

## John Michael Linck Toymaker

608 Tall Pines Way

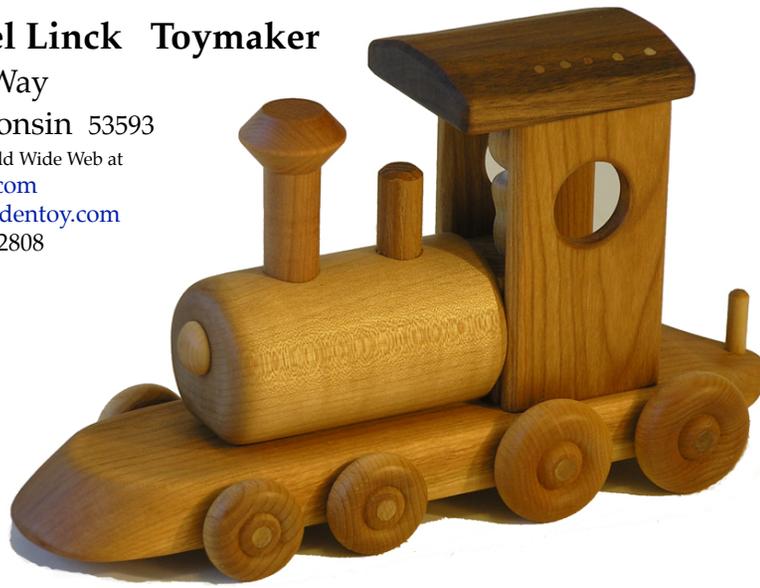
Madison, Wisconsin 53593

Color Catalog on the World Wide Web at

[www.woodentoy.com](http://www.woodentoy.com)

email - [john@woodentoy.com](mailto:john@woodentoy.com)

Telephone 608-231-2808



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2014

## You Must Be Pleasantly Surprised

I want you to be completely happy with my toys. I know that the quality of my work will pleasantly surprise you. If you feel otherwise, for any reason, I want you to have your money back. You may return any toy for a prompt refund.

My toy finish consists of grocery store walnut oil and is non-toxic while giving substantial soil and moisture resistance. It can be maintained occasionally with lemon or mineral oil.

Depending on my workload at the time of your order, there can be some delay in making and shipping your toy. I try to meet your special occasions, but please phone if you would like an estimated arrival date. Toys arrive at your door fully assembled via United Parcel Service or Priority Mail. Orders larger than \$75.00 ship free to 48 U.S. States.

Operators are **not** standing by. You may hear a saw or sander winding down in the background as I leave my work to answer your call. I don't have voice mail, shrink-wrap packaging or television advertising. I do make unusually fine toys.

### John Michael Linck

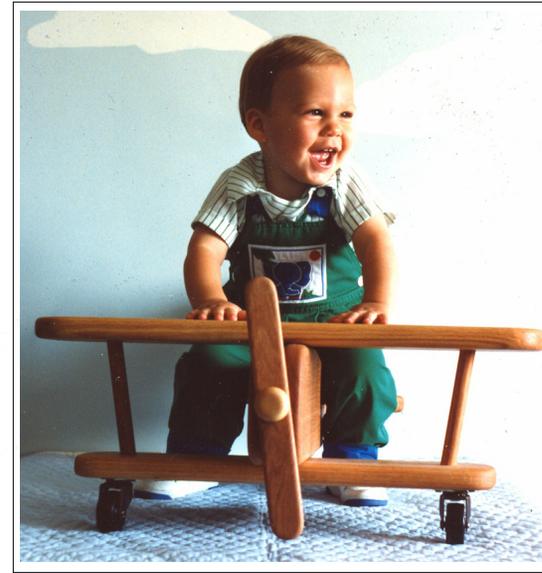
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*All my toys are  
guaranteed for my lifetime.  
John*

If Facebook is part of your life *Like* me there and follow my weekly musings about children and their toys.



Jeffrey at 1 year old.

