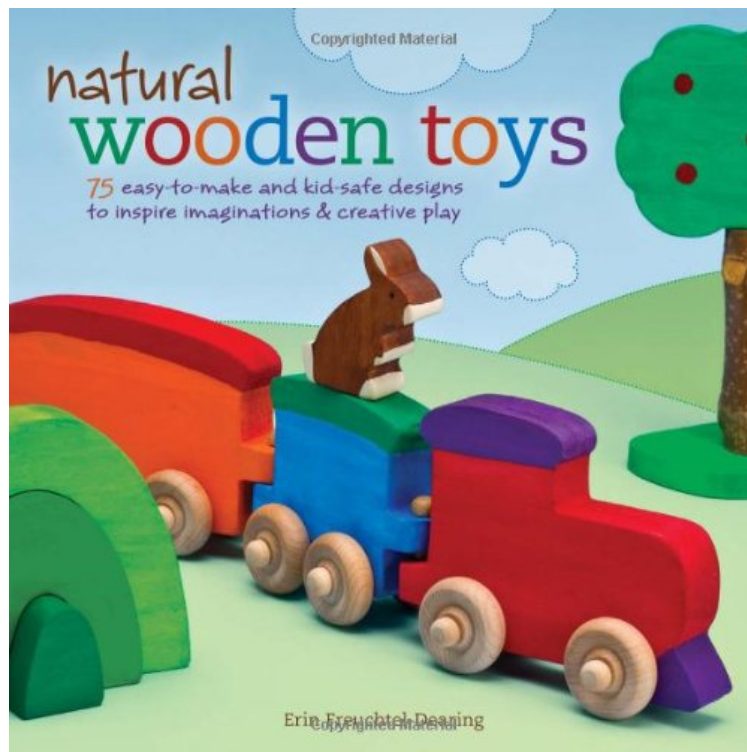


Natural Wooden Toys: 75 Easy-To-Make and Kid-Safe Designs to Inspire Imaginations Creative Play

Erin Freuchtel-Dearing

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Erin Freuchtel-Dearing : Natural Wooden Toys: 75 Easy-To-Make and Kid-Safe Designs to Inspire Imaginations Creative Play before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Natural Wooden Toys: 75 Easy-To-Make and Kid-Safe Designs to Inspire Imaginations Creative Play:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic plans for children's toysBy BlitzI am new to woodworking and wanted to make toys for my daughters who are 5 and 2. This book is a fantastic way to get started because the book discusses tools needed, wood selection, painting and finishing. Many books just show you how to make one toy at a time - a car, a puzzle, etc. What is great about this book is that the author groups together like ideas - so you can make a whole set at one time.The book is divided into sections - there is a fairytale group (complete with plans for a castle, knight, king/queen, etc), a section on the forest (trees, animals, etc), farm, ocean, and city (buildings, cars, trucks, helicopter, etc.) I just started with the fairytale group (pictures to be posted soon) and I am looking forward to working my way thru the book.I disagree with an earlier reviewer who stated these designs were babyish and only good for 0-1 year olds. Yes the patterns are basic but when you paint the toys you can add as much or as little detail as you want. The point is that to a child with a good imagination the play possibilities are endless. My oldest has a vivid imagination and I can't wait to give them to her. I recommend this book for anyone looking for some fresh ideas and/or is new to woodworking and would like to start to make toys for kids.One note: Most of the wood called for in this

book is 3/4" thick stock and while you can cut out the patterns using a coping saw you really need a scroll saw to save time. They are simple to use and cheap if you can find a used one on craig's list.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great wooden toysBy Maine BoyThis is a great book for someone who wants to get into making wooden toys for kids. It has a big emphasis on natural materials and finishes. I have made a number of toys from this book and am happy with it. I had trouble with the beeswax/oil finish mentioned. I have used food dyes for coloring and a very strong mix of instant coffee also, as well as child safe paints made for child use. I have also used cooking oil for a finish on top of food colors, stains and paints. This book is a very good starting point and the reader will be able to originate many other toy ideas after finishing this book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very simplistic, but a good resource for those with little or no experienceBy anonThis is a great book for someone with more time than money, and zero prior experience working with wood. Some scrap wood (probably cheap or free), a \$100 used scroll saw, food coloring/veggies and access to a photocopier gets you started making simple wooden toys that kids (under 10) will love. The patterns are easy to use, the directions straightforward and complete. My only quibble is that the beeswax/oil finish has no 'recipie' for amounts/proportions, which is likely an oversight, since trial and error is a pain. Once you figure that out though, it's a great finish.What I like here is that the average 5 year old can be taught to safely use a scroll saw (with adult supervision obviously!). This means that kids can be actively involved in creating their own toys, which I find is just as fun as the end result.

