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Kinetic Contraptions: Build A Hovercraft, Airboat, And More With A Hobby Motor



Synopsis

Hobby motors—every workbench warrior has a few that have been pulled out of broken toys or rescued from old electronics kits. Theyâ™re cheap, available, and with Kinetic Contraptions, essential to build some ingenious moving creations. The two dozen contraptions found in this handy resource are assembled primarily from low-cost or recycled materials, batteries, and a single motor.Â Youâ™ll learn how to build vehicles that move across the land, over the sea, and through the air. Construct a hovercraft out of a Styrofoam plate, two corks, and binder clips. Build a double paddle-wheeler out of paint stirrers, plastic bottles, and disposable knives. Kinetic Contraptions even has “bizarroâ• devices, such as a waterless snow globe, a tornado in a bottle, and a mechanical bubble maker—no blowing required!Â Each project is clearly explained through materials and tools lists, stepby- step instructions with photographs, and scientific background on the concepts being explored. Budding engineers will get experience working with tools, testing simple circuits, modifying and improving their designs, and building unique contraptions of their own with the skills theyâ™ve developed.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Upâ "Gear heads, physics buffs, and model builders are the potential audience for this

book that's reminiscent of Popular Science magazine, but with small, poor-quality black-and-white photos depicting the steps to create various vehicles. Projects, including the creation of land, air, water, spinning, and "bizarro" machines, follow detailed opening chapters focusing on safety, materials, and basic circuitry. They also describe how to make switches, and how to wire batteries in serial and parallel configurations to construct a "roach" or a motor with a battery pack and a switch that will be used in projects throughout the book. The models are crafted out of materials such as Styrofoam, wood, film canister lids, wires, and brass fasteners, and, of course, magnets, batteries, tape, and hot glue. Boxed insets in each chapter explain the science behind the machines; trouble-shooting suggestions anticipate problems and suggest solutions. The author peppers the dense text with witty comments and asides, but it's clear this is a book for dedicated enthusiasts. The help of a knowledgeable adult will be necessary for most projects. An appendix of supply sources completes the package.â "Janet S. Thompson, Chicago Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Reminiscent of Popular Science magazine . . . a book for dedicated enthusiasts."Â #151;School Library Journal

I found this book clear and easy to follow. The projects were well within the range of my 10 to 14 year-old students, and we had many successful adventures building and tinkering with the "roaches." We used this book as curriculum for enrichment activities at our after-school program, and did not find it overly technical. On the contrary, many of the projects are whimsical and straight-out fun. Our session became one of the most popular in the program. I'd recommend it to anyone looking to good fun with some motors, batteries, wire, tape and Popsicle sticks!

Great read.

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