually enhanced growth. Today PlanToys products and performance meet and exceed every international standard for toy safety.

www.plantoys.com



Harold Blair

Elegant Shaker style wood toys.

www.traditionalcraftsman.org



Harold Blair's Child's Shaker Style Rocking Horse is made from reclaimed Long Leaf Pine. It is patterned after an original piece located in the Shaker Colony at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.



The pine used to construct this piece is more than 150 years old. As with his other child pieces, only portions of the rocking horse was constructed with hand tools as opposed to all hand tool construction in his traditional furniture. Harold has chosen to use some power tools in order to keep the price of the children's furniture as low as possible while still retaining my tradition of quality workmanship. The rocking horse is finished with 6 coats of hand rubbed, non-toxic tung oil.

Enzo Mari

Italian designer of classic wood toys.

www.moma.org



Born in Novara, Italy in 1932, Enzo Mari studied classics and literature at the Academia di Brera in Milan from 1952 to 1956. As a student Mari supported himself by working as a visual artist and freelance researcher. In a period when Italian design was flourishing as enlightened industrialists collaborated closely with designers to rebuild their businesses, he also became interested in toy design and painstakingly taught himself about it.

Mari's approach to design was predominantly theoretical. He was more concerned with its role in contemporary culture and relationship with the user than with becoming a design practitioner. After graduating in 1956 he opened a studio in Milan to continue his studies of the psychology of vision, systems of perception and design methodologies. These studies took physical form when Mari created three-dimensional models of linear elements and planes. Forced to earn a living, Mari made contact with the Italian plastic products manufacturer Danese and agreed to develop a series of mass-manufactured products like this wonderful puzzle toy.

Jacob Jensen

Classic Danish Viking wood toys.

www.jacobjensenholding.com



The prolific and versatile Danish designer Jacob Jensen is a superstar of Scandinavian industrial design. As head designer at Bang & Olufsen he has played a paramount role in advancing the design of their audio equipment ensuring since the 1960s that it has been as stunning to look at as it is technically sophisticated. Born in Copenhagen in 1926 Jacob Jensen attended the School for the Applied Arts in Copenhagen until 1952 before working as an industrial designer from 1952 until 1958 in the practice of Bernadotte & Björn.

In 1959 Jacob Jensen went to the US where he and Richard Latham established a design practice in Chicago. During his Chicago period Jacob Jensen also taught industrial design at the University of Chicago. In 1961 Jacob Jensen returned to Copenhagen and opened a practice of his own there. From 1964 Jacob Jensen was head designer at Bang & Olufsen.

Kelly Harrigan

Award winning modular wood toys.

www.linkedin.com



A palm-sized modular toy created by Kelly Harrigan of Manassas, Va., a fourth-year industrial design student in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech, has been awarded a design patent, announced Virginia Tech Intellectual Properties Inc. www.vtip.org (VTIP).

The toy, named Ferra, won first place last year from Swiss Toymaker Naef Spielzeug. Naef asked for game or design objects appropriate for ages 3 to 99, made primarily of wood. There were 107 entries in the company's inaugural toy competition.

Harrigan layered the wooden shapes of her toy with magnets "because people are fascinated by them at any age," she said. "I wanted to design a toy that makes you want to experiment and learn about the capabilities of magnetism." The name, Ferra, came from the type of magnet she used. It is a ceramic magnet called ferrite.

She also wanted to create something modular, she said. "The curvy modular design allows for smooth movement between pieces and the opportunity to create several configurations," said Harrigan. "And it feels good in your palm."

Korean Edtoy

Wood and magnetic toys stimulate touch.

www.edtoy.net



Edtoy wooden magnetic tools and cubes are safe and fun to play with. By designing and building their own three-dimensional objects using Edtoy blocks kids are able to hone this spatial perception when they have to decide on the sizes, colors, positions and directions of the blocks to build their intended models, forms and shapes.

The variety of colors and texture of the wooden material used help stimulate kids' senses of sight and touch.



Timberkits

Automated toy models you build yourself.

www.timberkits.com



No special knowledge or skills needed-just a little patience in following the drawings and not minding a dab of glue here and there. After you have made the model you can paint and varnish it and then try a more difficult one. Making a Timberkit is to step into the whole world of Automata. Wonderful moving models and scenes. It is an art form in which you can appreciate the magic of mechanical action and a fascinating education for children and adults of all ages. In these safety conscious electronic times most of the mechanisms we are dependent on are well hidden so we never get to see how things work. Assemble the wooden cams, push rods, levers and cranks and understand what makes it all tick.