2014

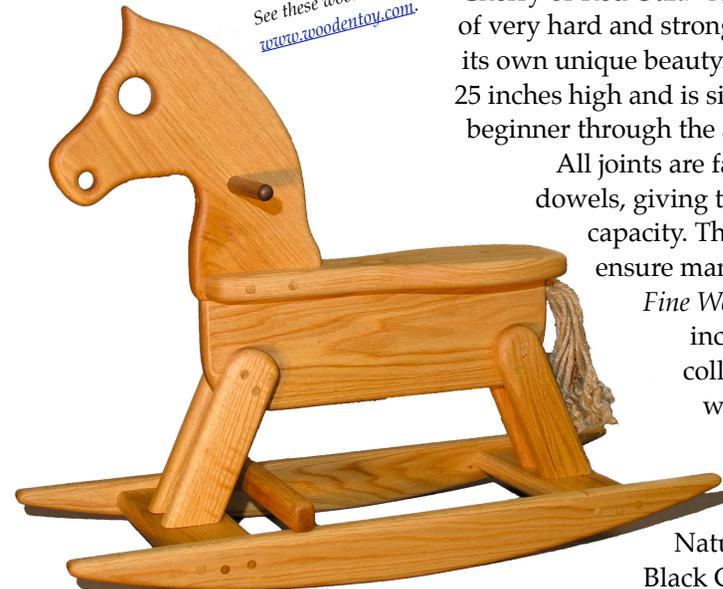
# Fine Hardwood Toys for Your Children's Children

Made by

John Michael Linck

## Rocking Horse

See these woods in color at  
[www.woodentoy.com](http://www.woodentoy.com)



This sturdy horse is offered in three classic American hardwoods, Black Walnut, Black Cherry or Red Oak. All offer the durability of very hard and strong wood, and each has its own unique beauty. The horse measures 25 inches high and is sized for the 1 year old beginner through the 5 year old trick rider.

All joints are fastened with Hickory dowels, giving the horse a 300 pound capacity. This over-capacity will ensure many generations of use.

*Fine Woodworking* magazine included my horse in its collection of outstanding woodwork in America. 31 inches long.

Natural Red Oak \$310.00  
Black Cherry Horse \$335.00  
Black Walnut Horse \$360.00

# The Toymaker

Fine woodworking has been a family tradition for more than a century, starting with my great grandfather, John Michael Dreher, in the Black Forest. Upon completing his cabinetmaking apprenticeship he sailed to America in 1867. Here he taught and worked with his son, my grandfather, for many years. I see the results of their partnership in the ornate wood interiors of many churches and public buildings in my home town, Danville, Illinois.



One hundred years later, I continue their tradition in fine hardwood toys. My apprenticeship began in my childhood basement workshop and ended with a B.S. in Forest Science and Design at the University of Illinois. I build each toy with care, using Wisconsin hardwoods. These woods are durable, beautiful and timeless. I want my toys to furnish an alternative to some of the throw-away aspects of life today.

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*John Michael Linck*

# The Making of an Heirloom

Visits to my grandmother always included listening to stories of her youth; stories often prompted by an object or photograph in her home. One walking stick has passed down multiple generations and has many associated family stories, some probably true. Family legend claims it full of diamonds, probably false. I hope the toys I make for you will gather many stories as the years pass. Durable hardwood toys are great carriers of family stories and bring wonderful memories to mind. As a child outgrows a beautiful wooden toy it can easily become part of your home's decor until the next visitor, cousin or grandchild comes along to play. My craftsmanship and your hopes alone can't insure that your descendants will treasure a toy you give, but I have a few suggestions to improve the odds. Most importantly, make the toy special. Explain to the child how their toy was chosen and made specially for them and how its quality is uncommon today. Also, ask me to inscribe their name and an important date. This can prevent a toy passing out of a family. Loaned toys often disappear forever. My grandmother is gone now, but when I open her music box or look at the painting that graced her parlor my memories are vivid. Similarly, I hope my wooden toys bring your loved ones joy now and wonderful memories in the future.

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name	telephone
address	
city, state, zip code	
ship to:	telephone
address	
city, state, zip code	

Toys	Price each	Total

Subtotal	
Sales tax <small>(Wis residents only)</small>	
Shipping	
Grand Total	

**Free Shipping**  
Orders larger than \$75.00 ship **free** in 48 U.S. States. Smaller orders ship for \$5.00. Other destinations please ask.

