

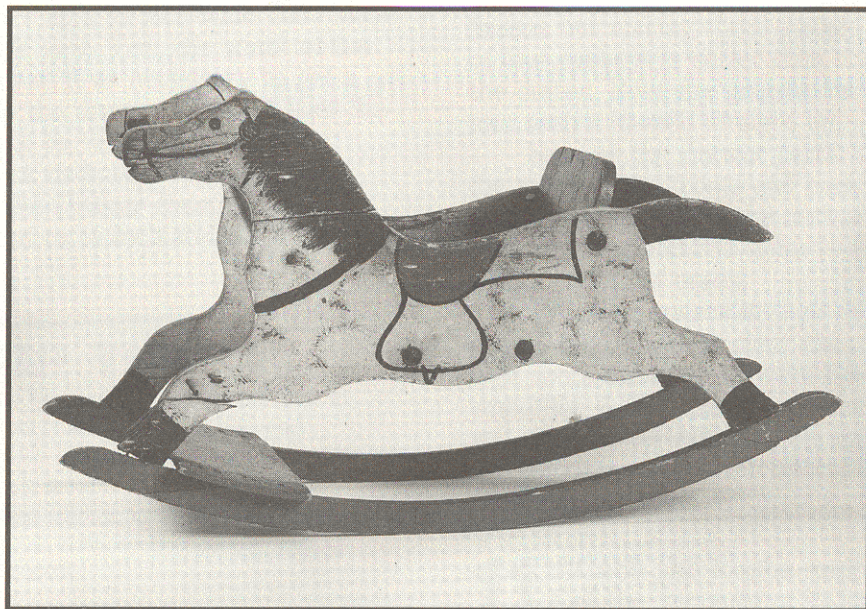
ROCKING HORSE

Yee-Haw! Every young cowpoke needs a horse, and it's been that way since before Detroit made horses obsolete. Diane Windle of Log Cabin Antiques in Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, put this particular one out to pasture. Made of pine, with the grain running lengthwise, it broke parallel to the grain at the neck and front foot. Diane keeps it in her kitchen just for its nostalgia.

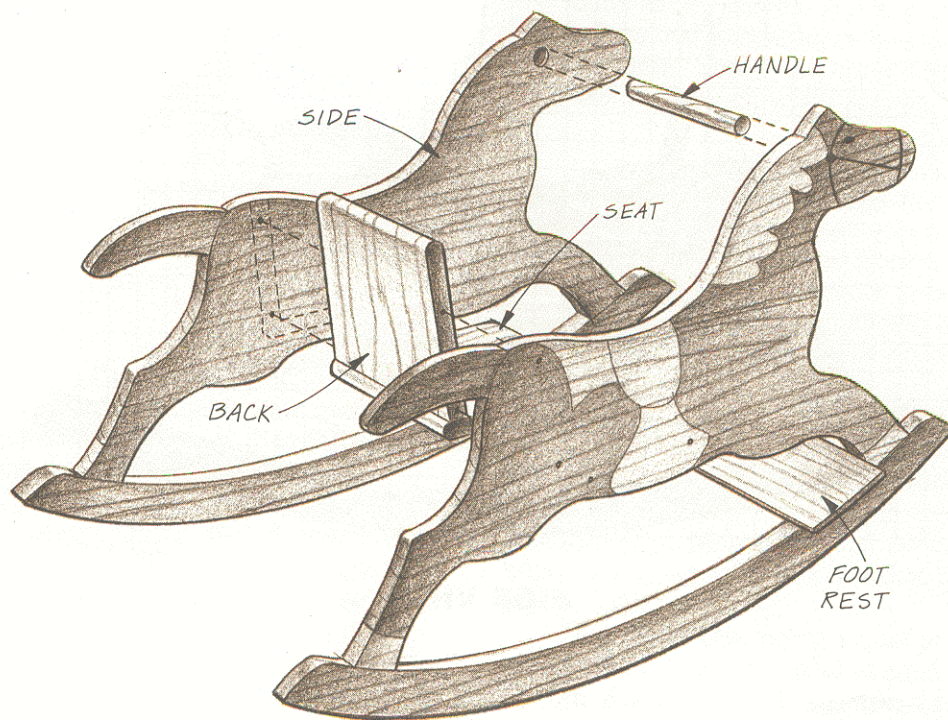
You can duplicate the original by gluing up pine to 16 inches wide for the horse and then attaching pine runners with dowels. The instructions that follow, however, suggest using plywood to overcome the weakness across the grain inherent in solid lumber. Plywood also allows you to make the horse and runners all in one piece. Use a plywood with no

voids so you won't have to fill and patch edges. Lauan plywood and so-called "Baltic-birch" plywood are both good choices. Your dealer should be able to tell you what he has in stock that has no voids.

1 Cut the parts to size. Cut all of the rocking horse parts to the sizes specified by the Cutting List. Use plywood for all of the parts except the handle. Use hardwood dowel or recycle an old broom for the handle. Not every dealer has 1-inch-diameter dowel and not every old broom has a 1-inch-diameter handle so be prepared to make a substitution.



