





## WOOD-BLOCK TRAIN

### his mouth is always moving

Opening and closing his mouth as he swims along at the end of a string, Hale the Whale is an irresistible toy small fry will go for in a big way. A wood cam between the front wheels works the mouth up and down as the toy is pulled;  $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. spacer blocks A and B allow free movement for the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. pivoted body.

A circle cutter in a drill press will cut the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in.-thick plywood wheels quickly. Round-head screws serve as axles for the rear wheels; blind holes in the front wheels fit the dowel axle and the wheels are glued on. Enlarge holes in the brackets slightly so the axle turns freely. Finish with non-toxic paint in bright colors.

### fast freight from scrap wood

Little guys always like trains for Christmas. The wood-block freight train can be made from scrap found in your woodbox. If you plan to make several as gifts, it will pay you to buy a length of  $1\frac{3}{8}$ -in. wood closet pole and slice the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. wheels from it. Likewise a length of  $1\frac{3}{4}$ -in. stair rail will save time in making several engine boilers and tanks for tank cars. Dowel-and-hold couplings make it easy for little hands to hook and unhook the cars and to interchange them. It's important, of course, that all parts be well sanded and edges rounded, and to use nontoxic paint if you paint the parts.