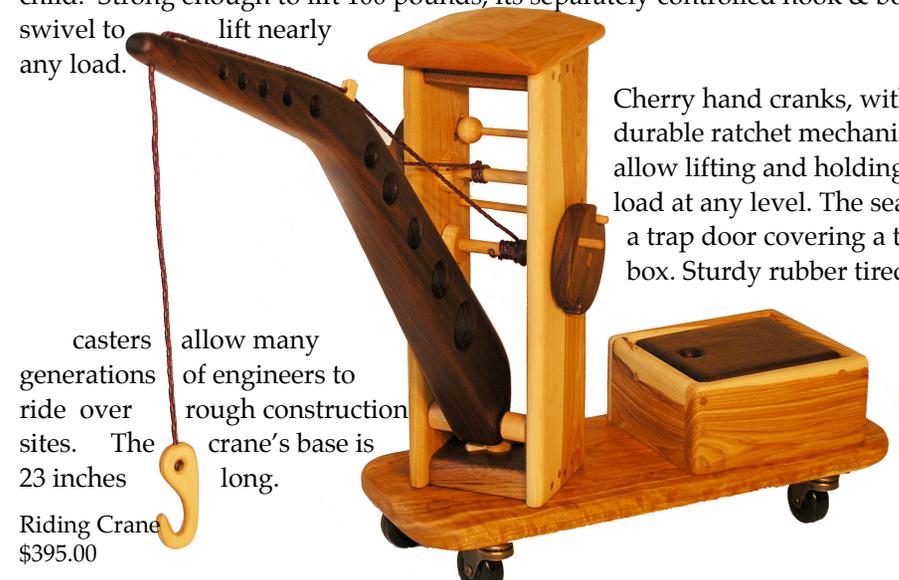
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Do you need this by a specific date?	<input type="text"/>
Email address	<input type="text"/>
Note:	<input type="text"/>

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email [john@woodentoy.com](mailto:john@woodentoy.com) • [www.woodentoy.com](http://www.woodentoy.com) 19

# Riding Crane

Black Walnut, Maple & Black Cherry are combined in this redesign of a toy I first made in 1976. This is a toy I wish I could have played with when I was a child. Strong enough to lift 100 pounds, its separately controlled hook & boom swivel to lift nearly any load.



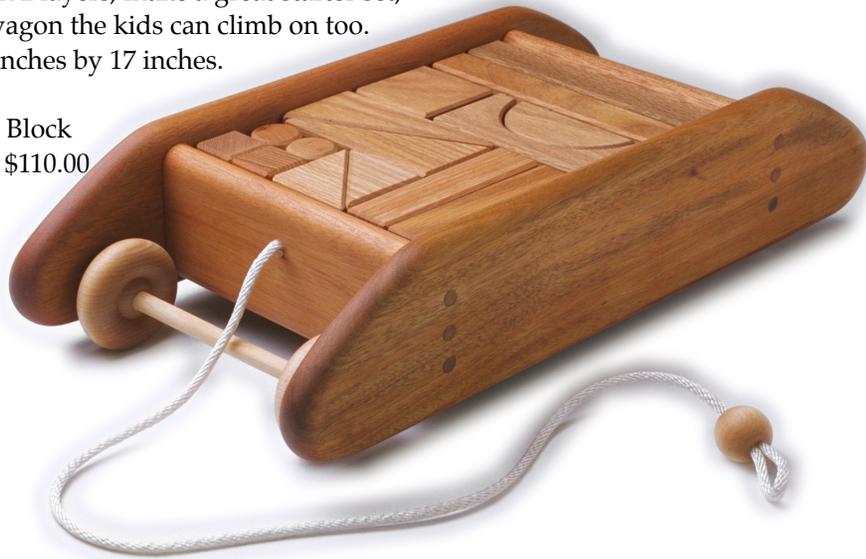
Riding Crane  
\$395.00

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# Pull Toy Block Wagon

Similar to the larger version this wagon's 21 blocks, in 2 layers, make a great starter set, with a wagon the kids can climb on too. Size - 9 inches by 17 inches.

