

TOYMAKING
PLANS.COM

WOOD WEEKLY

★ ISSUE 5

Building Thick Toys

page 7

Rick's Toybox, Inc.
page 3

Forum Photo Gallery
page 5

Wood Suggestions
page 8

Scroll Saw Tips
page 9

How to Become a Millionaire Woodworking

I just learned how to become a millionaire as a wood worker. The secret to becoming a millionaire wood worker is that you have to start as a billionaire...Starting out as a billionaire will very nearly guarantee that you become a millionaire woodworker in just a few short years.

That joke has been floating around the office for about a week and I just can't get enough of it. Feel free to use it and swap out the hobby or profession for whatever works for your audience. But all joking aside, woodworking doesn't have to be an expensive hobby or profession. Sometimes just thinking outside the box can land you new (to you) tools, wood, etc. You can even get yourself some FREE Plans if you sign up for Toymakingplans.com mailing list and/or towards the back of each issue, we are always going to include some simple little plan.

In this issue we discuss Thick Toy builds and how those can be made from Big Box Store's common lumber (cheap) and we talk about scroll-saws and with a little knowledge from an old-pro and some elbow grease, you can make your under \$100 scroll-saw run like it's \$500 counterparts.

Reclaiming wood is a great and cheap-to-free option for the woodworker on a budget. An example would be perusing Craigslist free listings, you're likely to find anything from a bundle of scrap-wood someone simply wants out of the garage, to a story I heard recently of a woodworker finding a futon frame along the side of the road during his neighborhood's Large Trash Pickup (most cities will have one of these per year), grabbing it, and thinking it was some good-Pine that could turn out a lot of Toy builds. Come to find out, the frame had been made from Ash. Win! Win!

Or my buddy Ken on our staff here, scoring a older model Craftsman Scroll Saw (made when things were meant to last) that absolutely runs like a top and cuts ever bit as nicely as our shop's top-of-the-line DeWalt scroll saw - Ken was able to pick up that Craftsman for \$43.

The inexpensive ways, routes are out there and ripe for the taking advantage of, you just need to do a little digging and when you see something that trips your fancy, move pretty quickly. Hope this all helps you Make More Sawdust!

Clint M.

Director of Design and New Product Development
clint.metcalf@toymakingplans.com



Nobody should allow this fella near power tools...

Submitted Editorial

Want to see your work highlighted in the pages of WTW, just drop me a line, telling me a bit about yourself and answer our seven questions.

1. How long have you been making toys?
2. Who or what was your initial inspiration?
3. Did you have any early roadblocks?
4. What has been your favorite Toy Build project?
5. What does Toy Making mean to/for you?
6. Favorite tool in your shop?
7. If you could pass one piece of advice on to a new Toy Maker, what would that be?

We especially want to see your work made from our plan sets. Please e-mail images with up to six images attached to each e-mail. You can send them directly to me at: clint.metcalf@toymakingplans.com

Can't get enough of your



Follow our Community on these social media platforms as well



facebook.com/toymaking



twitter.com/toymakingplans



instagram.com/toy_making_plans



www.pinterest.com/woodtoyforumgallery/wood-toy-plans/



COMING SOON to Reddit



www.toymakingplans.com

Submitted Photography

Try to include a broad selection of images providing the reader with a comprehensive view of your work. Include vertical as well as horizontal format images. Consider your background, try to not have too much going on in the background. Nothing beats a good workshop setting. We especially want to see your work made from our plan sets. Good photos greatly increases the chance of material being accepted. Digital images shot at high resolution with a camera of at least 6 megapixels assures a decent image. Low-resolution digital photos are simply not acceptable. Please e-mail images with up to six images attached to each e-mail. You can send them directly to me at: clint.metcalf@toymakingplans.com

Thanks!

**Thick Wood
Toy Builds**
page 7



Rick's Toybox Inc.
page 3



Photo Gallery
page 6



Scroll Saw Tips
page 12

Meet **Rick Brunner** of Rick's Toybox, Inc.