EXPLODED VIEW



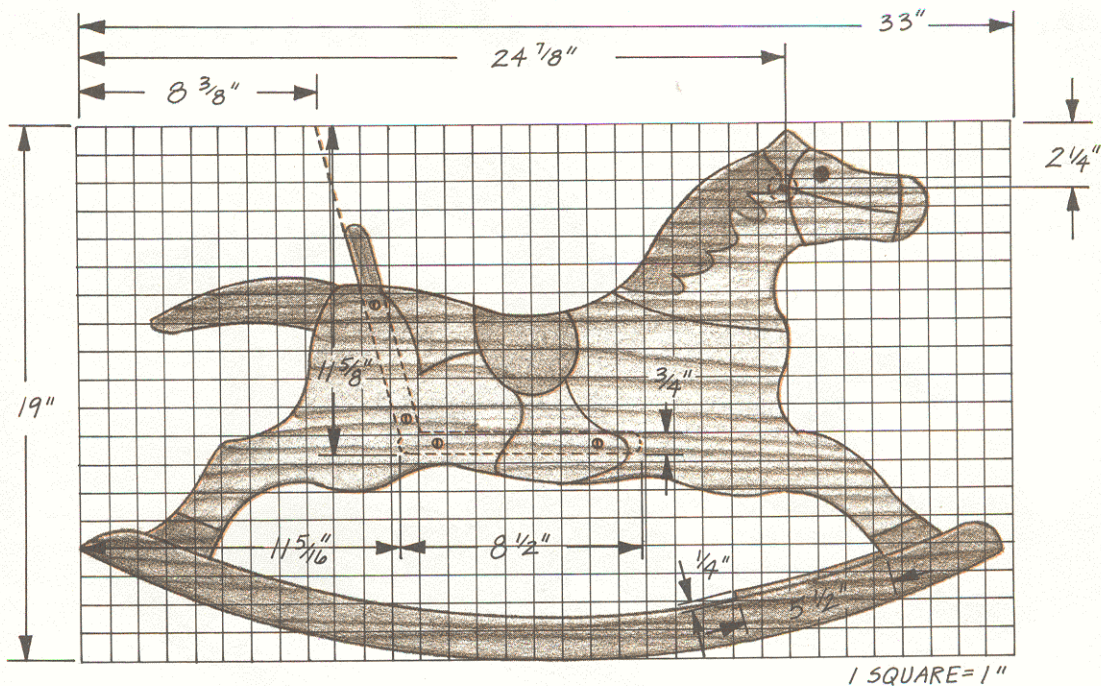
CUTTING LIST

Part	Dimensions
Sides (2)	$\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 19" \times 33"
Seat	$\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Back	$\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Foot rest	$\frac{1}{4}$ " \times 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Handle	1" dia. \times 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Hardware

10 flathead wood screws, #8 \times 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

4 flathead wood screws, #6 \times 1"



SIDE VIEW

2 Lay out the seat and back dados. Lay out the seat and back dados on the sides as shown in the *Side View*. Mark the center of the handle hole as shown. Be sure you make the sides mirror images of one another. The drawing shows the inside of the left side.

3 Rout the dados for the seat and back. You want these dados to fit the plywood snugly to help prevent the screws from splitting the seat and back, but $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch plywood is seldom $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Three ways to get a good fit, depending on your plywood, are:

- Find a bit that fits. Eagle America (P.O. Box 1099, Chardon, OH

44024; (800) 872-2511) lists straight bits with $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch and $\frac{23}{32}$ -inch diameters.

- Rout with a readily available $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-diameter bit and then widen the dado by taping a shim to the edge of the router base and making a second pass.
- Rout with a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch bit as above, then move the guiding straight-edge over and make a second pass.

Whichever method you choose, make test cuts to be sure the dados will fit properly. Then cut the dados $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep in the stock. Drill $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-deep holes to fit your handle.

4 Cut out the sides. Lay out a 1-inch square grid on the outside of one of the sides, then lay out the shape of the horse as shown in the *Side View*. Tape the two sides together, inside to inside, and saw out the horses with a saber saw. (If your saber saw hasn't had enough oats to saw 1½ inches of plywood, saw out one side at a time. Saw out the side you've laid out, then trace the outline onto the second part.) Smooth the sawn edges with scrapers, files, and sandpaper.

5 Attach the back, seat, and handle. Adjust the table-saw blade to 15 degrees from vertical. Bevel the bottom edge of the back at this angle. Chuck a ⅜-inch-radius roundover bit in a table-mounted router. Round-over the front and back sides of the top edge of the back, the top and bottom of the front edge of the seat, and the bottom of the back edge of the seat.

Drill #8 shank holes through the sides in the five locations shown in the *Side View*. If you drill from the dadoed side you can eyeball the locations. Assemble the horse without glue and use

the shank holes to position pilot holes in the seat, back, and handle. Counter-sink the shank holes on the outsides.

Sand all the pieces. Apply glue to the dadoes and handle holes and assemble the horse. Screw the horse together with #8 × 1½-inch wood screws.

6 Attach the foot rest. Sand the foot rest, then glue and screw it to the runners just behind the front feet. Let it overhang equal amounts at both ends. The ¼-inch plywood should be flexible enough to conform to the curvature of the runners.

7 Finish the horse. Look over the horse carefully and sand off any smeared glue. Make sure that all the edges are gently rounded and that there are no splinters.

Give the whole horse a coat of latex primer, then a finish coat of enamel. Paint in the details with an enamel or trim paint as shown in the *Side View* and photo. A little consultation at this stage may save you from creating a pinto for an aficionado of Arabians or Morgans.