Pull Toy Block Wagon \$110.00



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# Riding Airplane

Made of solid Red Oak, Cherry or Walnut, this bi-plane will never leave the ground except in the imagination of your little one, but it will taxi on and on. Industrial strength soft tire casters stand up to sidewalk cracks as well as a father's weight and allow a 300 pound payload. My daughter began "flying" at nine months, lying on the plane and pushing it around the house as a pre-walker. Size is 28"x24"



Black Walnut \$360.00  
Cherry Airplane \$335.00  
Natural Red Oak shown \$310.00

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# Train



Engine



Tender



Can car



Piggy-back



Log car



Pickle Barrel car



Gondola

My love of small details in my wooden train was restricted by the need for durability, but you will still find a sliding door on the box car, an opening gate in the circus car, an drive-away automobile on the auto car and working hook on the crane car. Most other train cars also have movable parts. I usually include at least 8 woods in each train, (Sugar Maple, Tulipwood, Beech, White Ash, Red Oak, Hickory, Cherry, Elm and Walnut often appear). Many people begin by purchasing a few train cars and rekindle a child's enthusiasm each birthday or holiday with additional cars. Cars are 10 inches long with leather hitches. Each train car is \$33.00 except the Piggy-back which is \$39.00.



Milk Can car



Lumber car



Coal Car



Windmill car



Searchlight car



Fire Fighting



Tilting Hopper car



Crane car



Box car



Bulldozer Car



Circus car



Passenger car

**Consider my train car-a-month club.** I will ship one car each month wherever you like for as long as you like. The cost with shipping is \$38.00 per month, billed to your charge card. Imagine the delight when a child gets a new present in the mail each month. After two or three they begin to anticipate each month's new arrival, often pestering mom or dad with questions like, "When is my new train car coming from grandma?"



Container car



Giraffe car



Tanker Car



Auto car



Caboose

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## Doll Bed

This doll bed is made of Wisconsin Walnut and Cherry with hickory dowels as a contrast. The slightly whimsical design has proven a favorite. Dad can stand inside so don't worry if the kids do. Inside it measures 20 inches by 12 inches; sized for your American Girl or any doll. I have made this doll bed for over 30 years and the design has evolved over that time.

Combination Walnut &  
Cherry Doll Bed \$195.00



See more & color pictures and  
information at [www.woodentoy.com](http://www.woodentoy.com).

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Castles and roadways, zoos and doll houses, skyscrapers and airports take shape each day. Michael and Bree built to the ceiling using a stool. Psychologists suggest wooden block building can prevent future math anxiety. My children are math experts. Perhaps those hundreds of wooden blocks helped. Size is 18 x 18 inches.

Cherry block wagon with 100 Red Oak blocks  
in four layers. \$375

100 blocks alone without wagon \$200.00

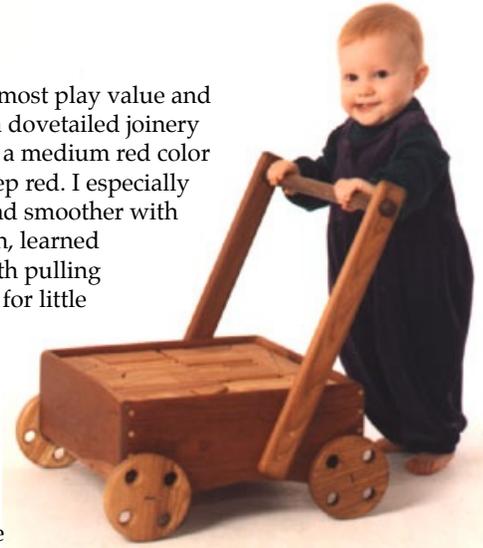


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## Block Wagon

*Learn to Walk – Learn to Build*

This wooden wagon is my toy with the most play value and is made of Black Cherry assembled with dovetailed joinery and Hickory dowels. Cherry starts with a medium red color and darkens over time to a beautiful deep red. I especially like its property of wearing smoother and smoother with handling. Michael and Bree, my children, learned to walk with this toy. And at that 9 month pulling up stage the handle is at an ideal height for little hands to grasp, and the weight of 100 Red Oak blocks gives stability to support a new walker. The light in their eyes as they take their first steps is a joy to see. While the wagon can later become a carrier of friends, the best part of this toys is the wooden blocks. Day after day blocks are a favorite of all children.



This was my attempt to design a wooden toy to fit a \$25.00 price range. I failed. A simple stick with a ball knob evolved into a hand laminated Cherry and White Ash handle. The traditional "ball in cage" noisemaker became four clackers of colorful woods. Each surface is shaped into a compound curve and begs for your touch. The clacker kept getting nicer and the \$25.00 price became impossible. With wooden dowels instead of nails this toy will last through several generations. The main joints are fastened with 5 interlocking hard maple dowels to prevent loosening. The final design is a joy to touch and is very durable. Many people choose the clacker with no children in mind; they keep it themselves. But I think children given well made wooden toys will appreciate these fine textures and learn a sense of quality. Size is 9 x 22 inches.

