

Design Resource

Wooden Toy Making - Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu

Wooden Creations

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/wooden-toy-making-kanyakumari-tamilnadu>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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4. Products
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Introduction

Toy is an object for a child to play with, typically a model or miniature replica of something. Playing with toys is supposed to be an enjoyable means of training young children for life in society. Different materials like wood, clay, paper, and plastic are used to make toys. Some toys are produced primarily as collector's items and are intended for display only.

The origin of toys is prehistoric; dolls representing infants, animals, and soldiers, as well as representations of tools used by adults are readily found at archaeological sites. The origin of the word "toy" is unknown, but it is believed that it was first used in the 14th century. Toys are mainly made for children. The oldest known doll toy that has been found is 4,000 years old.

Playing with toys is considered to be important when it comes to growing up and learning about the world around us. Younger children use toys to discover their identity, help their bodies grow strong, learn cause and effect, explore relationships, and practice skills they will need as adults. Adults on occasion use toys to form and strengthen social bonds, teach, help in therapy, and to remember and reinforce lessons from their youth.

The act of children's play with toys embodies the values set forth by the adults of their specific community, but through the lens of the child's perspective. Within cultural societies, toys are a medium to enhance a child's cognitive, social, and linguistic learning.

Toys are used to expand the development of a child's cognition in an idealistic fashion. In these communities, adults place the value of play with toys to be on the aspirations they set forth for their child. Children from differing communities may treat their toys in different ways based on their cultural practices. The importance the child places on possession is dictated by the values in place within the community that the children observe on a daily basis.

Toys serve multiple purposes in both humans and animals. They provide entertainment while fulfilling an educational role. Toys enhance cognitive behavior and stimulate creativity. They aid in the development of physical and mental skills which are necessary in later life. This allows the child to imagine and create a personal interpretation of how they view the adult world.

Wooden Toys:

Toys have been an important part of childhood since early civilization and while children today are much different than those thousands of years ago, many of their favorite toys are similar to those that have been around for centuries. As long ago as the ancient Greek and Roman empires, children are known to have played with dolls, horses, and chariots. The earliest toys discovered by archaeologists were all made of wood.

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Wooden toys continued to be a common part of childhood for thousands of years. By the 1700's, German toymakers began to craft a variety of toys from wood to sell to the general public. Salesmen would travel around Europe to market the popular wooden toys, taking advance orders for special occasions and often for custom made wooden toys. Almost life-like dolls and animals were becoming favorite playthings for children all over Europe.

Over the next century, toymakers became more elaborate and detailed with their wooden creations. Wooden miniatures like dollhouses and theatres became popular during the 19th century, as well as wooden toy soldiers. Many wooden toys, like the classic Jack in a box, were hand painted with bright, vivid colours. Wooden trains, along with their wooden tracks, were one of the bestselling toys during this time period.

By the end of World War II, a number of new materials had been introduced to the manufacturing industry including still popular plastic. The production of wooden toys steadily declined as more and more toymakers opted for cheaper and more modern materials. Plastic toys were much easier for mass production and were more affordable to families with children.

Today, wooden toys are rarely seen on the shelves of traditional toy stores but the charm and appeal of these childhood classics has kept a number of wooden toy manufacturers in business. A variety of wooden toys can be purchased online, from miniature appliances to small novelty gifts and games.

Wooden toys are typically simple playthings that encourage a child to use their imaginations. Wooden puzzles encourage children to develop cognitively as well as develop fine motor skills. Wooden ride-on toys and pedal cars enhance physical skills and gross motor development. Whether it is a fire station or a farmhouse, miniature wooden play sets aid in social and emotional development. Wooden toys hold great educational value because of their simplicity.

Plastic toys are still generally less expensive than wooden toys and are considered safer by some because of the flammability of older wooden toys and possible injuries from thrown or falling wooden objects, but wooden toys do not contain toxic PVC like plastic toys do. Wooden toys are the most durable toys and can usually last through generations of play.

Today's wooden toys are just as innovative, if not more so, than modern, electronic toys. Cars, trucks, and wooden wind-ups make wonderful gifts and wooden pull along toys delight toddlers. Quiet games like chess and checkers, and even tic-tac-toe can be found made of wood, as well as physical games like ring toss. For toys that provide educational benefits and last for decades, choose the toys that have been tested by time, wooden toys.

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Classic jeep toy made of wood.



View of various toys made at Kanyakumari.



Artisan who is well versed in making wooden toys.



A toy with a message on it.

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Close up of the toy.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for wooden toy making:

- **Electric Jigsaw:** Carpentry tool used in cutting the wood.
- **Electric Dremel Grinder:** Its used in giving a shape to the cut wooden piece.
- **Bandsaw Machine:** Its used in cutting tiny details of wood.
- **Electric Sanders:** Its used in sanding/buffing of wood.
- **Driller:** Its used to make holes in the wood.
- **Adhesive:** Its used in fixing one wooden piece to another.
- **Wood:** Core material in which the article is made.
- **Sand Paper:** Its used to sand wooden pieces manually.
- **Paint Brush:** Its used to paint the articles.
- **Paints:** Its used to paint the articles.
- **Wood Polish:** Its used to give shine and make it long lasting.
- **Pencil:** Its used in marking wood to cut.
- **Nails:** Its used to fix one wooden piece to another.
- **Screwdriver:** Its used to insert nails to the article.

