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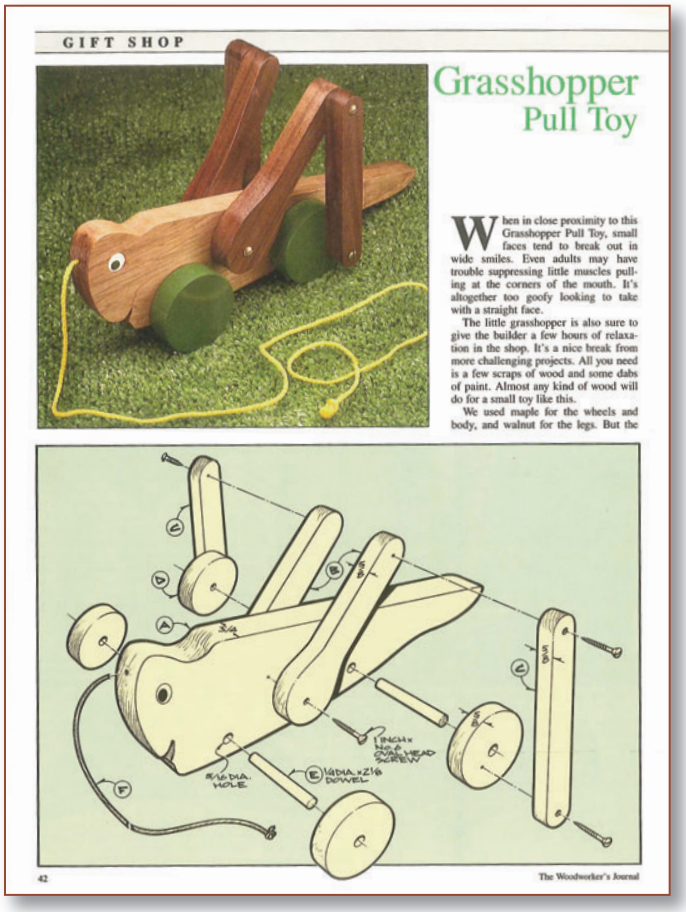
Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.

Grasshopper Pull Toy


GIFT SHOP

Grasshopper Pull Toy

When in close proximity to this Grasshopper Pull Toy, small faces tend to break out in wide smiles. Even adults may have trouble suppressing little muscles pulling at the corners of the mouth. It's altogether too goofy looking to take with a straight face.

The little grasshopper is also sure to give the builder a few hours of relaxation in the shop. It's a nice break from more challenging projects. All you need is a few scraps of wood and some dabs of paint. Almost any kind of wood will do for a small toy like this.

