



Wood Toy News



MY
BUDDY
MAGGIE

John W. Lewman



Mustang
left side

15-3/4" W x
21-1/2" T x
36" L

JOHN W. DESIGNS AND BUILDS THE **Mustang Rocking Horse**

It's all quick and easy to make with no fancy joints or cuts. It is built using common tools and with easy to find materials and supplies available at your local Retail Stores.

Wood Toy News
JOHN BUILDS THE
MUSTANG ROCKING HORSE

This prototype Mustang is made from one 12' long Douglas Fir framing lumber 2 x 12 from Home Depot. It was first sanded smooth with 100 grit sandpaper then coated with 3 coats of clear polyurethane gloss finish. The third and fourth coat were sanded with 320 grit sandpaper after drying. The fifth and final coat were not sanded.

I am thrilled with how beautiful the Douglas Fir looks after the sanding and polyurethane final coat. It looks like a quality hardwood and it is an extremely strong material that was easy sand and shape.

The wood material is common 2 x 12 Douglas Fir framing lumber from my local Home Depot store.



The only power tools used to make the Mustang was this saber saw with a #6 blade, an electric orbital hand sander and an electric hand drill with sanding drums plus 1/2", 3/4" and 1" drill bits. Forstner and brad bits were used for the cleanest holes.9

These homemade finishing sticks came in really handy when cleaning up the inside cuts on the horse's mouth and mane.



I used store bought 3/8", 1/2" and 3/4" dowels to make my handy little set of finishing tools. The sandpaper back was coated with permanent spray adhesive. The paper was then wrapped around the dowel tightly. A little extra spray adhesive was necessary to keep the loose end tight against the wrap.

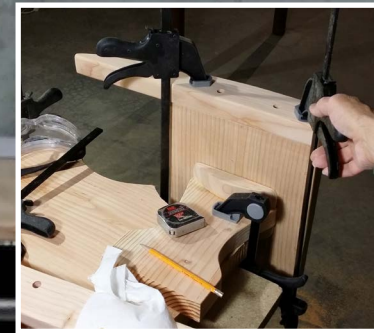
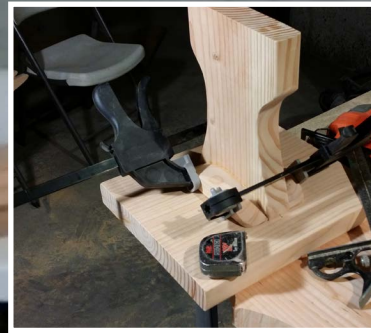


Photo to left: I used 80 grit and 320 grit sandpaper for a soft radius edge around each of the big parts. The paper was folded so one piece consisted of 4 layers about 2-1/2" square. The layers act as a pad for making a consistently smooth edge radius. It's a simple technique that is easy to do with professional results.

A set of sanding drums from 1/2" diameter to 2" in diameter from Harbor Freight were used on the larger radiuses of the body parts. These tools really sped up the sanding process. Large flat areas were sanded with a handheld orbital sander from Harbor Freight.



Complete rocking horse assembly exploded view and step-by-step assembly instructions on Page 21-22.



The pre-drilled rocker rails are glue-clamped to the pedestal and left to dry. Next, the support dowel holes are drilled using the pre-drilled holes as guides. The support dowels are then glued in place.

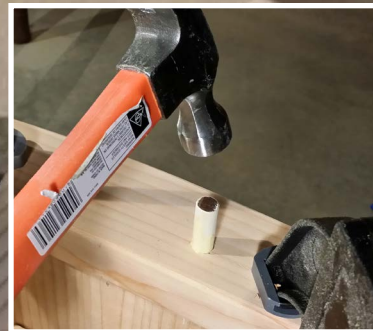
The super strong pedestal design is first glue-clamped together and left to dry. This makes a perfect assembly for adding strength with two support dowels.

The holes in the bottom of the pedestal are drilled after the glue is dried. The pre-drilled dowel holes in the base act as a guide for drilling the dowel holes up into the vertical support.

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View of rocker rails glued and clamped in place.



Support dowels are then glued and hammered into pedestal & rocker rails.



This is a view of the pedestal bottom being drilled for the two support dowels.



The support dowels are hammered into place in the vertical pedestal.

The unusual pedestal design allowed the design freedom to make a running Mustang mount. It's surprisingly strong and will withstand years of rugged play.



