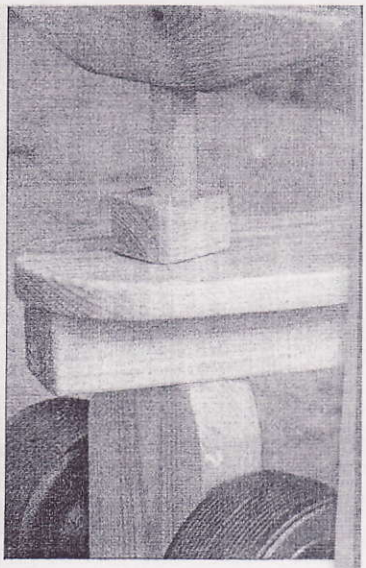
TOY SUPPLEMENT
Practical WOOD WORKING
makita
DESIGNS BY RICHARD BLIZZARD

SCOOTA TRIKE

Once on the move, toddlers like to go even faster — this scoota offers a way of catching up with their aspirations.



Any slack in the steering can be taken up with a bit of varnish.

TODDLERS who have discovered the joys of going where they want to soon look for a means of transport to get there faster! So begins the very real danger of being mortally wounded in your hall or living room, and the process of instilling into the young roadhog that some rules have to exist for the safe passage of other household users. Eventually garden paths or park walkways come to the rescue as you persuade the toddler that they are not mere paths but ringroads! From then on all is well (apart from a few decapitated flowers), and the only noise is that of an offspring pretending to be an articulated lorry complete with sound effects, trundling up and down the path.

Power tools

The Makita battery powered screwdriver, jigsaw and palm sander are a great help throughout the making of this toy.

To make

Make a start with the chassis. Mark out carefully and drill all the necessary holes for the seat, but leave the large hole that takes the steering rod until later. A large piece of wood runs full length beneath the seat and thus gives this little trike great strength. Glue the wood onto the underside of the seat and secure it at the front end with a screw. You will see from the drawing that all the screws are counterbored with wood plugs glued on top; this not only protects a child's leg and bottom from scratches but gives the toy a far better finish.

The back axle block has to be cut out. As few people have a drill of sufficient length to go right through from one side, it is necessary to cut out the radialised piece in the middle of the axle block. Having carefully marked both ends of the axle block, drill in from both ends, making sure to keep the drill at 90 degrees in both planes. This method avoids the need for a very lengthy and expensive wood bit.

The axle block is now attached to the back vertical piece which is in turn glued and screwed to the seat and the cross-piece under the seat. Even if you don't intend to make a trailer, it's a good idea to fit a hitch (youngsters always want to pull something along even if it's the tea trolley!). The hitch itself wants to be just as big and strong as possible and is glued into the hitch assembly base. The whole unit is now glued and screwed onto the underside of the back axle unit.

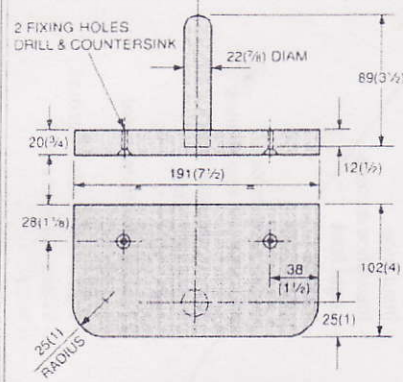
The front wheel steering block is now marked out and the first job is to drill the axle and steering rod hole. Once these holes have been drilled, shape off the top edge. Now drill and cut to shape the steering bar and top fixing collar. The purpose of the collar is to fix the steering bar in place and take some of the 'play' out of the steering gear. Ideally all the steering joints should be stiff, as these will slacken up after the first 1,000 miles! If you find that these joints slacken up badly after use, then a few coats of varnish will remove the problem. Glue the steering bar onto the shaft.

The back is now shaped and both glued and screwed onto the rear of the trike. Screwheads are covered by wood plugs.

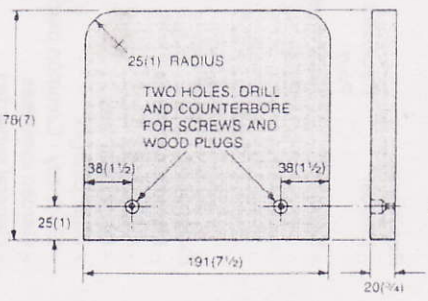
The axles are cut to length and chamfers filed onto the ends. Before fitting the wheel, I painted a band of red around the wheel rims so adding a touch of colour. The wheels are not put on and the spring caps fitted to keep them in place.