We used maple for the wheels and body, and walnut for the legs. But the

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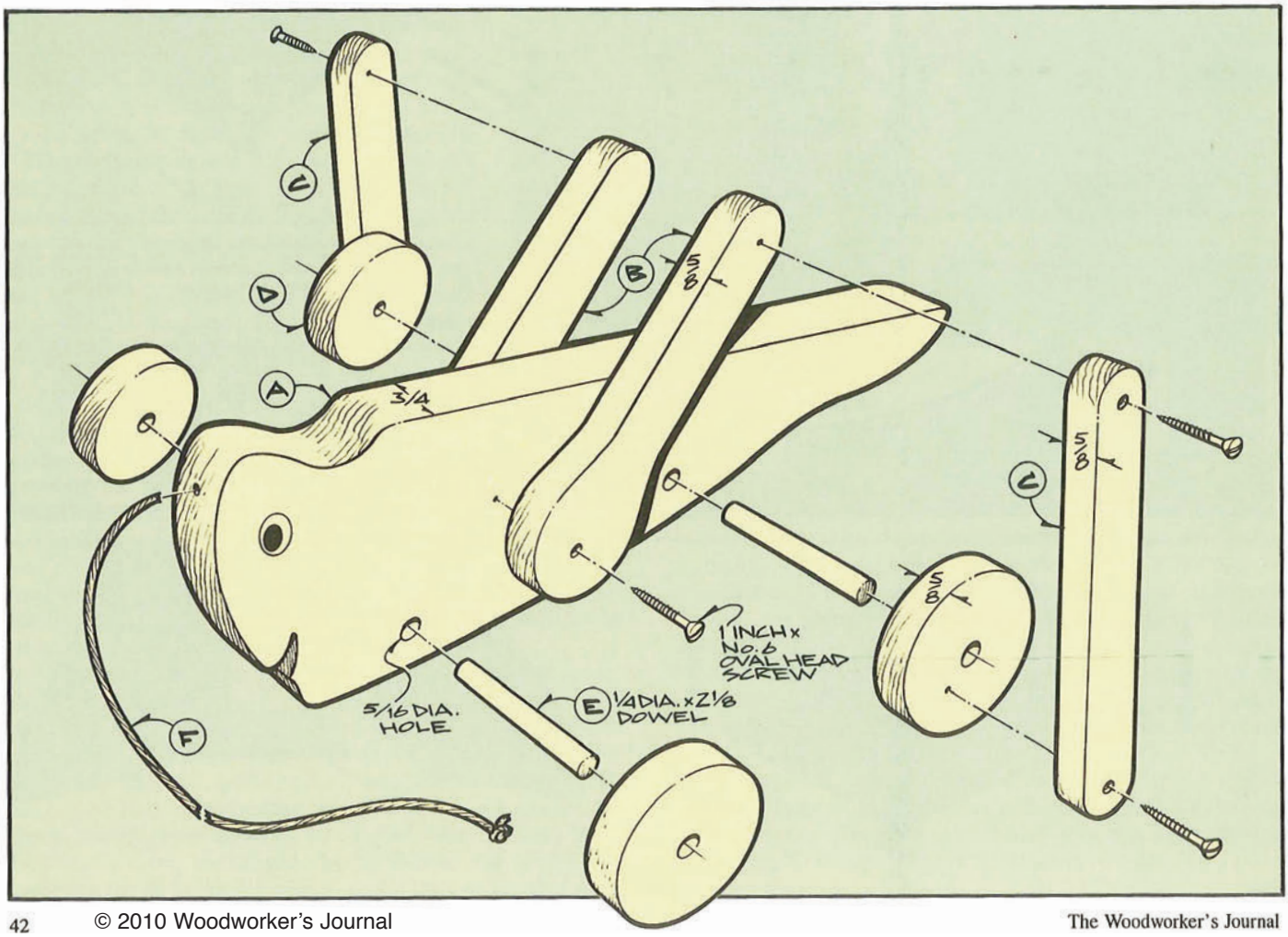

