

Whimmy-Diddle ^[1]

Whimmy-Diddle



by Elia Bizzarri, 2006Whimmy-Diddle.

^[2]

A whimmy-diddle, also known as the Gee-Haw Whimmy-Diddle ("gee" and "haw" are the commands shouted to oxen on a farm), is a toy made out of a stick of [mountain](#) ^[3]laurel that was traditionally made by [mountain](#) ^[4] parents for their children. Notches are cut down the stick and a propeller is put at the end. When another stick is rubbed against the notches exactly right, the propeller spins. With a lot of practice, the user is able to make the propeller go right or left as desired.

References:

Florence H. Pettit, *How to Make Whirligigs and Whimmy Diddles and Other American Folkcraft Objects*(1972).

Roy Underhill, *The Woodwright's Companion: Exploring Traditional Woodcraft*(1983).

Image Credit:

Whimmy-Diddle. Image courtesy of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Available from <http://southernhighlandguild.org/pages/posts/heritage-weekend-7.php> ^[2] (accessed June 12, 2012).

Subjects:

[Art](#) ^[5]

[Crafts](#) ^[6]

Authors:

[Bizzarri, Elia](#) ^[7]

Origin - location:

[Mountains](#) ^[8]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[9]

User Tags:

[favorite](#) ^[10]

1 January 2006 | Bizzarri, Elia

Source URL:<https://www.ncpedia.org/whimmy-diddle>

Links

^[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/whimmy-diddle> ^[2] <http://southernhighlandguild.org/pages/posts/heritage-weekend-7.php> ^[3] <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/mountainlaurel.aspx> ^[4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-mountain> ^[5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/art> ^[6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/crafts> ^[7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/bizzarri-elia> ^[8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountains> ^[9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> ^[10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/user-tags/favorite>