I'm Rick Brunner, owner of a toymaking non-profit called Rick's Toybox, Inc. Currently I'm 61 years old and live in New Franken, Wisconsin. At age 53 I needed to stop working due to complex health issues. After about 5 years of a rollercoaster

ride it was time to focus on something other than my health issues, and I needed a reason to get up in the morning. So, I turned to toymaking.

It wasn't easy at first, but it started to click and I could see it was making a change in my life, plus in the lives of others. No, it didn't fix my health issues, but it changed my outlook on life, which I needed. So, Rick's Trucks was born and I made toys and shipped them all over the country to benefits, shelters, daycares, and hospitals. In about two short years I was worldwide.

Then thinking long-term, I wanted to make things official. This year a name change came about. I felt it was a little more fitting, so Rick's Toybox, Inc. was born, and this time I took a big leap and became a 501(c)(3). One reason for doing this is that I need a bigger shop, and the other reason is if this would really grow, it could keep going even after I'm gone to the big toybox in the sky.

Now this year alone Rick's Toybox, Inc. had shipments go to 11 states and 6 different countries. I have one more country planned for this year, and three countries already booked for next year. Now you can see the need for a workshop larger than the third stall of a garage and more manpower. Also, with a new building I would like to have a classroom to teach adults and teens this trade to keep it alive for the generations to come.

Through sponsors like Bear Woods Supply and donors it helps me to put smiles on faces one toy at a time. You too, can put a smile on kids' faces by mailing a donation to: Rick's Toybox, Inc., 1424 Scholar Dr., New Franken, Wisconsin, 54229.



1. How long have you been making wood toys?

I think I was born with a hammer in my hand. As a child I was always building things, and in my adult career I always worked in the lumber trade somehow. In April 2011 I had to stop working because of health issues and then my roller coaster ride began. After 5 long years I needed a reason to get up in the morning, and toy making was my choice.

2. Who or what was your initial inspiration?

I would have to say my father was my initial inspiration. I was always his right-hand man in his woodworking projects; he was my teacher. Without him sharing his love of woodworking, I wouldn't be where I'm at today.

3. Did you have any early roadblocks, obstacles?

Roadblocks? Obstacles? Oh yeah, my health and being told that maybe this wasn't such a good idea at the time. The number one obstacle was my health at that time. One health issue was a drug side effect called Parkinsonism, which is like Parkinson's and made my hands tremor, but there was a very good chance it could go away with time. I am also still battling other health issues.

4. What has been your favorite Toy Build project?

My very first ones. I never just make one toy; the very first time I made ten. Had no plans, just an idea in my head. I had a lot of obstacles to overcome at the time in making them, and no one in their right mind would have paid me by the hour for the time I put into them. But I got them done and they looked like what I had pictured in my head. Then forty more to follow after that, and then my giveaway program started. I'm not for sure who smiled more - me or the kids I gave them to.

5. What does Toy Making mean to/for you?

Giving a smile and a little hope to a child in a third world country, intercity daycare, pre-school, or shelter that never had a nice toy before or maybe never had a toy at all. That child can be a child for a brief moment in time. The child receiving a toy from a police officer maybe someday won't be afraid to turn to the Police for help. Or better yet, it might keep the child out of trouble when they grow up. You never know how giving one toy away can make a difference in someone's life.

6. Favorite tool in your shop?

I would have to say my (New) scroll saw. Three years ago, I thought I was buying a top of the line scroll saw, but after it wore out, I found out differently. So, after a seriously major upgrade I feel like I could just sit all day cutting toys. People look at my toys and they tell me that I use a CNC to cut my toys. I take that as a compliment. Others say why don't you have a CNC? I tell them I feel I can cut just as good and maybe as fast as one sometimes.

7. If you could pass one piece of advice on to a new Toy Maker, what would that be?

Never give up and keep in mind your never to old to learn new things. Take your time and always think safety first. When asking for help you may get 100's of different answers, not saying any of them are wrong just everyone has they own style of doing things. Over time you will develop your own style that comes with practice and more practice.