Brinca Dada

Beautiful doll houses for the design minded.

www.brincadada.com



Brinka Dada is a team of people who believe that toys don't need to be noisy or flashy to be exciting. Toys shouldn't be marked "For Display Only" either. Toys should be beautiful and fun. That's why they design toys that parents love to look at and children love to play with.

About Douglas Rollins, Founder: As a teenager sitting in 9th grade German class, Doug's instructor, Herr Johnson, informed the students that Doug has great ideas and someday people are going to listen to him. He's still waiting for that day to come. In the meantime, he founded Brinca Dada to bring together his love of design and toys. He enjoys reading, riding his Vespa and wrestling with his kids. He lives in New York City with his wife and their three children.

About Tim Boyle, Co-Founder: Tim is an extremely talented architect and has worked with a number of award-winning architecture firms, most recently with Sawyer/Berson. Tim loves great architecture and demonstrates that dollhouses can be as highly designed as real houses.

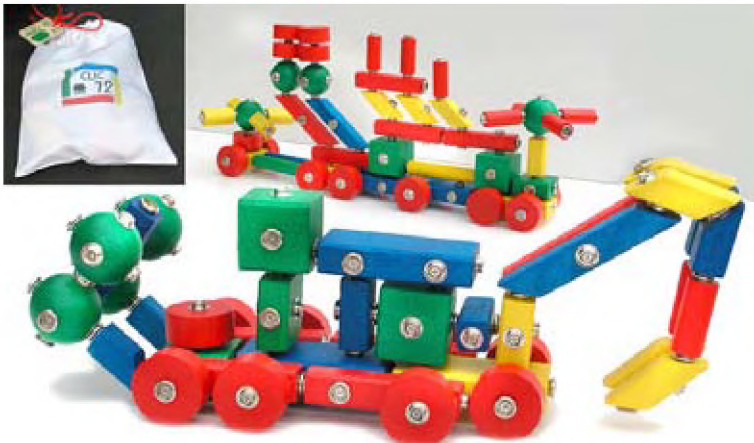
Il Leccio

Italian wood magnetic construction toys.

www.illeccio.com



Il Lecio toymakers have been in this field since 1975. Children have always been their point of reference when designing new products. It is on the child that they focus their attention and especially when it comes to toys for infants. The range currently comprises of about seventy products, all of which have been designed within their group. The toys can be purchased from the best stores, both in Italy at the Group of Sun City Center and educational games, and abroad in Europe, Japan, and the U.S.



Kurt Naef

60 years of championing wood toys.

www.naefusa.com



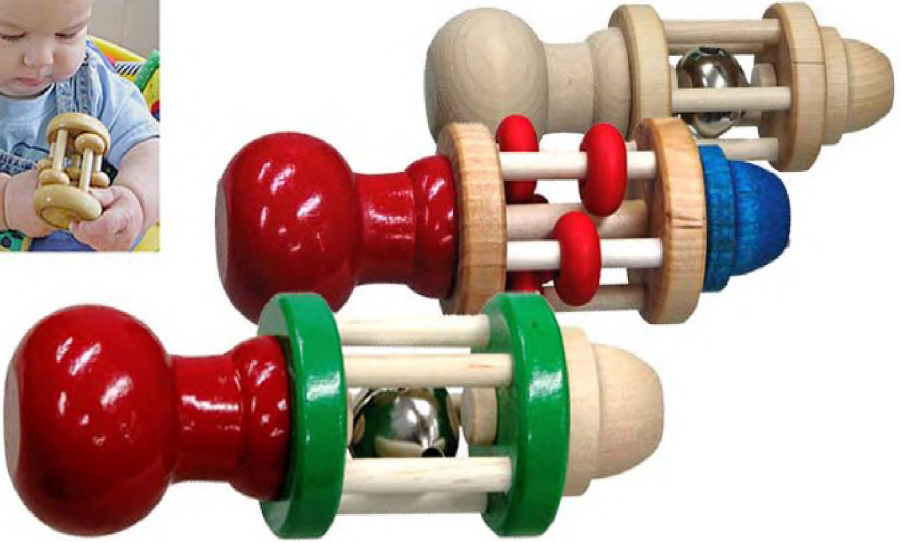
Kurt Naef devoted over 60 years of his life championing wood as an ideal material for manufacturing consumer products. He began his life journey with wood as an apprenticed carpenter and later as a designer of numerous wooden toys. His elegantly beautiful wooden toys made him famous all over the world. His road to success was long and winding. He was guided by various coincidences, encounters and changes that impacted his life.



