HAMMER AND PEGS

These types of toy have always been popular with younger children, for they can hammer away, and not get into trouble! It is an easy toy to make, in a number of ways and with varying numbers and sizes of pegs and hammers. Described here are two different methods:

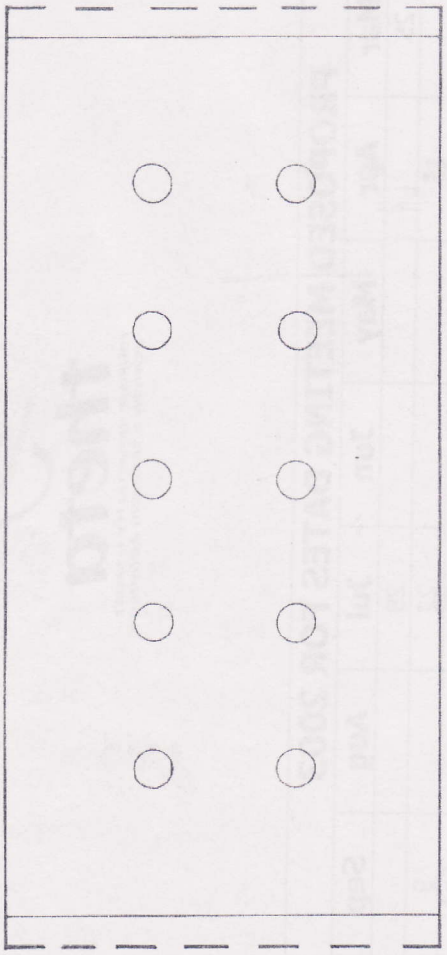
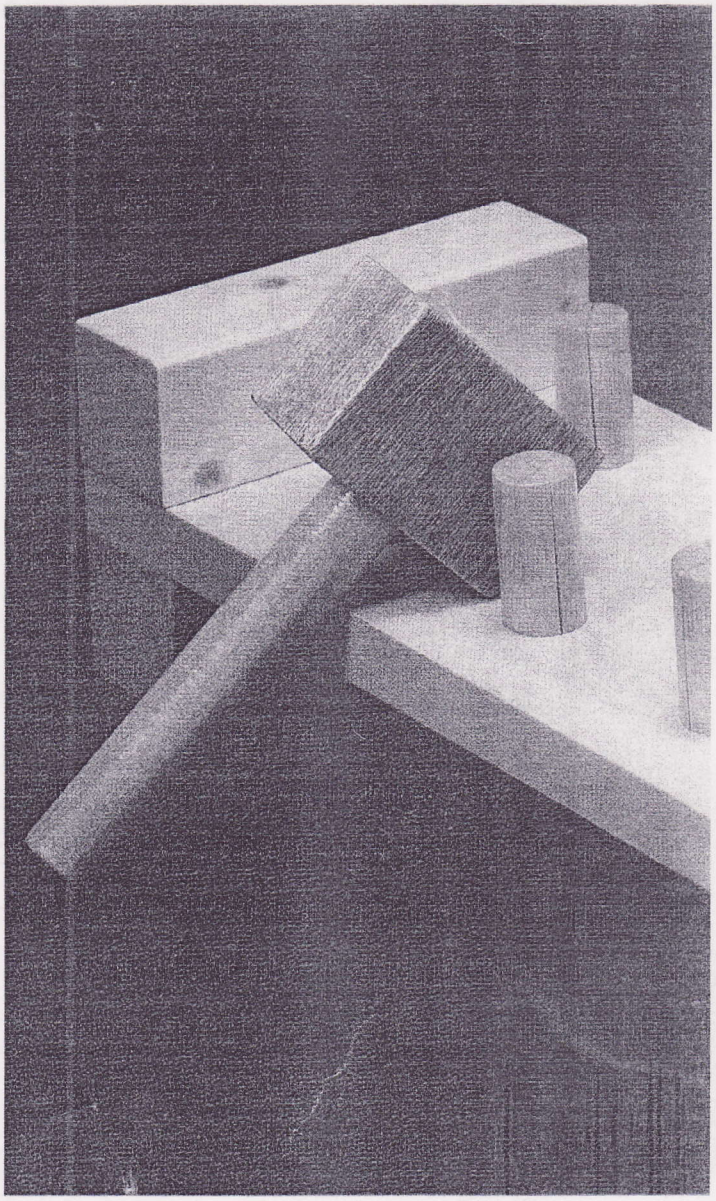


Diagram 1A

DIAGRAM 1(A)

METHOD A. Take the centre section of the frame (1) and decide how many pegs you wish to have. In the case of A, I have used ten. Mark out the centres of the holes for the pegs, equal distances apart, making allowances for the joints at each end, and drill out the holes with a twistbit, taking care not to split the wood, and ensuring that the holes are drilled vertically.