WTW Photo Gallery



Built by Forum member: toolow



Built by Forum member: craigrozema



Built by Forum member: Ken Martin



Built by Forum member: BadBob



Built by Forum member: Ccwilson



Built by Forum member: Grandpa Bear



Built by Forum member: PawPawRay



Built by Forum member: frogbucket



Built by Forum member: Bad Bob



First Build by Forum member: Kevin Enlow



Built by Forum member: Tom Dullage

Building Thick Toys

You Can Make Great Wood Toys with a Scroll Saw and 1-1/2" thick common lumber.



Hot Rod Freaky Fords
by forum member BadBob

The question is often asked, “is it possible to make wood toys from thick woods with a scroll saw?” The answer is yes. And with the right Scroll Saw settings, blades and woods you can build a variety of wood toys by using just the scroll saw and up to 2" thick lumber.

What scroll saw is best?

The scroll saw we use is a late model DeWalt and we find it a pleasure to use. That said, we also have a 50 year old Craftsman Scroll Saw that cost \$43 on Craigslist and it works just as well. More about that in a later issue. We also have a Porter Cable scroll saw that is dependable and runs smooth and true. Just about any scroll saw will do.

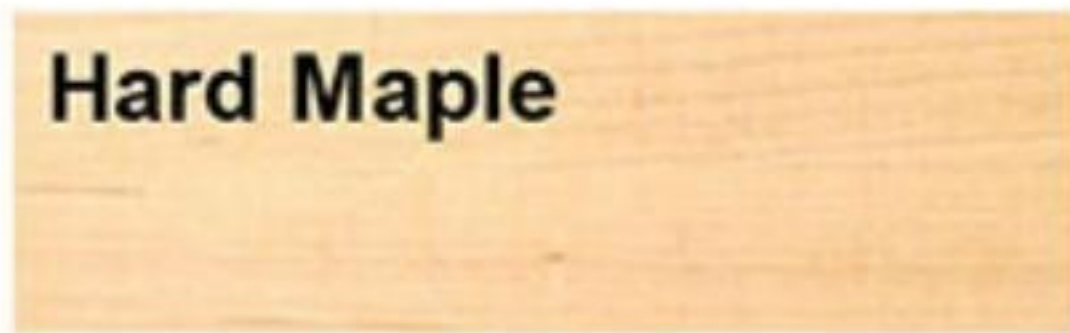
Choosing the correct blade.

#7 AND #9 blades work well. Choose a blade with a low number of teeth per inch. Skip Tooth blades are also a good choice. The blades let the sawdust and chips exit the cut easel and prevent over-heating.

Insert the correct blade into the saw.

Blade choice is extremely important. The best blades for cutting thick wood.

What type of wood is best? Just about any species of wood can be sawn successfully with a scroll saw. Wood types including Pine, Poplar, Maple, Mahogany, Ash, Oak and Cherry are excellent candidates for successful scrolling.



Woods from 1/8" thick to 2" thick can be successfully sawn by using the right combination of wood, scroll saw adjustments, blade speed, teeth per blade, and some easy to learn sawing techniques. Below: one of my favorites is the common white wood and framing lumber found in any Big Box Home Improvement Store.



Common pine 1-1/2" thick stock. Ask for 2 x 4's (3-1/2" wide) thru 2x 12's (11-1/2" wide). This is the cheapest wood in the store.

Common pine 3/4" thick stock. Ask for 1 x 4's (3-1/2" wide) to 1 x 12's (11-1/2" wide)

Scroll Saw Thick Toys



Apply the pattern to the wood blank.

First of all, try to apply the pattern where there are no knots that cross the cut lines. I like to adhere common clear packing tape to the wood blank before the pattern is applied. I then cut out the pattern and spray permanent adhesive on the back. I then apply the pattern to the wood blank. The tape makes it so easy to remove the pattern after sawing. And the tape also lubricates and cools the blade while sawing.



Align the blade with the table.

The best practice is to first make sure that the blade is perpendicular to the scroll saw table. I do this by first using a carpenter's square to draw 2 or 3 perpendicular pencil lines across the thickness of the wood that I am going to saw.

I then saw into one of the pencil lines. If the blade is not square with the table, the blade cut will be at an angle with the pencil line. If that is the case, adjust the table by loosening the tilt knob on the front of the scroll saw. Hold the marked wood block up against the blade and move the table until the blade aligns with the mark on the block.

