

(Download) Make Your Own Toys (Do It Yourself Projects!)

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Rita Storey

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#4005353 in Books 2010-08-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.88 x .36 x 8.841, .81 Binding: Library Binding 24 pages | File size: 42.Mb

Rita Storey : Make Your Own Toys (Do It Yourself Projects!) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Make Your Own Toys (Do It Yourself Projects!):

Kids have been making their own toys for centuries. This exciting book includes step-by-step instructions for making all kinds of toys. Young readers will learn a number of new skills, such as papier-mâché and simple sewing. The helpful photographs accompanying each project make it easy to follow along.

From School Library Journal Gr 4-6- In each book, Storey demonstrates eight creative projects. The first one includes pop-up, pull-tab, and sewn cards. The toys in the second title are old-fashioned, like a yo-yo and a beanbag. The author assumes that crafters can manage a sewing needle or wire a simple circuit. The activities all include step-by-step instructions with color photographs, including one of a child holding the final product, and a paragraph with interesting facts about the card or toy. Directions are fairly clear, but at times the pictures are a little confusing. For

example, in the yo-yo project, the instructions say to cut circles out of stiff cardboard, but the picture doesn't seem to show the paper as cardboard. Some of the materials in Toys might be difficult to find, like a small motor or plastic mirrors. The books are good choices for collections needing new craft titles, but the analogous ones in the "Design and Make" series (Watts) have 10 and 11 projects, respectively, and use more readily available supplies.--Donna Cardon, Provo City Library, UT (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From BooklistAt first blush, this title sounds rather sad, but that's the wrong way to approach it. Even a kid knee-deep in store-bought robots has a hankering to play inventor now and then. Storey begins with an interesting two-page history of toys, tracing them through ancient Greece and the mid-1800s factory boom to today's plastic proliferation. Most kids, though, will skip to the eight projects, which are uniformly cool and difficult. A trip to the craft store is pretty much required, unless you're the type to keep on hand odd-shaped plastic mirrors (to build the kaleidoscope) or small motors (to power the carousel). The pictured kids look happy, but there's bound to be some frustration because of the erroneous cuts and folds that are inevitable, given the relative paucity and size of the photos. Probably the most accessible crafts are the papier-mâché penguin family and the beanbag frog, which looks like a bona fide stuffed animal. For serious crafters prepared for a challenge. Grades 3-6. --Daniel Kraus