Banging in pegs. Bang on.

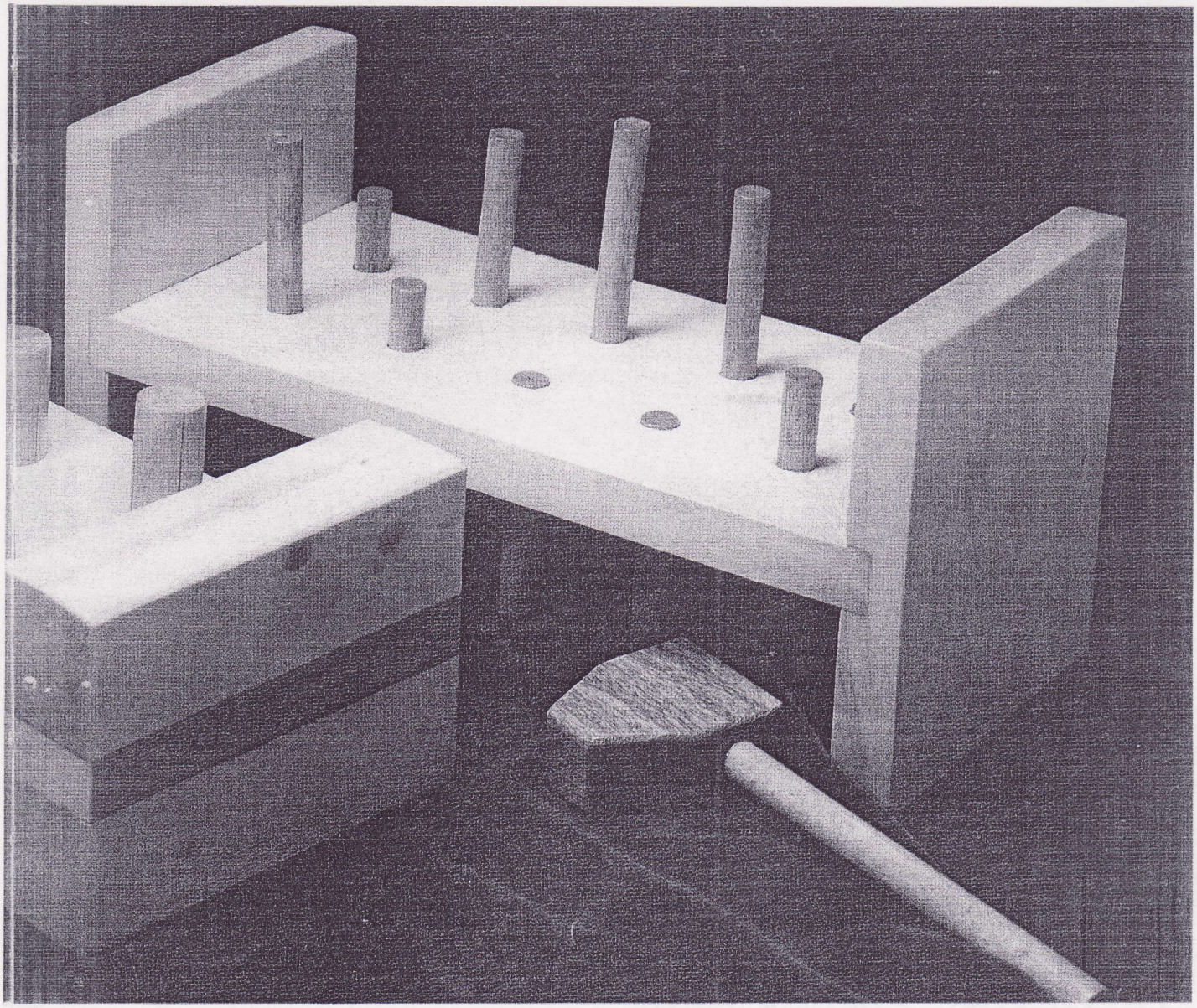
DIAGRAM 2(A)

In the centre of the two end-support pieces (2) mark out a channel to the thickness of the centre section, and to a depth of ⅜in (10mm). With a tenon saw, cut along the lines to the required depth and remove the waste wood with a chisel, leaving the bottom of the channel level. When sawing, keep the saw cut to the wasteside of the marked lines to ensure a neat tight joint. When both channels have been cut out, fit and glue the centre section in position, ensuring that the end support pieces are at right angles to it.