Tighten the tilt knob on the front of the saw and make another cut on one of the pencil lines. Repeat this process until the blade aligns with the pencil line. Then the table is in the correct position.

Some Thick Wood Sawing Tips



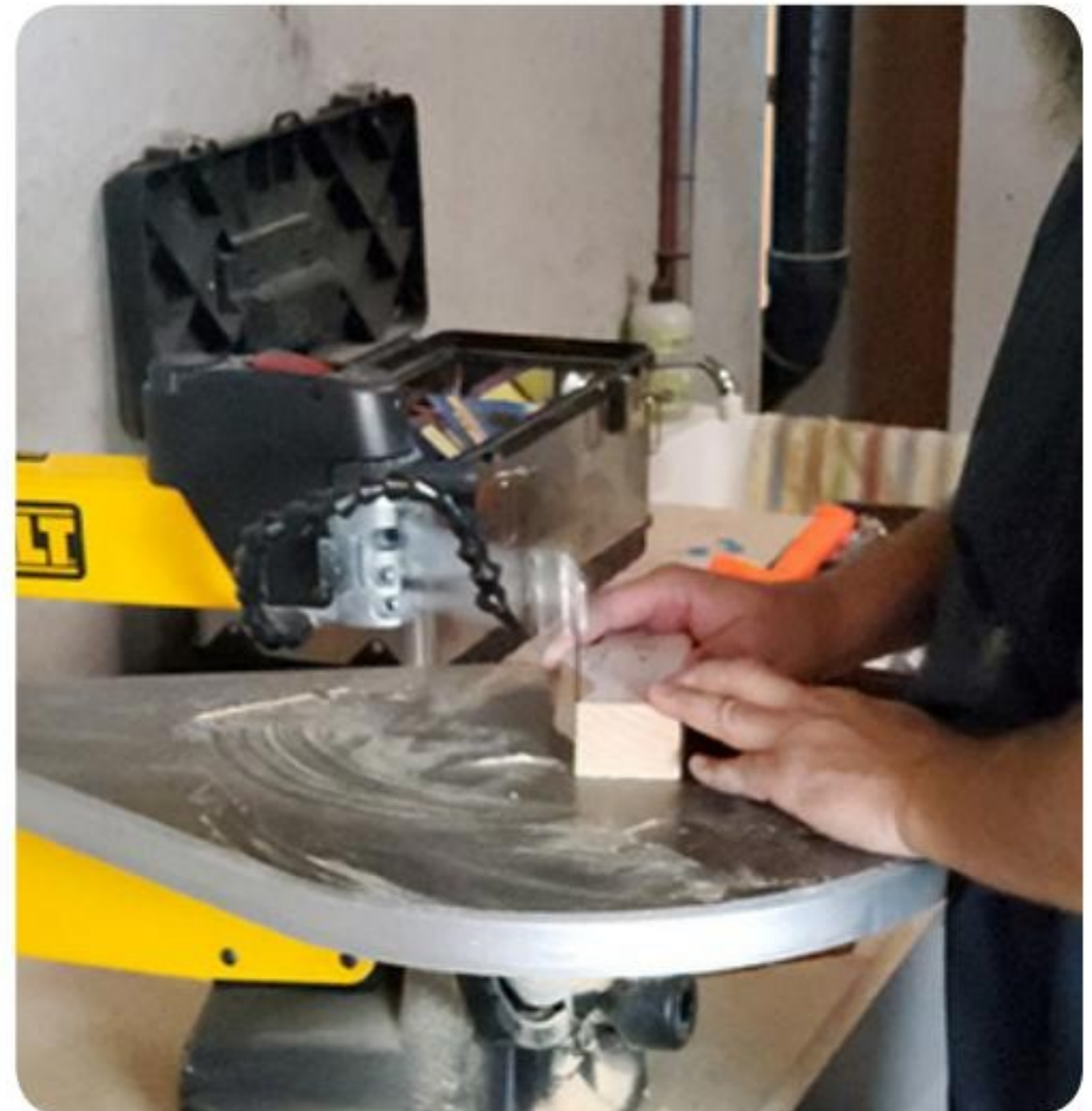
First of all, set the scroll saw speed to a high setting. You will feel the right speed as you start sawing.