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Wood is the basic raw material used for making wooden toys at Kanyakumari.

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Machine used for making holes.



Synthetic adhesive is used for sticking the various parts of the toy.

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Manual cutter used for cutting.



Machine used for shaping and detailing the wooden toy.



Lathe machine used for detailing and enamelling the toys.



Motorized machine used for smoothing the edges of the wooden toys.

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Making Process

The making of miniature wooden motorcycle is very complex, yet stimulating. Only a skilled craftsman who is persistent and committed can make this article which is intricate and distinguishable. Rubber wood is used to make this article.

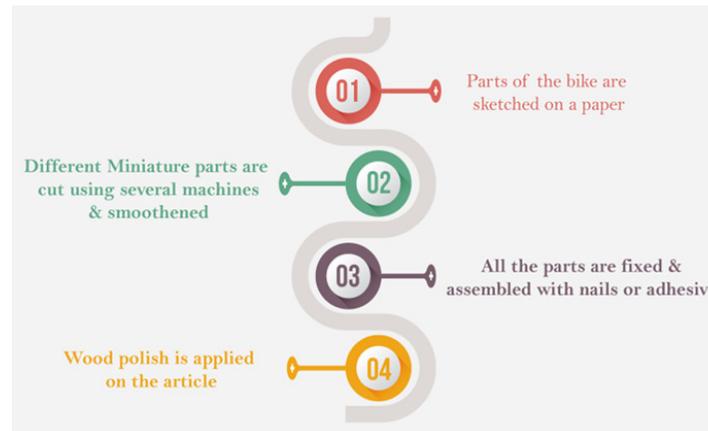
Rubberwood is a light-coloured medium-density tropical hardwood. Rubberwood is commonly advertised as an “environmentally friendly” wood. Rubberwood has a dense grain that is easily controlled in the kiln drying process. Rubberwood has very little shrinkage making it one of the more stable construction materials available for furniture, toys and kitchen accessories. It is easily worked, and takes on stains uniformly. Rubberwood comes in varying degrees of quality. It is not suitable for outdoor use, as rain can leach the protective chemicals from the wood, exposing it to fungus and insect attacks. Excessive moisture will also cause the wood to warp and rot.

To build the wooden motorcycle toy, artisan makes miniature part of the bike and later assembles them into place. Machines like Electric Jigsaw, Electric Dremel Grinder, Bandsaw machine, Electric Sanders are used for cutting, giving wood a shape and buffing it. The wooden parts are further smoothed with sandpaper if necessary.

Several parts are made which will be assembled after completion. Handlebars, headlight, triple tree top, triple tree bottom, exhaust pipes, forks, front wheel spacers, wheels, foot pegs, tank, bike frame, seat, rear wheel axle, rear fender, battery cover, engine cylinder and cover are few of the parts made. These motorcycle parts are later fixed together either with adhesive or with nails.

Wooden polish is applied on the bike to give it a shine and makes the durability longer.

Flow Chart:



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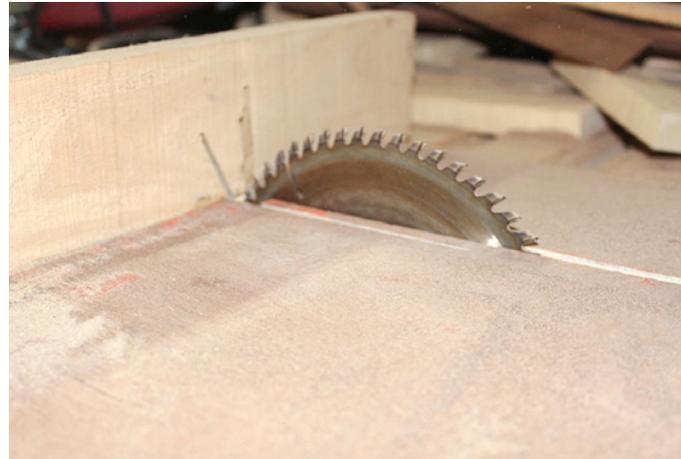
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Wooden logs are cut as per the requirement.



Using the motorized machine, shapes are given to the wood.



Close up of wood being cut in the required shape.



Edges of the wooden pieces are smoothed.

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Detailing of the wood is being done.



Close up of the wood that is being carved in required design.



Parts of the toy are assembled initially and checked.



One by one, basic parts of the toy are stuck.

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Glimpse of the wooden toy been made.



Royal Enfield bike is being made in wood.



Final product.



Various types of wooden toys made at Kanyakumari.

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Products

Size of these articles varies from 3 inch products to 12 inches. Price range of the products sold by the artisans is from 700 INR to 2500 INR.

The artisan makes other products like Cars, Aeroplane, Guitar, Dining set, Rocking Horse, Boats and other decors for interiors of home.



A toy of Fighter plane.

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Seaplane toy that is beautifully carved in wood.



Different angles of the wooden toy jeep.



A wooden show piece.

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Horse toy that is beautified using colors.

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Video



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You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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