Cut the required number of pegs (3) to length.

In both versions A and B, ensure that the pegs are cut to a length of not more than half the height of the side pieces, so that when the pegs are hammered in flush with the centre section, the opposite end will not protrude beyond the bottom of the end section. This will prevent any damage to the surface on which the toy is standing.

(Instructions follow on page 62.)



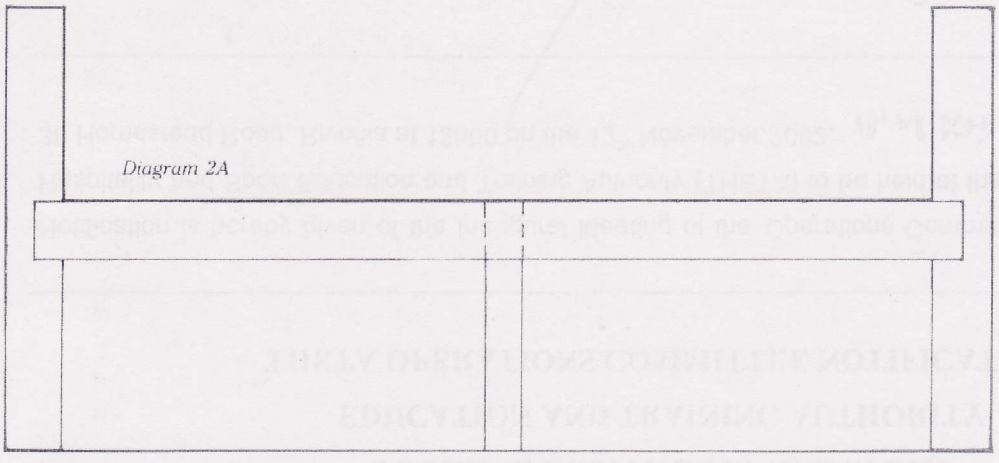
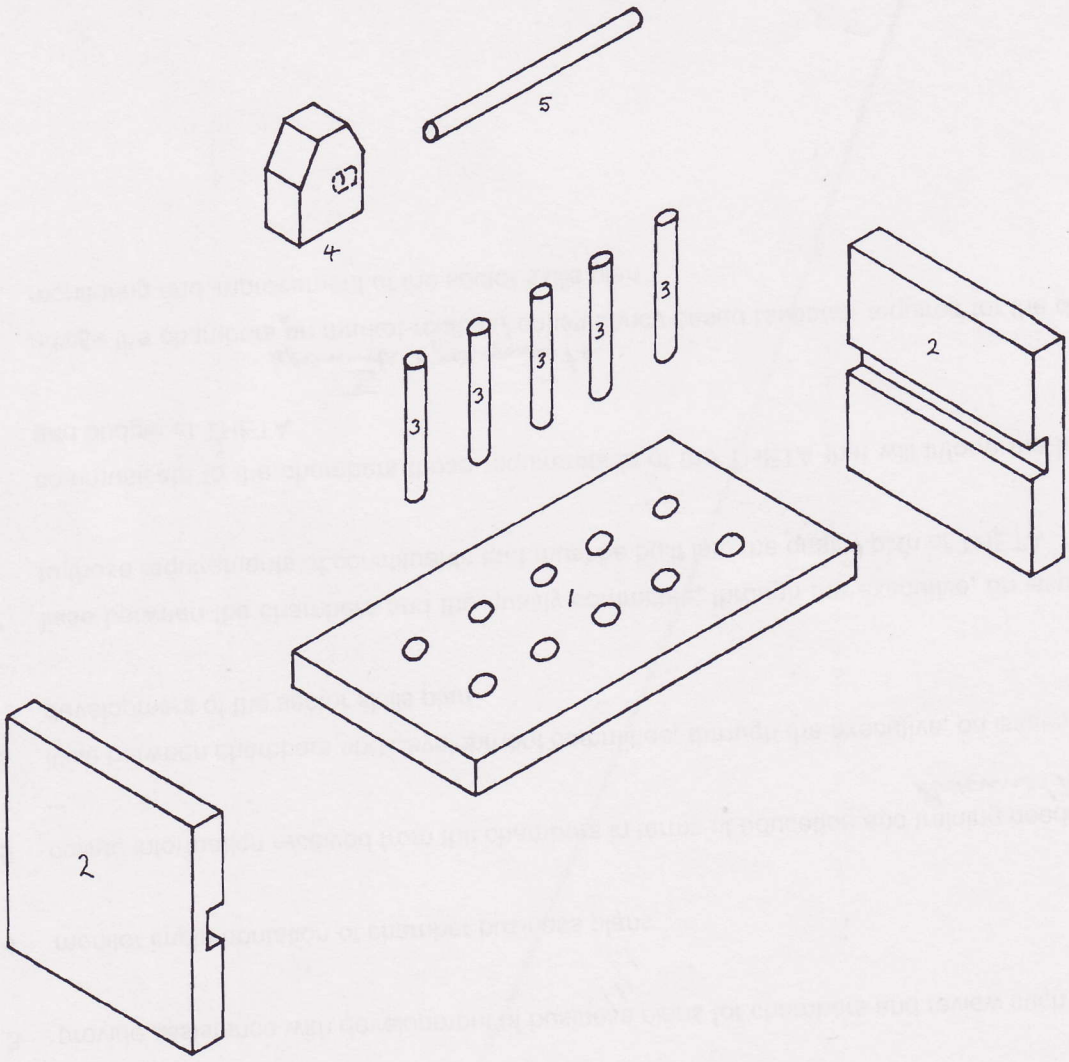