Enter and exit the wood where it can be easily sanded on the finished piece.



Go slow and do not force the blade. Keep the wood in a position with the blade that allows the blade to stay perpendicular to the table.



Try to stay in the center of the pattern lines. Slow down going around tight curves. This allows the blade to make up for the tight radius.

Scroll Saw Thick Toys

A Tip for Making a Quality Scroll Saw Made Even Better

If you're looking at scroll saws on Amazon you may notice that every single one of them is the exact same design. From the Harbor Freight to the Wen, to the shop Fox, to every other scroll saw for under \$150. The fact is they are all made in the exact same Chinese factory and just have a different sticker slapped on them, and then you pay for the sticker that you want when the scroll saw is not worth more than \$75. Now if you look at the Porter-Cable scroll saw it looks absolutely nothing like the rest of them. That's because it's built in a different factory in China made by Stanley Black & Decker. Stanley has truly upgraded their game in the past few years. The Stanley Tools you buy at Walmart or Amazon far surpass the tried-and-true, Craftsman tools your grandfather would buy at Sears. Let me explain why this is 3 star unit can be turned into a 5 star unit. The power is there, it's actually a very good scroll saw. Here's the issue, the table which is made of cast aluminum is extremely rough and will bind your project. What I have done or I should say what I learned to do by a master artisan, is you need to sand it smooth the table with 400 grit sandpaper and a palm sander of your choice. Once you have sanded smooth the table, you need to cover it with a couple coats of Carnuba wax. Once that is done it is super smooth and your project will Glide over the surface. As far as the scroll saw being Square there are no issues whatsoever. You do have to finagle the stand a little bit when you were putting it together to make sure the saw is level but not to the point where it's really an issue.



Upfront controls mean quicker access to speed, blade tension and work light. The cam action blade tension adjustment allows for quick blade changes. The die-cast aluminum dual-tilt table allows up to 45° cuts, while the patented tabletop bevel scale provides accurate angle readings.

The Scroll Saw We Use in the Toymaking Plans Workshop

The DEWALT 20 in. Variable-Speed Scroll Saw helps you create accurate, detailed workpieces and has a user-friendly configuration with easily accessible controls, reduced vibration design and variable-speed performance. Featuring a double parallel-link arm design for accurate cuts, the arm pivots from the back to the front, shortening the distance the arm moves for smoother, quieter operation. Easy to handle with variable-speed control for application-specific performance, the on/off switch, speed control, blade-tensioning lever and flexible dust blower are all located within easy reach of the front upper arm. The dependable 1.3 Amp motor delivers 400 to 1750 SPM for plenty of power, while the compact design makes portability around your jobsite or workshop a breeze. Durable for years of reliable use, this saw has a cast iron table that bevels 45 Degree to the left and 45 Degree to the right for versatility and also provides excellent support.

The scroll saw is one of the most accurate wood-cutting power tools out there. This DeWalt scroll saw lives up to this expectation. It features a dual parallel-link arm that uses ball bearings, which drastically reduced vibrations and promotes accuracy, among other things.