Maple Landmark

Classic heirloom infant's rattles.

www.maplelandmark.net



Maple Landmark's classic Montgomery Schoolhouse classic heirloom rattles are made from select hardwoods, colored in bright non-toxic finishes, they are one of infant's first educational experiences. Each of the designs stimulates in its own way with bells, beads or disks. Four designs measure each about 5-3/4" long. Great for mother and baby play time. And four mini's measure about 2-1/2" long. Perfect in size for a newborn's fingers. All are attractively gift boxed.



WoodToyShop

The stay at home toymaker Dad.

www.woodtoyshop.com



Wood Toy Shop LLC founder is now a stay-at-home dad/toymaker and have found that to be the most fun and rewarding experience of his life. He gets a lot of help from his two daughters, ages 8 and 11.

Most of the wood he uses is scrap from nearby lumber mills and cabinet shops. The pieces he uses are usually pretty small so there is not much waste. What's left is used for kindling. The wood sourced for the rubber band powered boats is recycled decking from a deck rebuild project he did a couple of years ago.

All of the toys are sanded smooth by hand. Corners and edges are rounded off by sanding to make them smooth and splinter free. He tries to minimize the impact on the environment of making my toys. He uses 100% renewable energy from Pacific Power's Blue Sky program and all the power used at WoodToyShop is from Wind, Solar or Biomass.

Arcurio

German craftsmanship and premium wood.

www.arcurio.com



Handmade in Germany, Arcurio's limited edition Cadillac and Horch 853 are crafted in a scale of 1:12 according to the company's original plans. Five different types of premium European woods are used including Alder, Ash, Beech, Pine and Maple. The wood is left completely natural using only olive oil and wax to finish each model with no paint or other chemicals. And all 108 parts are individually hand assembled with great care and perfection to ensure each wood grain matches the next.

Wood Garden Toys

Handcrafted with love in the home workshop.

www.etsy.com/TheWoodGarden



This is a husband and wife team who have always been creative. In fact, they met in high school art class. When their first son was small, Chris started making wooden trucks for him and quickly fell in love with woodworking and creating wooden toys. He bought more tools and made it his hobby. They started selling the toys at craft shows under the name CB (Canadian Built) Woodcrafts. They then heard about Etsy and decided to open up a shop there under a new name, The Wood Garden.

The line of natural wooden toys are handcrafted with love in their home workshop in Southern Ontario. The toys are made with wood from sustainably farmed hardwood trees. Only woods that meet Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management Standard are used. The finish is certified organic oils, and paints or dyes are never used. The toys possess the beautiful natural colors of the wood.

Wunderwagon

Fun hospital transportation for children.

www.wunderworkstoys.com



In today's healthcare environment the commitment to adapting medical care for all generations of patients, even the smallest children, is a priority. Providing wagons gives children a safe, familiar means of transportation within a hospital.

With their bright colors and pleasant designs, the Wunderwagon – HC was created specifically for use in healthcare settings.

Under the Green Roof

Nostalgic wood Jumping Jack toys.

www.underthegreenroof.com



These are Sock Monkeys that you can play with or display. The 19" tall Sock Monkey Jumping Jacks are handcrafted in a limited editions. Jumping jack toys have been around for centuries and sock monkeys have been around for a hundred years.

The Sock Monkey Jumping Jack works when the string is pulled and the arms and legs pivot up and down. The Jacks are fun hung on the wall as a decorative display.

LeToyVan

Handmade wood toys and kid's furniture.

www.letoyvan.com



What would a doll's house for a princess look like? The people at Le Toy Van think they know the answer and have designed this pretty pink Twinkle Tower for Princess Amelia Budkin to live in. With a furnished kitchen on the first floor, living room on the second floor and bedroom on the third floor, the tower contains everything a modern princess needs to keep her entertained while she waits for her handsome prince.



Frank Arnett

Fun, educational handcrafted wood toys.



Frank Arnett has been handcrafting wood toys for over 30 years. He started making toys when recovering in the hospital as a young man. The hospital staff was a little taken back by the chips and sawdust he created in his room but he persisted. His love for toys continues to grow and he now has a thriving business and a faithful band of followers. Frank sells his toys at Crafts Fairs and Shows. His favorite part of toymaking is presenting his latest product at the Fairs and visiting with toy fans.