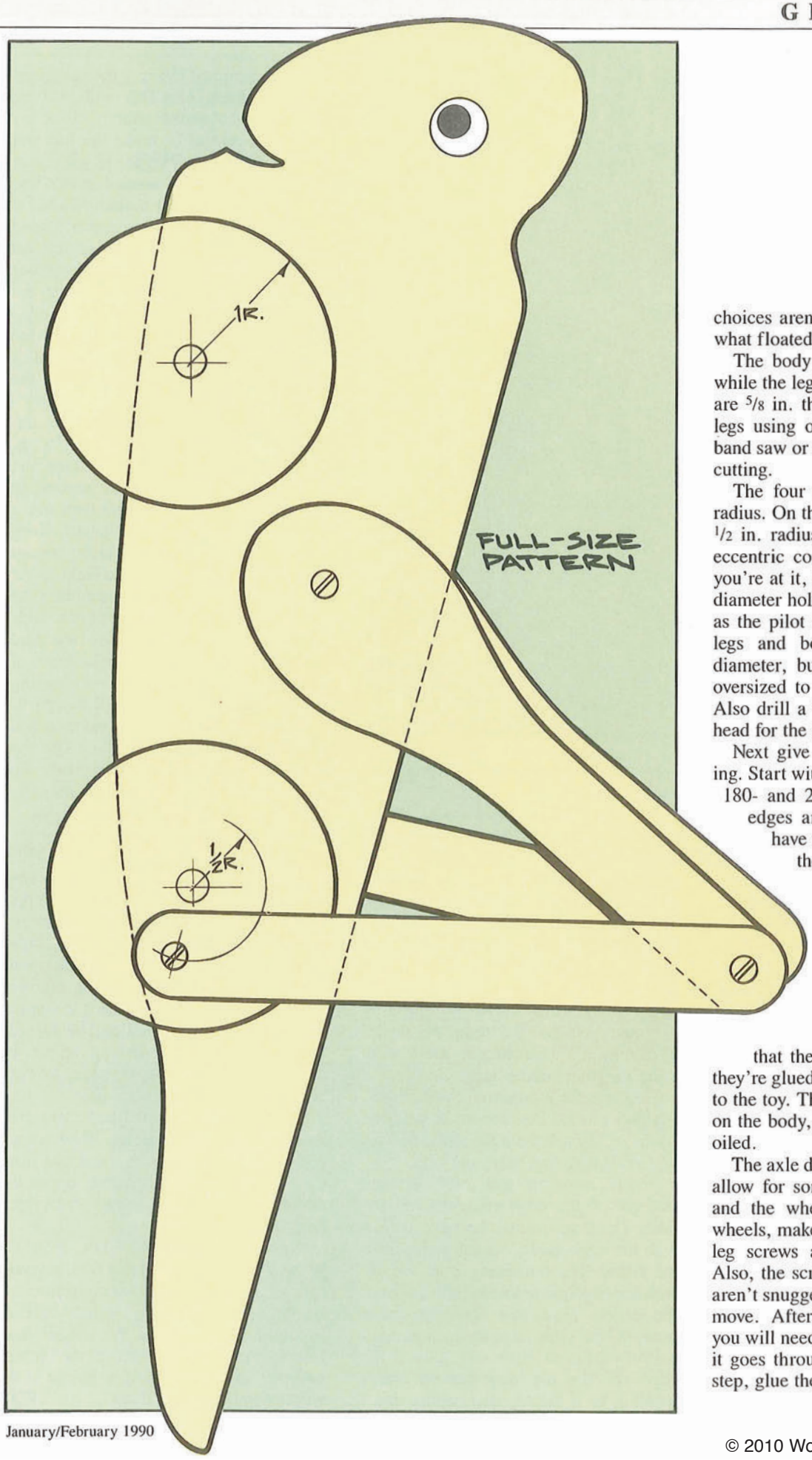

choices aren't based on anything except what floated to the top of the scrap bin.

The body (A) is 3/4 in. thick stock, while the legs (B and C) and wheels (D) are 5/8 in. thick. Lay out the body and legs using our full-size pattern. Use a band saw or a scroll saw to do the actual cutting.

The four wheels each have a 1 in. radius. On the rear wheels, also scribe a 1/2 in. radius to use when locating the eccentric connection to the leg. While you're at it, also locate and drill 5/16 in. diameter holes for the axles (E), as well as the pilot holes for the screws in the legs and body. The axle is 1/4 in. diameter, but the axle hole is slightly oversized to allow for easy movement. Also drill a 1/8 in. diameter hole in the head for the string (F).

Next give all the parts a good sanding. Start with 120-grit paper, then go to 180- and 220-grit. Make sure all the edges are well rounded. You may have to use a knife file to smooth the inside of the mouth.

Next apply the paint. We used green enamel for the wheels, and white and green enamel for the eyes. You can refer to our full-size pattern again to locate the eyes. Note that the wheels are painted before they're glued onto the axles and attached to the toy. That way you won't get paint on the body, which is left unfinished or oiled.

The axle dowel itself is 2 1/8 in. long to allow for some play between the body and the wheels. When gluing on the wheels, make sure the pilot holes for the leg screws are opposed 180 degrees. Also, the screws in the wheels and legs aren't snugged up, so the legs are free to move. After putting the toy together, you will need to touch up the axle where it goes through the wheels. For a final step, glue the pull string into the hole.

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator