

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

"America's leading woodworking authority"™

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.

Toddler Cart

GIFT SHOP

Toddler Cart




There's a stage most toddlers go through that's halfway between crawling and walking. They'll stand up and "cruise" along one object holding on with their hands and then head to another within arm's reach. If they can't reach another object they revert to crawling. Up to recently a popular choice for this early toddler stage was the wheeled bumper car seats that enabled them to get about using their feet for propulsion. But now politicians and child care specialists frown on these. The consensus is that they delay normal development. Our toddler cart provides just the right assist by giving the toddler a mobile cruise platform. It's a real confidence builder. The cart also provides ample storage for the tot who likes to tote those toys about. We just can't guarantee that they'll load the toys back into the cart after play time is through.

All the wooden parts for the toddler cart — except the axles (E) — can be cut from a 3/4 in. thick by 9 1/2 in. wide by 10 ft. long board. We used clear pine, but a No. 2 pine board with tight knots would be fine.

Crosscut your pine board to rough length for the front (A), back (B), sides (C) and bottom (D). Make all the ripping cuts to establish the widths of parts A through D, then transfer the grid pattern to the stock and cut the front and back profiles. Both profiles can be cut with a band saw, but you'll need a jigsaw for the handle cutout. We tilted the band saw table 12 degrees for the front profile, then used files to clean up the cut. Next, tilt the table saw blade for a 12-degree angle, and crosscut the front and back to final length. While the table saw blade is still set for a 12-degree cut, crosscut the bottom to its 15 7/8 in. length. Switch to a dado head in the table saw. Set the dado for a 3/4 in. width, raise it 1/4 in. above the surface of

The Woodworker's Journal

Published in *Woodworker's Journal* March/April 1990

 To download these plans, you will need **Adobe Reader** installed on your computer. If you want to get a free copy, visit: <http://adobe.com/reader>.

Having trouble downloading the plans?
Right click on the download link and select "Save Target As..." or "Save Link As..." (depending on the web browser you are using) to download to your local drive.

Copyright *Woodworker's Journal* © 2010
This pattern is copyrighted by *Woodworker's Journal*.
Purchasers of this plan may make three copies for personal use in the shop. The pattern itself, however, is the property of *Woodworker's Journal* and is not to be reproduced for distribution or resale. Doing so, including via any electronic methods, is a violation of copyright law.

www.woodworkersjournal.com

\$1.00
WJC022

Toddler Cart



There's a stage most toddlers go through that's halfway between crawling and walking. They'll stand up and "cruise" along one object holding on with their hands and then head to another within arm's reach. If they can't reach another object they revert to crawling. Up to recently a popular choice for this early toddler stage was the wheeled bumper car seats that enabled them to get about using their feet for propulsion. But now pediatricians and child care specialists frown on these. The consensus is that they delay normal development.

Our toddler cart provides just the

right assist by giving the toddler a mobile cruise platform. It's a real confidence builder. The cart also provides ample storage for the tot who likes to tote those toys about. We just can't guarantee that they'll load the toys back into the cart after play time is through.

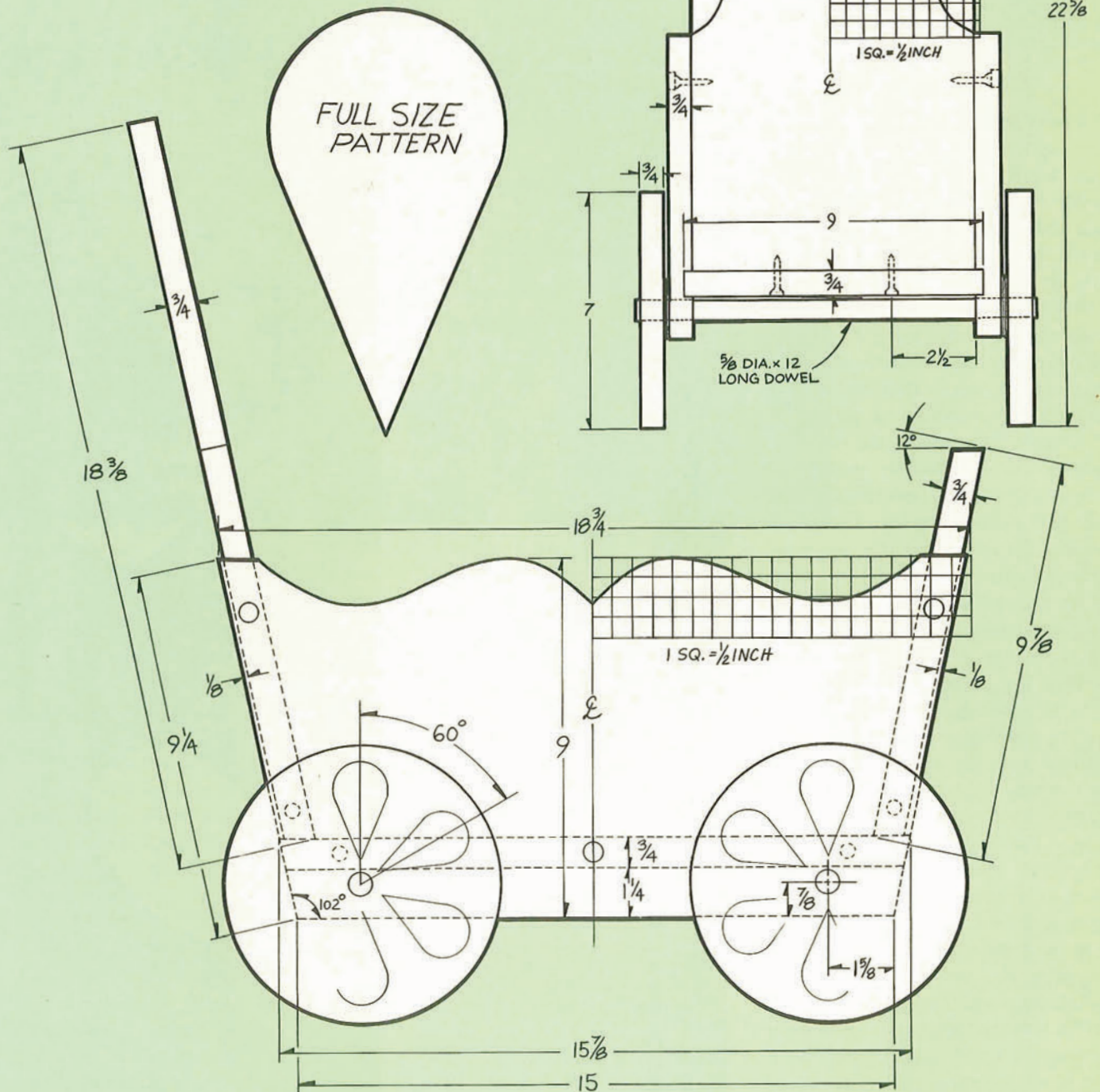
All the wooden parts for the toddler cart — except the axles (E) — can be cut from a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick by $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide by 10 ft. long board. We used clear pine, but a No. 2 pine board with tight knots would be fine.

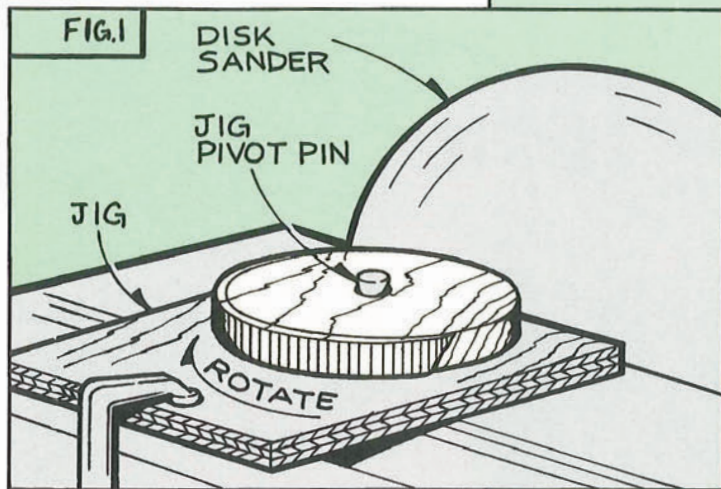
Crosscut your pine board to rough length for the front (A), back (B), sides (C) and bottom (D). Make all the

ripping cuts to establish the widths of parts A through D, then transfer the grid pattern to the stock and cut the front and back profiles. Both profiles can be cut with a band saw, but you'll need a jigsaw for the handle cutout. We tilted the band saw table 12 degrees for the front profile, then used files to clean up the cut. Next, tilt the table saw blade for a 12-degree angle, and crosscut the front and back to final length. While the table saw blade is still set for a 12-degree cut, crosscut the bottom to its $15\frac{7}{8}$ in. length. Switch to a dado head in the table saw. Set the dado for a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. width, raise it $\frac{1}{4}$ in. above the surface of

Bill of Materials
(all dimensions actual)

Part	Description	Size	No. Req'd.
A	Front	3/4 x 8 1/2 x 9 7/8	1
B	Back	3/4 x 8 1/2 x 18 3/8	1
C	Side	3/4 x 9 x 18 3/4	2
D	Bottom	3/4 x 9 x 15 7/8	1
E	Axle	5/8 dia. x 12 long	2
F	Wheel	7 dia. x 3/4 thick	4
G	Washer	1 1/16 I.D. x 1 3/4 O.D.	4