Diagram 2A

MATERIALS FOR HAMMER AND PEGS

METHOD A

1. Centre section, timber: ⅞ × 6 × 12in (22 × 150 × 305mm)
2. End supports (2), timber: ⅞ × 6 × 6in (22 × 150 × 150mm)
3. Pegs (10), dowel: 3½ × ½in diameter (87 × 12mm)
4. Mallet head, timber hardwood: 1 × 2 × 2½in (25 × 50 × 64mm)
5. Mallet shaft, dowel: 6½ × ⅞in (165 × 22mm)



METHOD B

1. Centre section, timber: ⅞ × 6 × 13½in (22 × 150 × 343mm)
2. End supports (4), timber: 1¾ × 1¾ × 6in (45 × 45 × 150mm)
3. Pegs (6), dowel: 2⅝ × ⅞in diameter (67 × 22mm)
4. Mallet head, timber hardwood: 1¾ × 2 × 3in (45 × 50 × 75mm)
5. Mallet shaft, dowel: 5½ × ⅞in diameter (140 × 22mm)

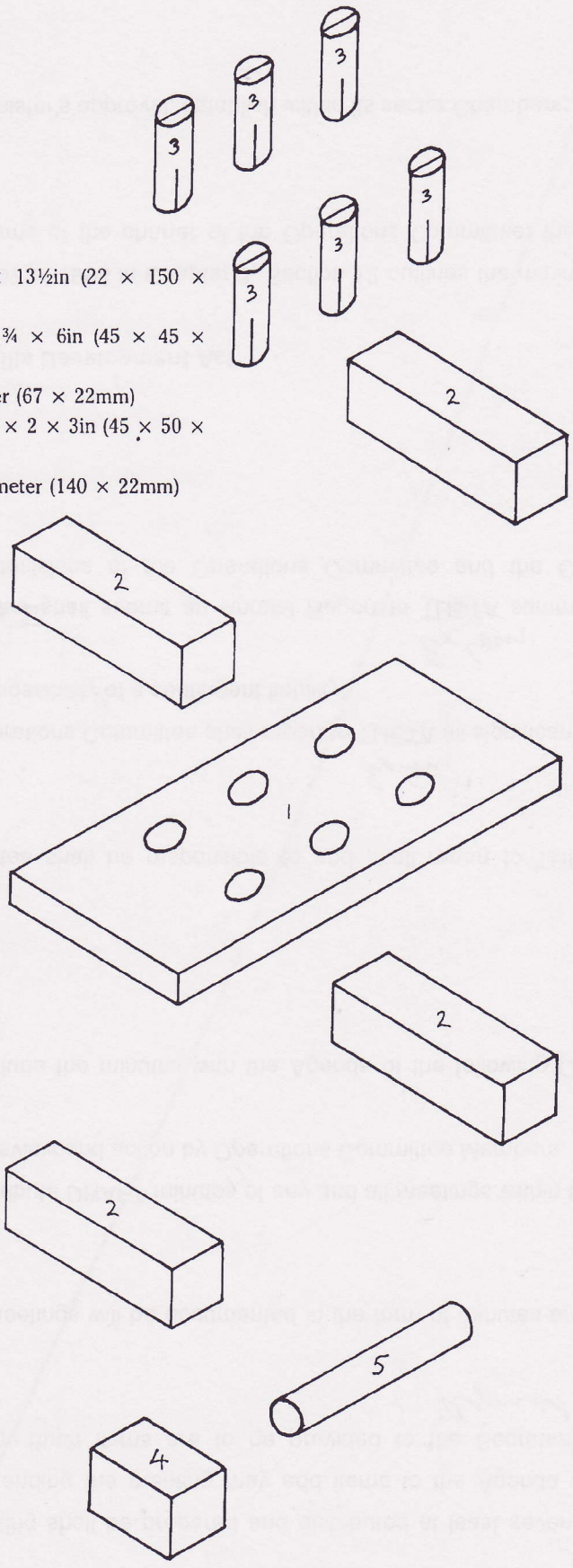


DIAGRAM 3(A)