Carlos Zapata

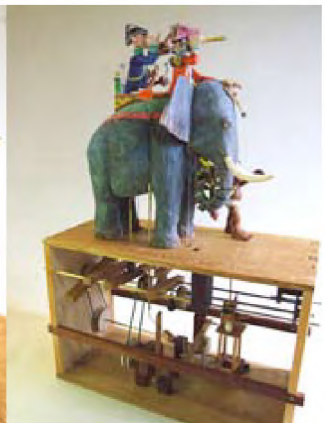
The Master Colombian automata toymaker.

www.carloszapataautomata.com



Carlos was born in Colombia in 1963. The Visual Arts have always captured his imagination and over many years he has been especially drawn to Folk and Tribal Arts from all over the world. Carlos is a self-taught artist and while struggling to survive in London he found his own ways of expressing himself through painting, drawing and making things.

In the nineties he began making and selling his first automata, eventually enabling him to concentrate on creating new pieces full-time. Many of the ideas for his new works have evolved and been taken from his own personal life experience of living in a foreign country and in his home country where a civil war rages on relatively unseen by the outside world. His vibrant work is colorful and full of emotion.



Richard Glaesser

The artisanal wood toycrafting tradition.

A finished painted wooden Pope figurine and heads for nutcrackers stand among partially-painted figurines on the worktables at the Richard Glaesser GmbH wooden toy manufactory on November 30, 2009 in Seiffen, Germany. Seiffen, located in eastern Germany close to the Czech border in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge), has an artisanal wooden toy manufacturing tradition dating back to the 18th century. Today local toy producers, many of them family-run, export their hand-made ornaments, nutcrackers, Christmas pyramids, figurines and other toys worldwide.



Tegu Honduras

A humanitarian twist on the toy wood block.

www.tegu.com



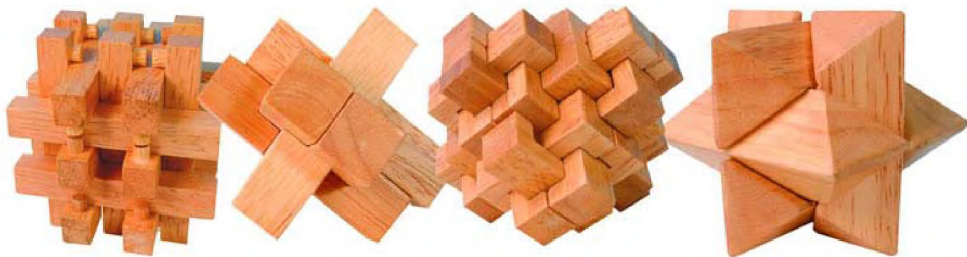
It started with a curiosity-driven question: What about a for-profit company based in Honduras that would create a positive social impact through its business? Chris asked that during a work trip to Honduras in May 2006 where he connected in Tegucigalpa with friends dedicated to a humanitarian project to a creative business founded to address unemployment, untapped natural and human resources and the need for entrepreneurship.



Russimco

Great mind-teaser wood puzzles.

www.gazebogames.co.uk



Russimco was established following a trip by two of the directors who are brothers, into Eastern Europe to buy toys. The company has grown steadily since 1990, acquiring Gazebo Games in 2002. Although they now have 26 members of staff it is still very much a family company,. Their priorities for customers is innovation, service and price.



Earthentree

Natural wood toys that are a work of art.

www.earthentree.com



The aim is simple. But the natural wooden toys are not just that. They are works of art, made from eco friendly materials to create safe toys that have a great story to tell. Earthentree believes in keeping costumers informed and knowledgeable, while making the toys fun and educational for children. They tell you about their safe, lead free toy toys because they take pride in them.

Each toy is handmade by an artisan community in India. They believe in crediting these artisans and their art and work hard to help sustain this particular art form by collaborating with them to consistently introduce new and innovative toys. And Earthentree has a unique story about every toy.

D and Me Wood Toys

Enter the World of creative playtime.

www.dandmewoodtoys.com



The oak carrying box contains all the tools the young carpenter needs to help with the building jobs around the house. There is a toy hammer, a screwdriver, a saw, a square, an old fashion hand drill, and 6 inch ruler. The first set was made when Their grand daughter was trying to help Dad with a house remodeling project. She was only two years old and really not ready for real tools. The Tool Kit was the answer. It was the perfect set for her to help with all the projects. All of the tools are made of walnut, maple, and oak, with a natural oil finish.



Woodworks LTD

Essential wood toy parts for the Toymaker.

www.craftparts.com



Woodworks has made a commitment to being the number one Wood Parts Company by supplying toymakers with the best quality at the lowest prices on small wood turnings and wood cut outs.

They started in a garage over 30 years ago and thanks to their customers and a great staff they are now in a

30,000 square foot building. Woodworks specializes in bulk pack bags of unfinished wood parts. Quantities range from 1 to 5,000 depending on the item you are ordering. Additional discounts may also be available on large volume & case quantity purchases.