SCOOTA TRIKE

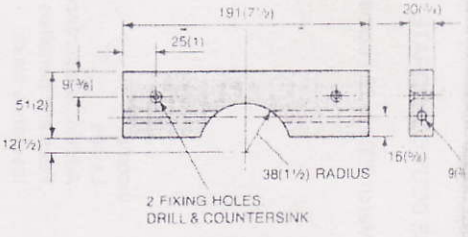
Chassis assembly	1 off	438 by 191 by 20mm (17¼ by 7½ by ¾in.)	
	1 off	406 by 60 by 44mm (16 by 2⅜ by 1¾in.)	
	1 off	191 by 178 by 20mm (7½ by 7 by ¾in.)	
Axle block	1 off	191 by 51 by 20mm (7½ by 2 by ¾in.)	
Seat back	1 off	191 by 178 by 20mm (7½ by 7 by ¾in.)	
Hitch assembly	1 off	191 by 102 by 20mm (7½ by 4 by ¾in.)	
	1 off	89mm (3½in.) by 22mm (⅞in.) dia.	dowel
Steering column assembly	1 off	254 by 44 by 41mm (10 by 1¾ by 1⅝in.)	
	1 off	152 by 86 by 44mm (6 by 3⅜ by 1¾in.)	
	1 off	35 by 35 by 32mm (1⅜ by 1⅜ by 1¼in.)	
	1 off	235mm (9¼in.) by 22mm (⅞in.) dia.	dowel
Ancillaries:			
Road wheels	4 off	143mm (5⅝in.) dia.	
Front axle	1 off	203mm (8in.) by 9mm (⅜in.) dia.	steel
Axle	1 off	298mm (11¾in.) by 9mm (⅜in.) dia.	steel
Spring dome caps	4 off	9mm (⅜in.)	



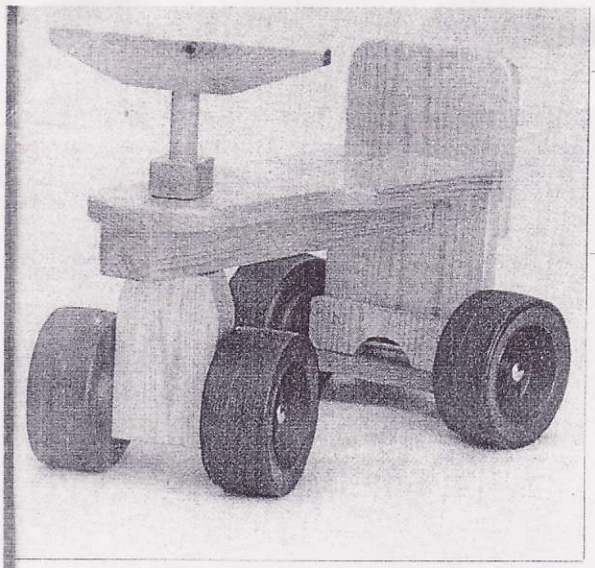
HITCH ASSEMBLY



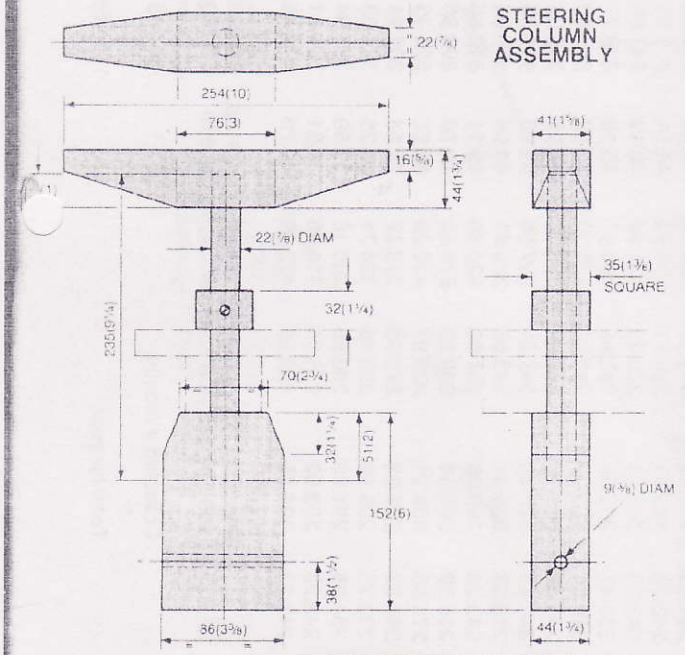
SEAT BACK

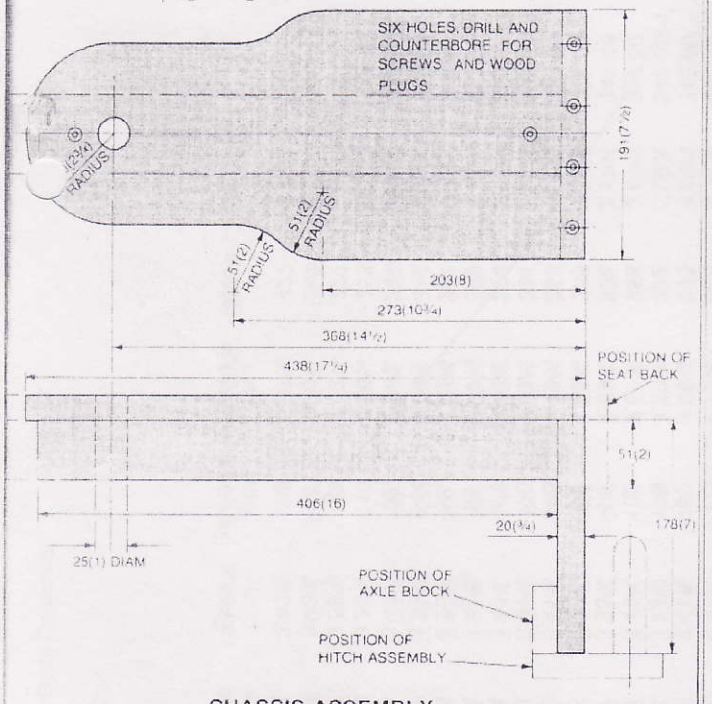


AXLE BLOCK



STEERING COLUMN ASSEMBLY





CHASSIS ASSEMBLY