The body is glued to the pedestal and left to dry. Then support dowel holes drilled.



Support dowels are glued then hammered into place through body and pedestal.



Support dowels are added on each side of the body for maximum holding strength.



The hand grips and foot rests are inserted and glued in the pre-drilled locations.

Each natural 1/8" Masonite trim part was sawed and sanded to shape then glue-clamped to the main Mustang assembly. The results were outstanding.



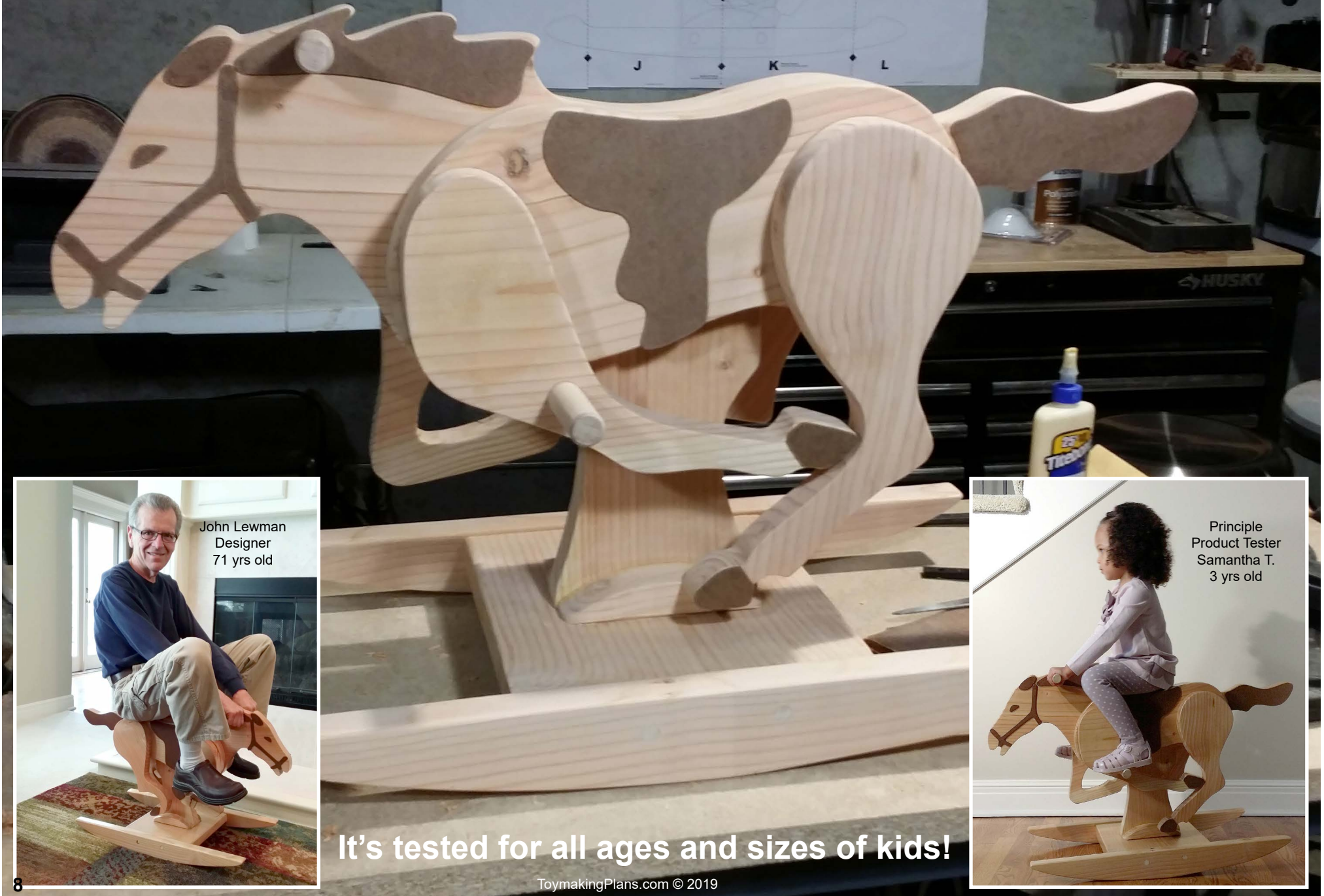
The paper patterns for the trim pieces were first cut out with scissors. Removable adhesive spray was applied to the back of each pattern, then the pattern was pressed onto the 1/8" masonite.

