

Toddler Flintstone Car

by [lemaster63](#) on October 26, 2007

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intro: Toddler Flintstone Car

I have a 20 month old granddaughter and a 14 month old grandson who are dressing up as Pebbles and Bam Bam for Halloween. I decided they needed a Flintstone Car to complete the look. This is how I made it...



step 1: Log Sides

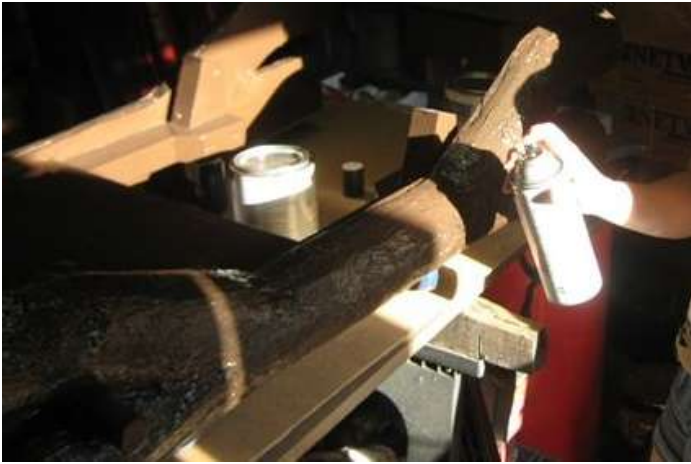
Using a cartoon picture of the Flintstone's Car I drew out the sides on 1/2" plywood making them the same width as a large swim noodle and scaled the length to match. Once cut these plywood pieces would provide the shape of the log sides and determine the scale of the rest of the car.

Next I cut a large 4" swim noodle in half using a table saw. After doing some basic shaping of the swim noodle with a large bread knife my daughter coated both the noodle and plywood with contact cement. I then bonded the two pieces together which provided the contour of the log sides.

After the glue was completely dry I did a little more shaping and trimming with the bread knife. I then coated the entire noodle side with Bondo-Glass (available at any auto parts store, large hardware store, or Wal-Mart) putting it on in one direction but a little sloppy so it would look like tree bark when I finished. Bondo-Glass hardens in about 15 minutes, which keeps the project moving quickly.

After both sides were cured I sanded them to remove any sharp edges. We gave the sides a thorough base coat of gloss black and then brown. This gave the sides a realistic log look.





step 2: Frame, Seat, and Wheels

I next built a simple frame that would be strong enough to hold the entire assembly together. My original plan was to leave the floor open so the kids could push with their feet. However, my grandkids were too small to move the car so I later installed a floorboard to protect their little feet while being pushed.

The seat was constructed from scrap wood and I used a band saw to shape it to look as though it was chiseled from rock. I cut three small slits to accommodate safety restraints. I found straps with clips in the camping section of Wal-Mart for about \$1 that became the seatbelts.

The rock wheels are made from concrete forms I found at Home Depot. I started with 8" forms and cut 3/4" plywood circles to cap the ends. I attached the plywood caps using Gorilla glue and brad nails. We then set the parts together to check the scale and I decided to change from 8" wheels to 12" wheels.





step 3: Rock Wheels and Dashboard

After making the 12" wheels I coated them very unevenly with Bondo-Filler to add imperfections so they would look more like rock instead of a smooth tube.

My daughter then sanded them to remove any rough edges and painted them the same rock pattern she used on the seat. Once completed they were held in place with woodscrews between the fiberglass sides. The holes in the fiberglass were repaired and painted.

I cut a dashboard from 3/4" plywood and a steering wheel from 1/2" plywood. I also carved a bone shaped piece from wood to use as a lever.

Once sanded the dash and steering wheel received the rock paintjob and the bone handle was painted white. I then covered the steering wheel with a piece of water pipe insulation so it would be soft and safe and installed both parts onto the dash.





step 4: Car Top

To make the top I ran a 2x4 through a table saw several times turning it slightly each time. This produced poles that looked like they were whittled from wood. I then cut them to length.

