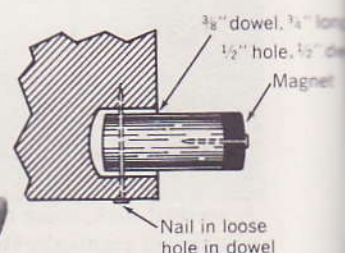


Swiveling magnetic couplers on the cars allow the train to snake along as it's pulled by young engineers



Pull-apart pull toys

BY WILLARD and ELMA WALTNER

Here are three wooden toys that help teach youngsters coordination and manipulation

■ IT TAKES NO EFFORT for little tykes to couple or uncouple the cars of this maple-block train since they're held end to end by button magnets. The magnets are pinned to the ends of short dowels which in turn are pivoted to swivel in shallow holes bored in one end of each car. Mating magnets are left loose on their pins to turn in seeking the opposite poles. The train shown is a freight with three cars, but the type of train and number of cars is up to you.

