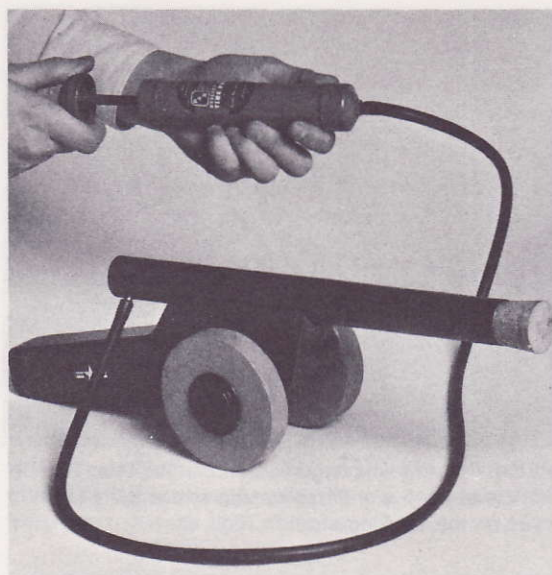


Your kids will get a bang out of this

By HOWARD W. TETER

IF YOU WANT to become a favorite uncle or make a hit with your own kids, make this Big Bertha cannon. It's perfectly safe indoors, since the "shells" are corks and the explosive is compressed air delivered by a hand pump.

The 13-in.-long barrel is 1 1/4-in. thinwall conduit. Solder a disc of sheet brass in one end so the barrel is airtight when corked. About 1/2 in. from this end, drill and tap a 7/32-in. hole to take one end of a piece of 1/4-in. brass pipe cut 1 in. long in a drive fit. For strength, solder this piece, which is your air connection. File two or three crosswise grooves on the unthreaded end to grip rubber tubing. Smooth and round the inside lip of the muzzle and polish the last inch.



Make the gun carriage according to the pattern below. Round out the V-groove in it with sandpaper wrapped around the barrel and bed the barrel with epoxy cement. Glue on the wheel spacer blocks.

The wheels are also made from 1-in. stock and have a 2-in. radius. Drill 1/4-in. holes through the spacer blocks, carriage and wheels for the axle. The axle is made from 1/4-in. brass tank float rod, cut to a 4 5/8-in. length and threaded 1/4-20. Use washers on both sides of the wheels; turn on nuts, and peen the ends of the axle. Tack on cocoa-tin lids for hub caps.

Hook a piece of windshield wiper hose to the air connection and attach a football or tire pump.