Once the cutting was complete Pebbles and Bambam tested the car to ensure it was the right size and then decided they wanted to help.

After the kids were safely inside I used a hole saw and electric drill to cut openings through the sides. I then mounted the upright poles to the plywood using Gorilla Glue and screws. I took care to mount them securely since they would also serve as the handles to push the car.

I found that any time I needed to screw a part to the sides I could simply drill a hole through the fiberglass coating and re-bondo it once the screws were in place. Due to the roughness of the sides you couldn't tell that I ever touched it.

Once the uprights were in place I added the rest of the pieces using 3" screws and glue. I always drilled pilot holes to ensure the wood would not split. After painting the top wooden parts I lashed them with natural fiber twine. I then glued all knots and other cross joints so the twine could not loosen or unravel.

The cover is cut from white vinyl canvas and is held in place with heavy-duty Velcro strips. The Velcro strips are attached to the vinyl and crossbeams using contact cement giving a seamless look. The Velcro holds the cover tight but it can be easily removed if needed.





step 5: Castors

The original castors were attached to the frame but I soon found that the rock wheels had a tendency to scrape when the car went across uneven ground.

To fix this I cut openings in the bottom of the rock wheels and installed a 2x4 flush with the bottom. This provides a strong mount for the castors. I then attached the castors using 2" lag bolts.



step 6: Project Complete!

The last step was to add detail to the car. I painted the ends of the log sides to simulate wood grain and touched up any imperfections on the car.

The entire project took me about three weeks with most of the work accomplished on Saturdays when my oldest daughter was in town. Most of the materials used were from scrap wood I had laying around. Since I fabricated this car from my imagination I ended up spending extra money experimenting with different materials and parts that did not work. Even with this I probably spent under \$100 for the entire project.

This was nothing compared to the priceless expressions on my grandkids faces when they saw the car.

My next step is to make it electric and remote controlled...



Related Instructables



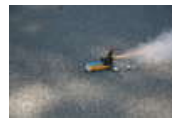
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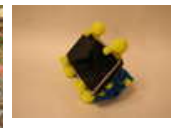
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 **gahrere** says: Nov 16, 2008. 1:06 AM [REPLY](#)
Hi, I really am amazed by the way you take all the trouble just to make your grandchildren happy. I guess you are but one of the best grand dads the new generation has, nowonder the name GRAND is given to such people as you. By the way you ought to be the overall winner not only for your design but also for your affection. I wish I had ! like you or a parent like you. Guys VOTE for Granddad. Thank you.


 **SuperCoPilot** says: Nov 3, 2008. 9:45 PM [REPLY](#)
i really hope this is foot powered but curious how is it powered?


 **Titlepending** says: Nov 13, 2008. 11:33 AM [REPLY](#)
It says below that an adult pushed it =D
Soon to be electric tho


 **InventMe** says: Nov 3, 2008. 8:52 PM [REPLY](#)
Yabba Dabba Do!


 **sc6chuck9** says: Oct 17, 2008. 2:27 PM [REPLY](#)
Hey this is a really GREAT Project. You have done a fantastic job also. Please get your wife to pat you on the back many many times. I own and operate a machine shop and I'm an ole'fart also, however I have a lot of trouble making ANYTHING that I don't have a blue print for. Job well done sir.

 **kaptank_cg** says: Oct 4, 2008. 7:42 PM [REPLY](#)
Wow, That is a VERY cool project!

 **copycatfilms** says: Sep 25, 2008. 10:29 AM [REPLY](#)
wow, that is so awesome!! what a memory for those little ones! But one question...how do they push? Their feet don't touch the ground?

 **lemaste63** says: Sep 27, 2008. 5:06 AM [REPLY](#)
Future filmmaker is correct...an adult pushes it. The car is not hard to push but a bit heavy for the kids since there is not a lot of foot traction when your sitting down.