Think making safe, colorful, and irresistible imagination-building wooden toys is impossible? Think again! Erin Freutchel-Dearing, a stay-at-home mom who taught herself how to make toys without any prior woodworking experience, show with step-by-step instructions how to make cute and creative wooden toys for children using just a scroll saw, a palm sander, and a drill.

From BooklistAddressed to adults but not beyond experienced young crafty sorts, this gathering of projects offers 75 radically simplified animals, human figures, trees, vehicles, and backdropsall made from one or just a few pieces of sawn wood finished and decorated in child-friendly ways. After an introduction extolling the Waldorf style of schooling and open-ended toys, the author begins with basic advice for selecting and using woods, tools, safe paints, natural dyes, and polishes. She then lays out finishing and ongoing care instructions, and goes on to present projects in five settings, from Fairytale (castle, dragon, unicorn, knight, magic wands) to City (trees, multipart skyline, train, helicopter). Though occasionally she offers additional procedures or directions, most are so simple that a list of materials, a close-up photo of the finished item, and a template made to be copied, cut out, and traced are all the guidance given or, for that matter, necessary. Children in elementary grades will enjoy helping to decorate these sturdy homemade toys, and members of the diapered set will delight in playing with them. Grades 6-9. --John Peters Concerned with the safety of commercially produced toys, Freutchel-Dearing purchased a secondhand scroll saw and began making?and then selling?her own natural wood toys. In this guide, she shares techniques, tips, and patterns for making a variety of safe, eco-friendly toys well suited for creative play. The projects are organized thematically (farm, fairy tale, ocean, cityscape, and forest), and the author provides a useful introduction to woodworking techniques. Most of the toys are simple and require little to no woodworking experience. An enjoyable guide to making toys to please children under eight.In a time of rushing about, many parents are looking toward natural wooden toys for their children, free of toxic chemicals, flashing lights, and obnoxious sounds. Studies have shown that simple toys encourage more creative play from children, making simple wooden toys or handmade cloth desirable. For many, the cost of lovely wooden toys is prohibitive and making the toys is a daunting idea for individuals without any wood working experience. In her book *Natural Wooden Toys: 75 Easy-to-Make and Kid-Safe Designs to Inspire Imaginations Creative Play*, Erin Freutchel-Dearing has broken down the process of making your own wooden toys, from tool selection to natural dyes and sealing. With full color illustrations and numerous patterns which can be copied and used, the book is a great resource for non-wood workers who would like to make simple wooden toys for children. Waldorf education and philosophy are mentioned briefly toward the beginning of the book but the designs and information are applicable to anyone with a desire to make natural toys.includes plans for over 75 toys in themes ranging from fairytale to forest and farm to city. Developed by author Erin Freutchel-Dearing for her own children, the toys are constructed with basic tools like a scroll saw, palm sander and drill. Finishing advice is also included.This is a really fun book that you will love. Seventy-five great toys ready to be made for you or for someone else's kids. The toys are real simple to make with a scroll saw or even a fret saw and are finished with natural colors. Paprika will provide a beautiful orange shade, blueberries a flavorful purple. Specialty artist shops can provide you with brilliant non-toxic finishes as well. The toys are very basic but just as enjoyable for toddlers as those high tech toys to play with. And, full patterns are provided by the author; she provides recipes for the colors as well.About the AuthorErin Freutchel is a stay-at-home mom with two young children. Concerns about the safety of her children's toys, as well as the low level of play and imagination they were promoting, led her to purchase a scroll saw on Craigslist and learn to make wooden toys from scratch. Her previous experience with a sewing machine made the transition to the scroll saw effortless. She began selling her creative, colorful, and child-safe toys on Etsy.com. She was chosen from over 2000

applicants to become a part of Etsy's 25-member Second Community Council and represents the areas of toys and woodworking. As Erin put it, "I am evidence that your typical mom with very little familiarity with power tools can learn to make simple, safe, creative, open-ended wooden toys for their children."