

The Child's Sled and Climbing Bear

Two great Holiday projects that are destined to become favorites for the children on your Christmas shopping list

THE CHILD'S SLED

Here's a project that's as sure to be a big hit for a child or grandchild this Christmas as it is to be passed on to the next generation, and the next, and next. This classic sled will brighten any child's Winter blues, then double as a plant stand when "Old Man Winter" packs it in for the season. We've purposely made the shapes simple so it will be easy for you to duplicate them – or to modify them to a style you like better, if you prefer.

Start by drawing your patterns onto a piece of high quality 3/4" marine plywood (without voids). Be sure to draw two identical side pieces (B) and two identical runners (C).

Use your Table Saw to cut all pieces to size, then switch to a Dado set-up and cut:

- ...the 3/4" wide x 3/8" deep rabbets along the bottom edges of the sides (B)
- ...the 3/4" wide x 3/8" dados at the backs of the sides to accept the back
- ...the 3/4" wide x 3/8" deep rabbets along the top edges of the sides to accept the seat.

Switch to your bandsaw to cut out the shaped edges on the Sides (B), Runners (C) and Back (D). Use your Drum Sander to smooth the shaped edges prior to assembly.

Drill holes for the 1" dia. rope bar (E) and the 1-1/2" x #8 flathead wood screws that hold the aluminum glides to the bottom of the plywood runners.

Assemble with waterproof, two-part resorcinol glue and wood screws. Stain or paint to your preference, then apply a clear coat. **NOTE:** If painting, be sure to apply a coat of sealer prior to paint application.

Bill of Materials

(dimensions in inches – all 3/4" Marine Plywood)

(A)	Seat	12 x 24
(B)	Sides (2)	7 x 18
(C)	Runners (2)	8 x 36
(D)	Back	10-1/4 x 12-3/4
(E)	Rope Bar	1" dowel, 12-3/4 long

Miscellaneous

Aluminum Glides (2) 1/8" x 3/4" wide by (approx) 40" long

THE CLIMBING BEAR

Here's a classic child's toy that's been around for generations. It's quick and easy to make...and a joy for the kids to play with. And you can make a stack of them at the same time by "pad-sawing" them out on your Bandsaw.

Start by cutting out your 5" x 5-3/4" blanks of 3/4" hardwood. We used poplar, but any good quality, clear wood will work nicely.

Next, make a photocopy of the pattern shown here and print it out to the appropriate size. Trace the pattern onto a piece of hardboard and cut out a tracing template that you can use for transferring the pattern to your workpieces.

Cut your bear blanks to size, fasten a stack of 4 or 5 of them together, using Double Stick Tape and cut the entire stack out at once on your bandsaw.

Now, cut out a top bar for each bear. Make them about 7" long x 3/4" wide by 3/4" thick.

Use your drill press with the table tilted to 55-degrees to drill the 3/16" diameter holes in the bear's paws, as shown. Reset the table to 90-degrees and drill the holes in the top bars.

Use a straight-slot screwdriver to carefully separate the bears, then finish sand the bears and bars to a smooth surface using small drum sanders and a Strip Sander.

Add face decorations to one or both sides of the bears. Cut 1/8" diameter sash cord into pieces 50" and 8" long. To assemble, thread the 50" cords through the bears, bars and beads, then knot the ends. Use the 8" cords as center supports, passing them through the bead and center hole of the bar, then making a loop in the top end.

To make the bear climb, hang the support loop from a nail or a hook. First pull one cord, then the other, and the bear will "shimmy" up the ropes to the bar. Release both cords and the bear will slide back down.