 **dontodamax** says: Oct 3, 2008. 8:13 PM [REPLY](#)
how much do you think that thing weighed? I'm thinking about making one to, but I'm thinking about making it solar and wind powered

 **copycatfilms** says: Sep 27, 2008. 6:12 AM [REPLY](#)
Cool. That makes sense...Fred must've been stronger than we all give him credit for ;-) --best of luck making it motorized or remote, etc. It looks like fun! You deserve Gpa of the year!

 **Future filmmaker** says: Sep 25, 2008. 3:09 PM [REPLY](#)
the adult pushes... I think

 **litteratuer** says: Oct 3, 2008. 5:46 AM [REPLY](#)
You are a good man..and a good grandfather..
:-)


 **alex-sharetskiy** says: Oct 2, 2008. 5:57 PM [REPLY](#)
Very nice!
looks like the real thing!

 **nokindofsupastar** says: Jul 5, 2008. 1:04 PM [REPLY](#)
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! My boss decided this year that for the towns annual parade (which is a cartoon theme this year) that we were going to build a float for "the Jetsons meet the Flintstones" I am building one of these Flintstones cars to trail along behind the actual flat bed that will have the Flintstones house atop it. The car I'm building is a little bit bigger with 2 bench (one in the front and one in the back) because we have full grown adults dressing up as the Flintstones and Jetsons characters. But I seriously wouldn't have been able to even conceive the idea of the car! Thank goodness I ran across your page! You did a magnificent job! Thanks again!


 **canida** says: Oct 1, 2008. 3:51 PM [REPLY](#)
How did it go?

 **lemaste63** says: Jul 5, 2008. 7:08 PM [REPLY](#)
I'd love to see a picture when your finished.


 **m_yazhini** says: Oct 1, 2008. 8:33 AM
(removed by community request)


 **craz_meanman** says: Oct 1, 2008. 3:42 PM [REPLY](#)
that's spamming. and not aloud on the site. i would stop before you get a warning, and then your account deleted. (if you haven't already gotten your warning)

 **NachoMahma** says: Oct 1, 2008. 1:06 PM [REPLY](#)
. Wow! That is soooooooo cool. Fantastic job.

 **zomfibame** says: Sep 30, 2008. 7:17 PM [REPLY](#)
that thing is out of sight , it's great; thanks for putting it on here for the rest of us to see it.

 **My House Boutique** says: Sep 30, 2008. 7:09 PM [REPLY](#)
Yay! Brings me back to eighties cartoons and sugary cereal!

 **Dragon Maze** says: Sep 30, 2008. 5:00 PM [REPLY](#)
It's magical submissions like your's that make this site blow my mind. Talk about contributing to make a pure and giving community. Anyone outside this site would be looking to SELL plans for such a lavish creation. :P

 **Moonfae** says: Sep 27, 2008. 9:22 PM [REPLY](#)
Wow, that's pretty incredible. those are some very lucky kids. I wonder if i could get my father in law to make that for my daughter.

 **wiley coyote** says: Sep 26, 2008. 9:40 PM [REPLY](#)
You got skills! I want one.

 **chrisbonheur** says: Sep 26, 2008. 2:04 PM [REPLY](#)
very cool! Think I'll scale up for my older children.
thanks.



jeff-o says:

Awesome work! My daughter may end up dressing as Pebbles for Halloween, and now I wonder if I will have enough spare time to build this!

Sep 26, 2008. 4:03 AM [REPLY](#)



KaptinScarlet says:

Absolutely amazing, now that's what you have a granddad for. Lovely pictures and well thought through instructable as well. Top Stuff.

