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Creative Design for Young, Young Moderns

I made it myself . . . gifts 6-12 year olds
can make for themselves or friends.

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Pull out a box containing a selection of things, old magazines, bits of yarn and string, fabric scraps, glue, dried flowers and pieces of wood. The magic of imagination takes over and transforms these materials into tangible tokens.

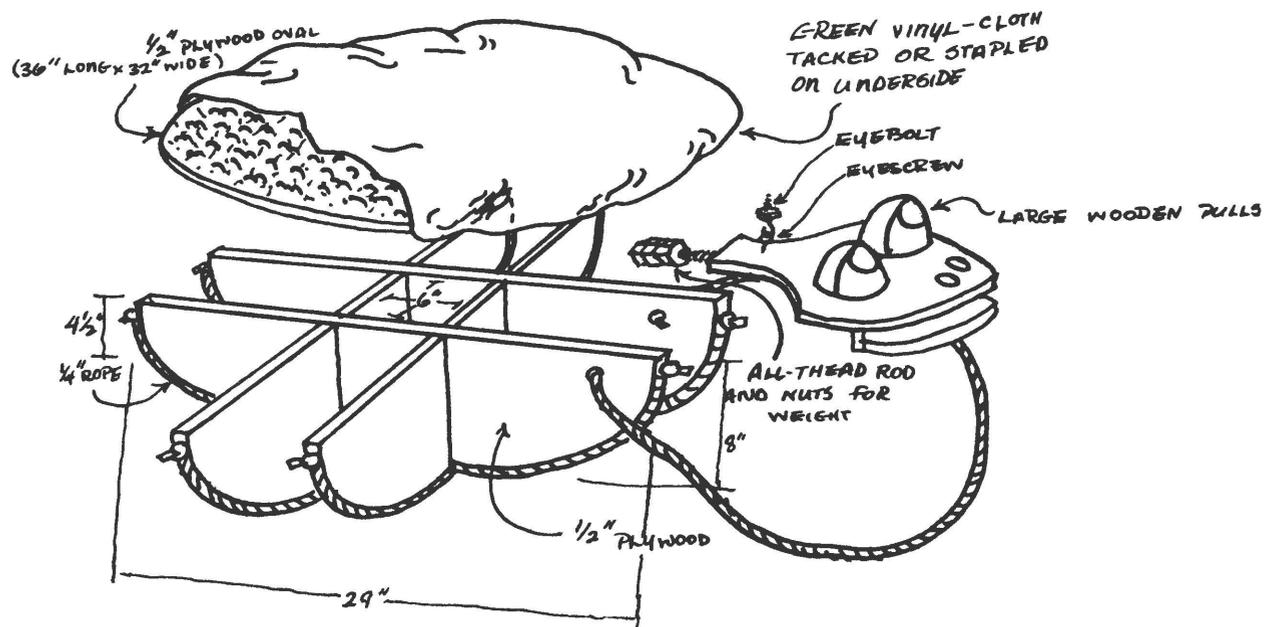
Ideas on these pages are not offered as designs to be copied exactly, they're starters. As young moderns work, new ideas will pop into their minds and they will carry them in completely different directions from the original. Encourage them . . . we want and need designers. In the final act let *them* tell their

ideas of expression, credit their workmanship, and suggest ways of using the item in a composition or arrangement. We must not forget to give attention to function: Does it work if it has a job to do? How well is it suited to the job?

"Bumps" is great for a reptile rodeo or for quiet times. The 4 pounds of shredded foam stuffed under his vinyl-cloth shell make an excellent pad for reclining or bouncing on. Two pairs of rockers allow the beast to rock forwards and back as well as from side to side.

The base for the shell is a plywood oval roughly 32 by 36 inches, 1/2 inch thick. To make the pad, pile the foam on the plywood, then place a piece of vinyl-cloth roughly 40 by 48 inches over it. Use tacks every inch or so to attach cloth to underside of plywood; gather the cloth as you go, and cut off the extra.

Cut out the rockers, making sure that the bottoms are flat in the middle. Make two notches in each rocker, cutting from the bottom up on two rockers and from the top down on the other two, so the two sets can intersect each other, forming four cross-lap joints. Glue and screw rockers to the plywood base.



Cut head shape out of wood scraps. Attach a piece of all-thread rod and several nuts to the head for balance. Use eye-bolts and eye screws to mount head on the body.

For a smoother ride, you can tack rope to the underside of the rockers with small brads. On the side-to-side rockers, start the rope a few inches away from rocker intersections, so it doesn't touch the floor when it is rocking from front to back.

Add a rope for reins, finish exposed wood with natural finish, paint on a face, and some youngster should be happy. Total cost is under \$10.00.

If you have materials similar to those suggested, try yours. Note the function of the piece before substitutions.