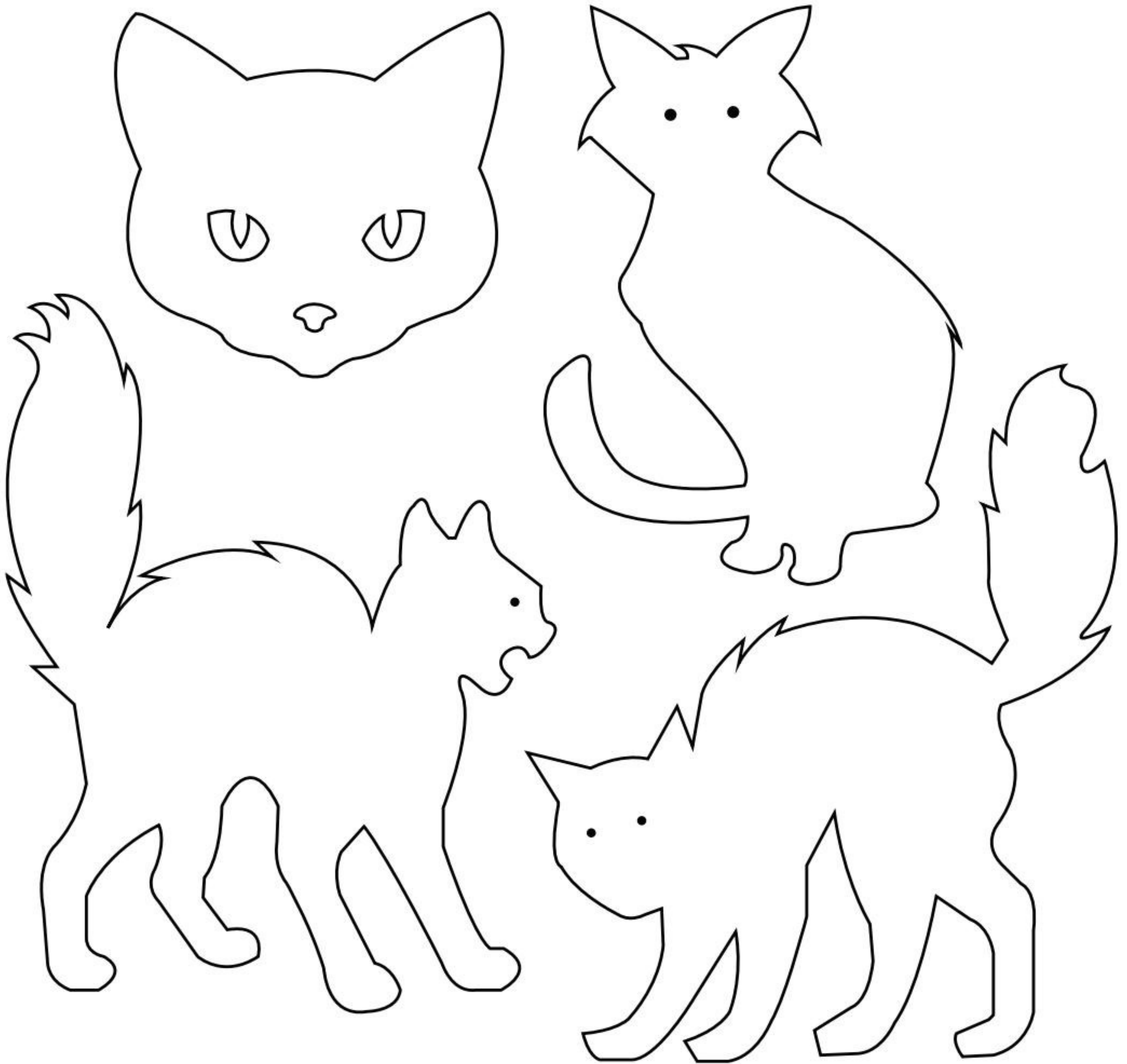


A real nice example of a Thick Toy, Martin Motors Antique Car Carrier by forum member Ken Martin



Halloween Scaredy Cats

Simply print this page, cut out the pieces and stick'm to some wood and start making sawdust.
Remember that there isn't any scrap wood, just pieces not yet used.



Best cut from 1/4", 1/2", or 3/4" wood stock.
Look next week for more simple Scroll Saw designs from Wood Toy Weekly

CUSTOM



CAR SHOW

PHOTO CONTEST



RULES

1. Must be completely made of wood
2. Must be a car built from one of our three selected car plans (Hill Billy Hot Rods, Hot Rod Jamboree or 1930 Rat Rod)
3. Photos must be received by November 25th.

Judging will take place the first week of December.

Email entries to: clint.metcalf@toymakingplans.com

4. MUST HAVE FUN BUILDING IT!



PRIZES

Best in Show - \$100 Home Depot Card
The PISTOL Trophy, A Feature in the Wood Toy Weekly

Best Painted & Best Natural
\$25 Home Depot Card

Two Honorable Mentions
\$10 Home Depot Card

Questions:
contest@toymakingplans.com