Sep 25, 2008. 10:56 PM [REPLY](#)

Jahoovi says:

lawl 5*

Sep 25, 2008. 9:58 PM [REPLY](#)



bobhill125 says:

bam bam

Sep 25, 2008. 2:57 PM [REPLY](#)



jeymeowmix says:

i saw this in MAKE :D

Sep 17, 2008. 7:28 AM [REPLY](#)



MrUbuntu says:

Great Instructable! I would like to have a life size one of these that i could drive

Sep 17, 2008. 5:24 AM [REPLY](#)



susanfromhauntspace says:

this is AWESOME!!!! well done, can i ride in it? ;-)

Aug 15, 2008. 8:33 PM [REPLY](#)



Grey_Wolfe says:

I so want to do this for my kids, when I get the money to buy the supplies.

This is an excellent project. Show it to my wife, and she thought so too.

You, sir, are an artist. I'd rate you at 5 if I could just figure out how. lol

What's gonna be your next custom stroller? Mystery machine? Speed Racer would be cool. Keep up the good work, Bud.

Jun 25, 2008. 10:11 PM [REPLY](#)



andyhuntdesigns says:

Most impressive! Next up, a flying Jetson's-mobile!

Jun 19, 2008. 5:23 AM [REPLY](#)



HammyHavoc says:

Love it.

I want a full size one >.>

May 26, 2008. 7:45 AM [REPLY](#)



gordokury says:

Yes! me too!

Jun 16, 2008. 2:15 PM [REPLY](#)



lolochaust says:

sexy legs =0

May 6, 2008. 6:07 AM [REPLY](#)



kiaulune says:

We tried and tried to come up with a way to make a Flintstone car for last Halloween, but eventually gave up on the idea because it was too complicated. It's great to see someone who actually pulled it off really really nicely! We ended up with a kid-sized sarcophagus and two mini-mummies to inhabit it and actually won a local costume competition... but I'm guessing if you had entered we wouldn't have had a chance!

Apr 14, 2008. 11:31 AM [REPLY](#)



happycamperama says:

wow - you rock!

Halloween isn't huge in Australia but I am sure we can find a dress up party to go to! What a great project to do with the kids.thanks!

Mar 25, 2008. 8:47 PM [REPLY](#)



bcr8ve says:

This is wonderful! What lucky grandchildren you have! My niece's favorite hairstyle was the Pebbles Flintstone topknot when she was little. She would have adored a car like this.

Mar 13, 2008. 5:49 PM [REPLY](#)



srilyk says:

Amazing! Great Job!

Feb 1, 2008. 10:51 AM [REPLY](#)



cody212 says:

how long did it take to make

Dec 14, 2007. 8:34 AM [REPLY](#)



ramedia says:

What a great thing to do for those kids. Good for you. Excellent work.

Dec 8, 2007. 8:24 PM [REPLY](#)



mikesantos2001 says:

Excellent work...

Nov 26, 2007. 10:43 PM [REPLY](#)



mrcrumley says:

Great project. War Eagle!

Nov 22, 2007. 3:29 PM [REPLY](#)



drips says:

You sir are an awesome grandpa!!

Nov 20, 2007. 3:01 PM [REPLY](#)



peanutgnome says:

Love it! I went as BamBam when I was a little kid, but my dad/gramps never built on of these for me!
Also some great ideas on techniques for other projects - whittled beams made with a table saw? Never saw that one coming. I also bought some pool noodles at season end this year, but never thought of what to use them for - now I know!

Nov 11, 2007. 12:00 PM [REPLY](#)



MadMechanicMike says:

this.....is a work of art! and those are some damn cute kids

Nov 11, 2007. 6:06 AM [REPLY](#)



marmus2223 says:

I think you just won Grandpa Of The Year award! That is so amazing; my 3 yo just said " thats pretty cool Flintstone car". Your grandkids are very lucky; bet you could make a fortune on this. Great job!

Nov 9, 2007. 2:06 PM [REPLY](#)



kenbob says:

Amazing project and excellent instructable!!! You are truly an artist.

Nov 4, 2007. 7:25 PM [REPLY](#)

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