They carry one of the largest selections of quality wood toymaking, craft, hobby, and woodworking supplies. If you are looking for wood parts, wood craft supplies, wood turnings, wood stampings, hardware, wire or jute, then Woodworks, Ltd. is your source. If you have a craft project or need an idea for a craft project, this is the place to visit for plugs, doll making supplies, pens, door hangers, toy wheels, small furniture parts and more.



Selecta Wood Toys

Playing has an essential role to play.

www.swelect-spielzeug.de



Everything in the life of a new-born baby is new, like seeing Mom and Dad, recognizing things around them, touching and comprehending, rolling a ball or standing on their own two feet for the first time. Each day generates many new impressions and experiences for the child in their social environment. Playing has an essential role to play. It provides a baby with lots of new information which is necessary for their development. Perception and motor abilities are trained. They master their own accomplishments bit by bit and, in this way conquer their own little world. Curiosity and a natural urge to play are the basis for knowledge and learning.

Carefully selected toys from Selecta encourage and accompany your child through this important and exciting time in which the parents can stand on the periphery but be active participants at the same time. For each development phase there is exactly the right toy to train and promote the senses and abilities of the child.



Janoschik Toys

Trendy, high quality German design.

www.exceptionaltoysusa.com



Janoschik competence in the area of wood design is based on lifelong experiences and good business connections. The decisive factors for their success are exquisite quality, high-quality design and an infallible feeling for new trends. Their unique toys and design objects are designed for play, fun and decoration.

All Janoschik products are made of indigenous woods, such as oak, beech and pine. They attach great importance to the fact that their toys are manufactured in line with the American CPSIA and the European Standard EN-71. All the products are made in Europe and the majority since 2008 are made in Germany.



F.M. Dales, Djeco

Frederick Michel Dales, toymaker of Paris.

www.moolka.com



Beautifully designed by Djeco in Paris, Creanimaux features 52 chunky, colorful, wooden blocks that are used to create a variety of animals including a hippopotamus, alligator, lion, tiger, zebra, elephant, giraffe, bear, rhinoceros, rooster, giraffe, and bear. Kids love mixing up the pieces and creating silly creatures. Creanimaux is constructed of solid wood coated with non-toxic, child-friendly paints and finishes. Also shown is the Matoudematata play set. Whoever said cats always land on their feet hasn't played this delightful stacking game. Kids who manage to pile all the cats and presents on top of the aunt without everything toppling over wins. Matoudematata comes with 1 aunt, 4 cats and 7 presents.

Djeco has been in the toy business for the past 50 years. The company was founded by the mother of the current owner, Frederick Michel Dales, who started out as a retailer of toys.

When Frederick took over the business in the 90s, he began with a goal; to create his own line of imaginative toys to sell to children all over the world. His idea quickly took off and today Djeco makes and distributes a multitude of toys, including blocks, puzzles, pull toys and mobiles, based on Dales' original designs.



Twig by Fatbrain

Building and constructing toys with freedom.
www.fatbraintoy.com



Fat Brain Toys produces a building set that really offers kids the freedom of exploring the-inside-and-the-out of fun designing. Playing with Twig is gratifying for a child's hands – and offers mental play that's exuberant. Wondering what makes Twig blocks so special? It's not the green conscious design and packaging, the colors, or even the shapes, it's the child's hands and mind in concert with the finest materials creating amazing structures. Equally appealing in the playroom, in the office, or on the coffee table, Twig is design for everyone.