Make the mallet head (4) from a piece of hardwood. Hardwood is more durable than softwood, and the surface will withstand the rigours of hammering better. In the centre of the mallet head, drill a hole to a depth of ½in (12mm), the diameter of the dowel to be used for the shaft (5). Apply some glue to the end of the shaft and push the shaft into the hole in the mallet head. Ensure that the shaft is at right angles to the head.

DIAGRAM 1(B)

METHOD B. On the centre section (1) mark the required number of holes for the dowels. In this version I use six pegs. Cut out these holes as before: see Diagram 1A, Method A. The end-sections are made up of the timber pieces (2) which are glued to the centre section.

DIAGRAM 2(B)

In this version, I used 1in (25mm) diameter dowels (3). Make a saw cut in the centre of the dowel, three-quarters of its length. In the other end of the dowel, at right angles to the first cut, make another saw cut, again three-quarters of its length. This will enable the pegs to be hammered through the holes more easily.

In this version, due to the extra thickness of the pegs, make a mallet similar to (A), but with a larger head and shaft (4 and 5), to cope with the size of the pegs.

I finished both these versions with a clear varnish rather than with paint, to eliminate the problem of the holes becoming clogged. When dry, the pegs will pass through the holes with just a slight tapping of the mallet.

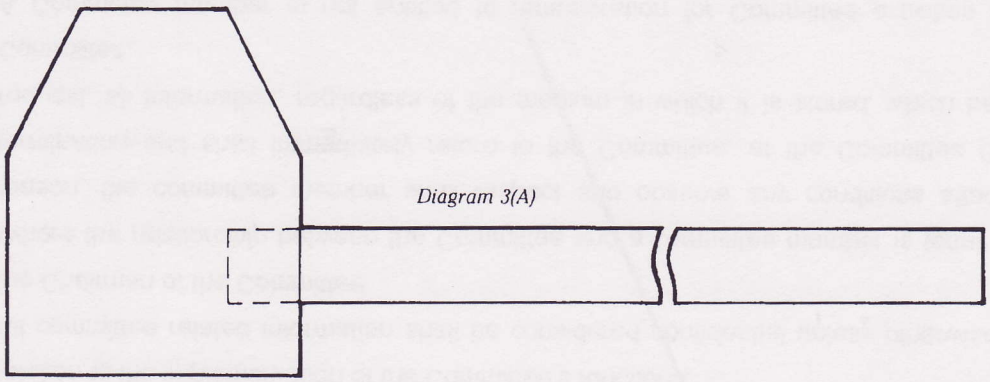


Diagram 3(A)

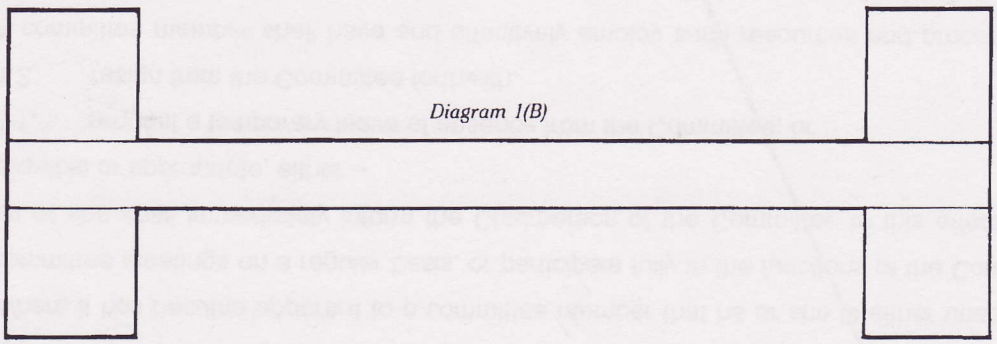


Diagram 1(B)

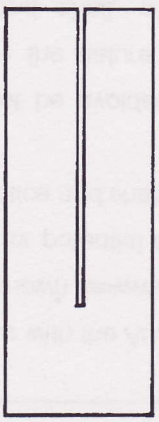


Diagram 2(B)