Clacker \$115.00



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## Letters

John, the toys arrived safely yesterday, and I am thrilled!!!!!! (There is always a little risk ordering over the internet!). But I needn't have worried. The toys are beautiful beyond my expectations. I was so pleased when I touched the wagon and found it smooth as butter. I don't think I have ever felt wood that had been sanded so perfectly smooth. The blocks are wonderful - just fitting them into the wagon like a puzzle was fun. And the train cars are just amazing...the variety in design and wood colours, the smoothness to the touch...they are absolutely perfect. I am so excited about giving these as gifts. Thank you so much, for your precise, excellent, beautiful work. I am only sorry that I cannot thank you in person.

And I will send pictures as soon as I am able. – Heather

Dear John,

Thank you so very much for making such a wonderful "Clacker" for our son, Henry! We received it in the mail yesterday; and, as you can see from the photo, Henry LOVES it! We know it took a lot of time and careful effort to make, and want you to know how much we appreciate your beautiful workmanship! Many, many thanks!

Appreciatively, Elizabeth & John 8/2011

## Letters

Dear John,  
Thank you so much for the beautifully crafted toy. I gave my grandson the clacker for Christmas. He was just starting to walk and at first just pushed the toy back and forth as he stood in one place. Now that he's walking more he's pushing it around all over the house. He studies it carefully to find out where the sound comes from. It's such a lovely piece. My son says they'll hang it on the wall after Jackson's outgrown it, because it's a work of art!

Thanks again,

Cynthia 1/2010

John,

I just wanted to thank you for the excellently crafted wood wagon with 100 blocks. It is exactly what I was looking to purchase for my daughter's first Christmas. Your attention to detail and ability to deliver a finely crafted product is amazing. Once again thank you.

Thanks, Shannon

I was just watching my 6 and 7 year-old daughters playing (yet again!) with their wagon full of blocks, which we bought when the older one was just a year old, and it occurred to me that this toy has provided the absolute best play value of ANY toy we've bought the girls in all these years (Beat that, Nintendo!). They learned to walk, pushing the wagon, and here they are in elementary school, still playing with their blocks. Considering the upcoming Christmas season and the difficult economy, I wanted to once more share my opinion that these blocks have been the best dollars we've ever spent on toys. And the bonus for the adults is their beauty. They're the one toy that are a pleasure to see, even when they haven't been put away. Thanks again! Daryl 11/2009

## Doll House – “new” in 2014

I made this doll house for the first time about 1983 for my own children. A dozen or two followed for sale and then I stopped. Why the design lay dormant over three decades is a mystery. Way back then I wanted a beautiful doll house that was also durable enough for toddlers and pre-schoolers. Still seems a good idea so I am making it again. There are plenty of delicate versions available for older children to paint and decorate. Younger children are more interested in imaginative play, less display. This design can stand up to their rough handling; they can even climb on top. The people and furniture pictured are not included.



Size is 15 inches high and 14 wide. \$135.00 – including free shipping to 48 states.

## Letters

John,

I received the train and it is stunning! Better than I expected, just as the bock wagon I ordered from you for my older daughter's 1st birthday two years ago. These are my absolute favorite items in their toy collections. Your craftsmanship is really impressive and the toys are simply beautiful and timeless, not to mention sturdy! I hope my daughters will cherish them for years to come.

Thank You! Victoria 3/2011

Ari received his blocks Wed. They are beautiful! Thank you so very much! Ari loves them and he can push the wagon. He can't quite walk yet but loves to push things. They are so perfectly balanced, they are easy to push. Thank you for the wonderful craftsmanship! Mom and Dad love them as well – we all agree, they are a perfect first birthday gift from Grandma Cindy!!

Thank you again! Cindy 7/11

Hi John,

We received the horse about 3 weeks ago. We really loved it. It was perfect. The craftsmanship was great. It looks sturdy enough to last through many generations, which is what we hoped it would do. We hope our great grandchildren will still be using the beautiful horse. We can't thank you enough for taking the time to make such a great product.

Christina and Shinan 2009

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