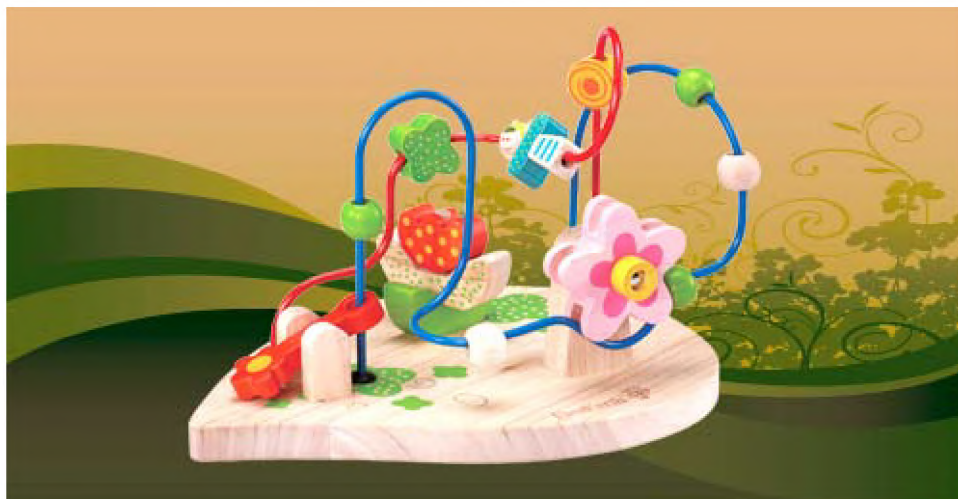


Fat Brain Toys began as a little garage startup in 2002. Husband and wife team Mark & Karen Carson have grown their company into one of the largest independent retailers of specialty toys in the country.

Maxim EverEarth

Tread lightly for the safety of our Earth.

www.maximenterprise.com



Tread lightly. Simpler words have never been more meaningful. Maxim believes that those who have the ability should have the moral fortitude to act accordingly and do what is right. To Maxim that means taking the necessary steps to lessen our impact on the environment. They do this not only for their own benefit but for the benefit of future generations to come. For over 45 years Maxim has been leading the way in quality wood manufacturing.



The EverEarth line of toys has taken the Green process one step further and was created keeping not only the safety of the earth in mind but also the safety of the children. The line is kid-safe, eco friendly, and manufactured with wood taken from renewable forests as well as recycled rubber tree wood. Maxim also takes care to use water based paints that contain a minimum of chemicals.



Barclay Toy Blocks

Build with your children.

www.barclaywoods.com



Barclay kits for individuals are balanced to give children the blocks that are appropriately designed for various ages. These kits have a wide range of pieces in order to build progressively more complicated structures.

Barclay feels that most people with younger children will benefit from buying a starter kit and then adding to it over the years rather than trying to buy all of the necessary blocks at the same time.

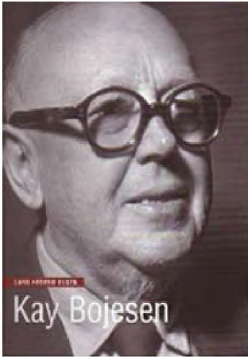


It's particularly helpful if parents build with their children in order to understand their challenges in building. Barclay sells Booster Kits and Open Stock to allow kit customization. Any combination of pieces is possible. Barclay also supplies American made Alphabet blocks in a large range of languages.

Kay Bojesen

Famous Danish Toymaker since 1922.

www.kayb.dk



Kay Bojesen's interest in designing wood toys was first displayed publicly in 1922 at the Landsforeningen Dansk Arbejde contest. The contest was established in 1908 with the aim of promoting Danish commodity production and marketing of Danish products in Denmark and abroad.

From the beginning the association organized exhibitions and offered lists of Danish goods to world markets. The association's logo has always been used by manufacturers and consumers as a guarantee that a product is manufactured in Denmark. Bojesen received awards for a road roller, a soldier on horseback, a boat and a see-saw.

But it wasn't until the 1930's that his toy production really took off and it was immense both in the quality and in the number of toys produced. Above are historic samples of his work.

GoGo Toys

Professional Toymakers from Taiwan.

www.hktdc.com



GOGO Toys Co., Ltd. was founded in 2003 as a professional wooden toy manufacturer in Taiwan. GoGo offers a wide variety of top-quality toys including traditional toys and new models with fresh and innovative designs.

From baby-toys, blocks, puzzles, games, tool play set to any pre-school toys, GoGo does their best to meet customer needs. Any special designs for OEM or ODM are welcomed. Featured is an innovative ball track playset in vibrant colors. It is comprised of 4 playful levels with turbo tracks that allow the balls to glide around for added fun. This ball track playset is a great education in a creative race car assembly toy.



Pencil Stencil

Mark Giglio designs new lathe-turned toys.

www.penpencilstencil.com



Pen Pencil Stencil is the studio and workspace of designer Mark Giglio. Originally from Southern California, Mark grew up drawing, painting, skateboarding and surfing. Currently he lives and works in Oakland, California. Beginning as a designer at Cahan and Associates, Mark has since had the opportunity to work on projects with a diverse mix of companies, such as Apple, Dell, Nike, Tolleson Design, and others.



Blue Ribbon Toys

Quality toycrafting from central Thailand.

www.blueribbon-toys.com



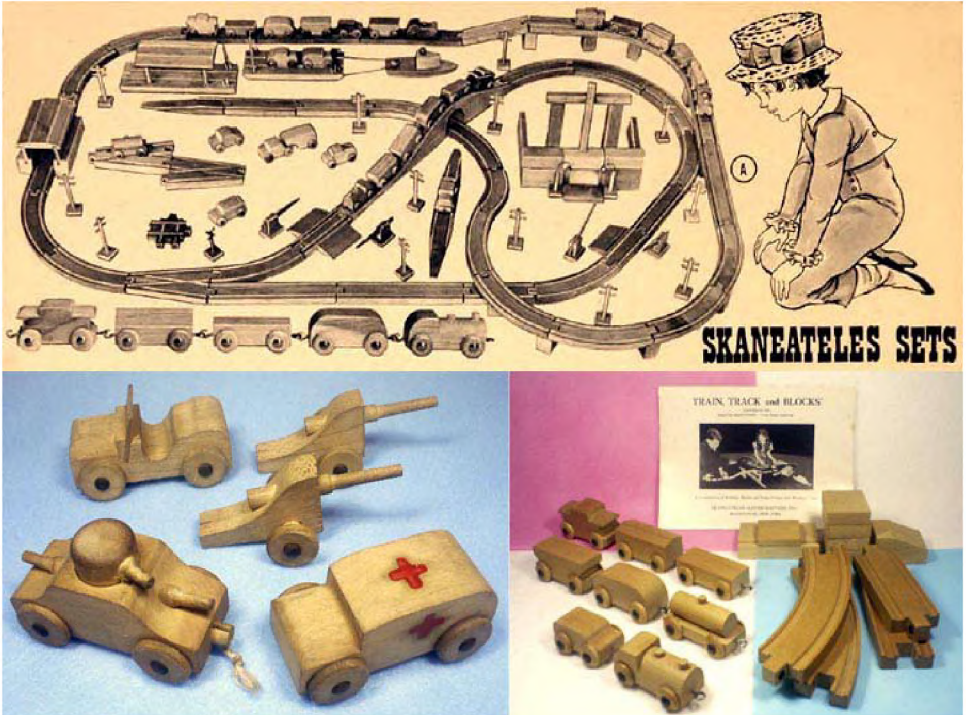
Blue Ribbon was founded in 1989 to create high quality wooden toys and children's furniture that are both environmentally sound and safe for play. Blue Ribbon toys entertain, challenge and develop young minds and skills. Their toys and kid's furniture are tested thoroughly to make sure that they are safe for children and meet U.S. regulatory safety standards and European EN-71 safety standards.

Blue Ribbon toys are crafted from sustainable rubber wood and painted using only the best non-toxic finishes.

Marshal Larrabee II

1930 forerunner to Thomas the Tank toys.

www.oldwoodtoys.com



For today's children, the introduction to wood toy railroading likely starts with Thomas the Tank Engine and happily duplicating his TV adventures on the playroom floor. Along with Thomas, wooden train sets of nearly every size and description, and with an almost endless variety of accessories, are widely available. However, we can't really give Thomas all the credit. The most important contribution was made about 70 years ago by Marshal Hart Larrabee II and his wife, Elizabeth.

Marshal was a graduate of Wharton School in 1931, but was struck down with tuberculosis a year later. During his recuperation woodworking occupied the long days. After making a variety of items he asked what to make next. Elizabeth said, "make a little train that a child will hold in his hand". So Marshal made little trains. They were the forerunner of the Thomas the Tank series. His original 1930 model is shown above.

Jeff Bohrer

The toy boat maker on the Willamette River:

www.etsy.com



Jeff is inspired by boats that work the Willamette River. He sells his toys at shows and festivals to collectors of every age. He recently heard back from a Grandfather that his grandchildren had left one of Jeff's boats in the hot tub over a weekend and it survived just fine.

The boats are hand carved with added wood-burned details for all the little planks and nails, then carefully hand painted and triple sealed with a durable non-toxic hard coating. The Skipper is about 7.5" and the Ranger is 7". Both are sealed to play with in the water. The smooth flat bottom makes them fun on a rug or carpet, too.

Richard Norris

Legendary model wood ships and boats.

www.handcraftedmodelships.com



Richard Norris, master craftsman and founder of Handcrafted Model Ships Company has been building model ships and boats since 1959. He offers exciting military, commercial and private vessels at great prices.



Josh Finkle

Handcrafted wood toys of extinct animals.

www.coroflot.com



Josh selected his distinct line of extinct creature toys for their beautiful shapes and patterns. Choosing an anthropomorphic approach, he designed them with simplified, humanistic shapes and statures. Once unfolded, the packaging becomes an informational graphic about the toy animal inside.

The artistically crafted toys are meant to incite wonder and interest in creatures that existed only a short while ago. Josh is a senior Industrial Design major at Carnegie Mellon University.

Countryside Gifts

Handcrafted toys with a touch of creativity.

www.countrysidegifts.com

Countryside Gifts, LLC features a wide range of handmade wooden gifts and collectibles.



All Countryside products are made by hand in a fully equipped woodshop from hard and softwoods such as white pine, fir, birch, oak, beech, walnut, poplar, cherry, mahogany, maple and more. Nearly all of the product designs are original, exclusive designs of Countryside Gifts, LLC and not for sale anywhere else.

Archiquest

Hand-painted blocks unlock the imagination.

www.archiquest.org

Every little boy and girl dreams of creating great monuments and works of art. For many of us this childhood fascination never fades because we are all master builders in our own way. ArchiQuest taps into this youthful imagination with a dynamic approach to building with toy wood blocks.



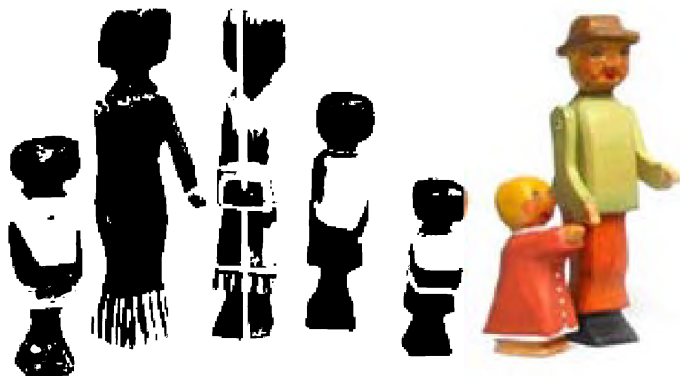
Empire and Arches Building Kit from Archiquest features Rome's Magnificence captured in a unique architectural building system that promises hours of fun and discovery. Included in the kit is a 46 page hardbound book with an architectural time line, building ideas and much more. Set includes 68 heirloom quality wooden blocks laminated with hand-painted artwork featuring motifs from actual Roman monuments.

Jalu Wood Toys

Vancouver, British Columbia toymaking.

www.jalutoys.com

Jalu Toys is located on the Sunshine Coast between Powell River and



Lund on the West Coast of British Columbia about eighty miles north of Vancouver.

Jalu believes that childhood is a wonderful, magical time and that children need imaginative play to learn about the world and themselves. The making of the hand carved figures came about with the birth of their first child and has grown into a family tradition



as the family grew. Through the years handcrafted toys evolved alongside the children providing them with quality natural toys which are interactive and inspire the imagination. Jalu shares their unique handmade collectable toys with the world in the hopes that their child owners will one day be able to pass these quality toys on to their own children.



The Woodsman

Doug and Bobbie create artful & fun wood toys.

www.arcurio.com



Woodsman toys are educational and fun-filled with animals, colored blocks, ABC blocks, barrels, logs, people in a variety of designs, sizes and colors. It is rewarding to The Woodsman and wife Bobbie to watch a child use the creations to expand and explore their imaginations. The pair makes a rather large variety of toys considering it's just tow woodworkers crafting together.

They also make trains, planes, trucks and custom items upon request along with personalized clothes racks and matching bookends in a variety of designs that the customer selects from according to the theme in the child's room. This is Bobbie's forte. She can trace and cut out a child's name faster than you can imagine.

Needless to say they are having a wonderful time being The Woodsman and creating toys for kids and adults all around the world.

John W. Lewman

Fun to make toy plans and patterns for pro and amateur toymakers.

www.toymakerpress.com

Thousands of amateur and professional toymakers are using John's plans and patterns to handcraft and produce toys that are current and trendy yet practical to make. His toys are simple to craft and manufacture while delivering high style and lots of fun. John's designs are in step with today's fascinating world of toymakers while at the same time reflecting developments in toy design and the toy industry relating to toy issues, trends and styles. His toy plans and patterns help to insure that wood toymaking is alive and well.

John believes that toys are more than an objects to amuse a child or capture a sale from an adult. Toys are part of the play that is so vital to the health and happiness of everyone. For him, toymaking provides an opportunity to live, work and engage in life simply for the joy of it.







Nekeelishus
Rocking Giraffe
John W. Lewman



Toymaker Press is dedicated to providing you with the information and concepts you need to develop your understanding of toymaking. We welcome your comments and any suggestions about this collection of toymakers.

Email: johnlewmman@toymakerpress.com

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First edition

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