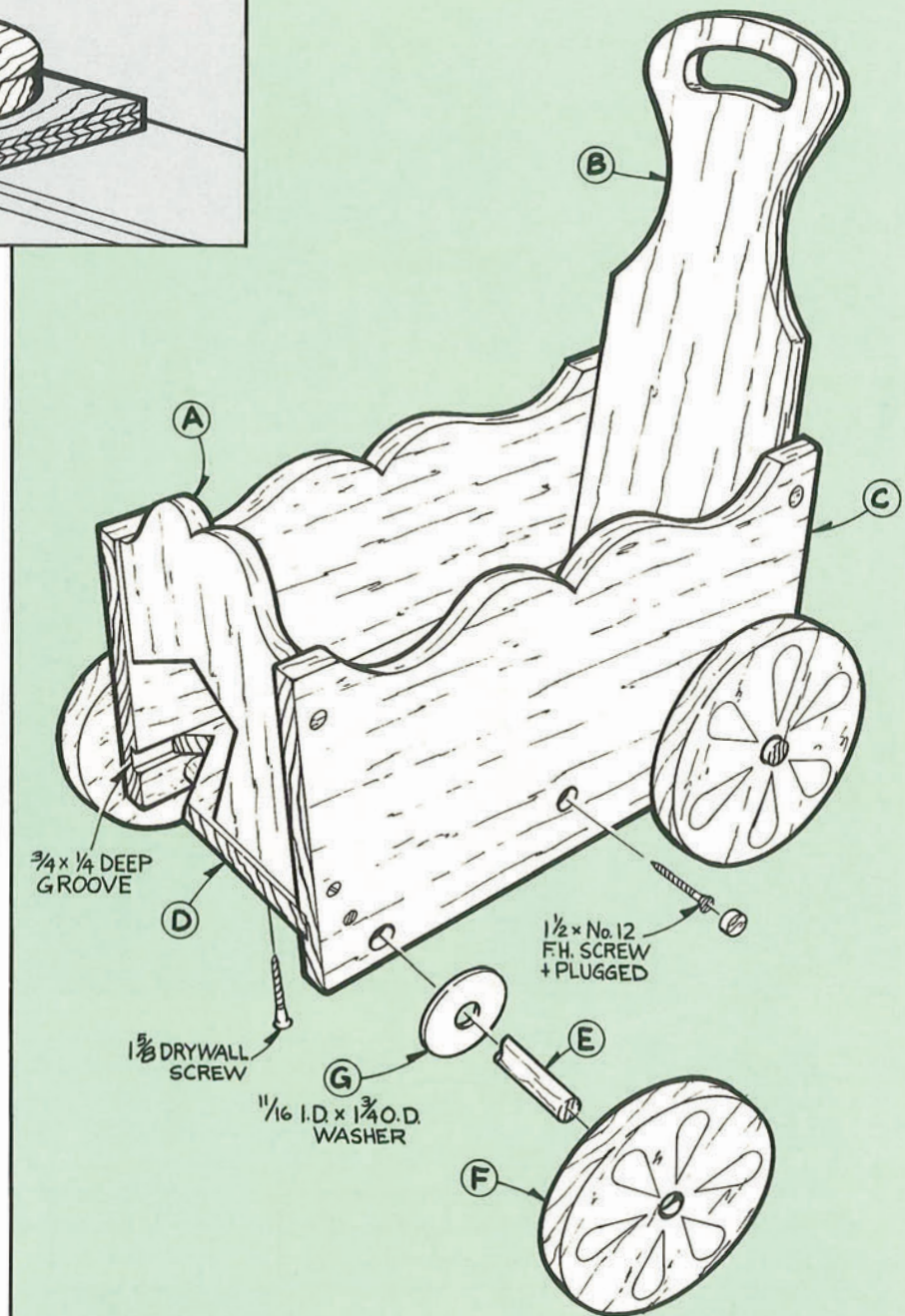


the saw table and position the fence $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. away from the blade. Note that the $\frac{3}{4}$ in. width assumes that your bottom is exactly $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. If it's not, set the dado width equal to whatever the thickness is. Now make the dado cuts in the sides for the bottom.

Switch back to your regular saw blade, angle the miter gauge 12 degrees, and make the crosscuts that establish the length of the sides. Then transfer the side grid pattern and cut out the profile. By temporarily screwing the two sides together, you can cut the profile and drill the axle holes in both sides at once. This will insure accuracy. Locate the screws at the assembly screw locations.

Use a compass to lay out the wheel (F) circles, and the band saw or jigsaw to cut just outside the line. Then drill the axle holes, mount the wheels on the jig shown in Fig. 1, and disk sand to final diameter. The jig will enable you to produce a perfectly round wheel.

Round over or sand to soften any sharp edges. Then assemble the cart as shown with screws and plugs and apply Minwax Puritan Pine stain. To paint the decorative teardrop shape on the wheels, cut our full-size pattern out of some cardboard, use as a template and spray paint the teardrops. The washers (G) keep the wheels from chafing against the sides. Two coats of orange shellac, followed by a coat of Minwax Antique Oil Finish (applied before the wheels are mounted) protect the wood and lend it a warm glow. 



WOODWORKER'S WJOURNAL

Thank you for purchasing this *Woodworker's Journal* Classic Project plan.

Woodworker's Journal Classic Projects are scans of much-loved woodworking plans from our library of back issues. Please note that specific products and sources cited in a plan when it originally appeared may no longer be available.

If you experience any problems with this plan, please contact: info@woodworkersjournal.com

or

Attn: Classic Projects
Woodworker's Journal
4365 Willow Drive
Medina, MN 55340

Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
Internet Production Coordinator