

Making Mini Pocket Cars



Colorful toys are simple to cut and easy to assemble

By Paul Meisel

I call these simple toys pocket cars because I keep a few in my pocket and give them to children at family gatherings or at church.

These cars have long been favorites with my nine- to twelve-year-old woodshop students at Flagship Academy. I designed them to give my students more practice using the scroll saw and drill press. They became so popular that students made extras when they finished other projects early. If you want to introduce a young person to scrolling, these cars are worth your consideration.

I have included drawings for various car shapes. All of the vehicles use inexpensive $\frac{7}{8}$ " (22mm)-diameter wheels with $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm)-diameter axles. You can also use a compass to draw $\frac{7}{8}$ " (22mm)-diameter circles on thin wood or cut slices from a $\frac{7}{8}$ " (22mm)-diameter dowel. Chuck the shopmade wheels in a drill and round the edges with sandpaper. You can cut $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm)-diameter dowels to $1\frac{1}{16}$ " (33mm)-long sections for axles or use premade $\frac{1}{8}$ " (3mm)-diameter live axles, which are pre-cut to the exact length you need for this project.