Next, a fine-toothed narrow (1/8" wide) saber saw blade was used to saw out each piece. A standard blade will work but might require a little extra sanding and shaping.

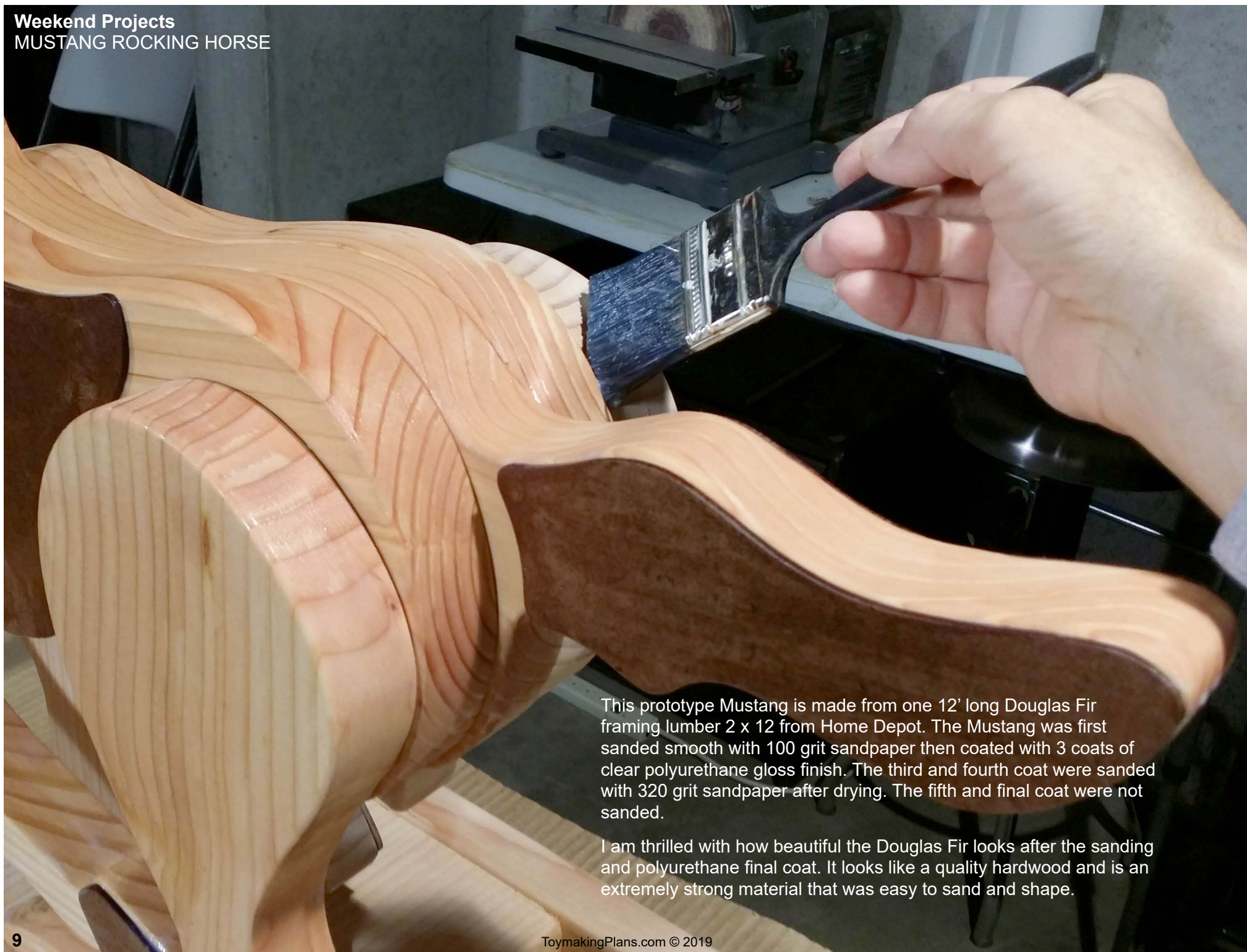
Once the parts were cut out, folded 320 grit sandpaper was used to create an even radius on all of the exposed edges of each trim part.



Photo of prototype with no finish applied.



It's tested for all ages and sizes of kids!



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