

PROJECT  
BASIC  
DIFFICULTY

PROJECT TUTORIAL

## Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

Designed for CarveWright™ by Michael Tyler - [www.carvebuddy.com](http://www.carvebuddy.com)



This project is a decorative miniature version of a wooden "Colonial-style" Rocking Horse! Shrunk and modified to about 1/4-size from what full-size plans would be.

This vintage décor piece adds classic charm to any room. Display on a bookshelf, fireplace mantle, side table or coffee table. The Mini Colonial Rocking Horse will look great in your living room, bedroom, office or guest room!



The project uses just the 1/16" Carving Bit and the 1/8" Cutting Bit. No other bits are required. Finished dimensions are about: 12" long x 7" tall x 3.75" deep



Main items you will need:

### 1) The Project Files (included):

- Front-Legs-and-Body.mpc
- Head\_and\_Middle\_Sections.mpc
- Rockers-and-Back-Legs.mpc

### 2) Boards with the following dimensions:

Three boards: 0.5" x 5.5" x 24"

**NOTE:** Do not use boards that are smaller than specified above unless using an appropriate jig.

### 3) Sandpaper, glue, stain and/or paint and clear finish

### 4) 0.25" diameter dowel

5) A Dremel-type rotary tool with assorted abrasive attachments to aid the sanding process. A spindle sander and/or small belt sander can help speed up sanding/surface preparation even more.

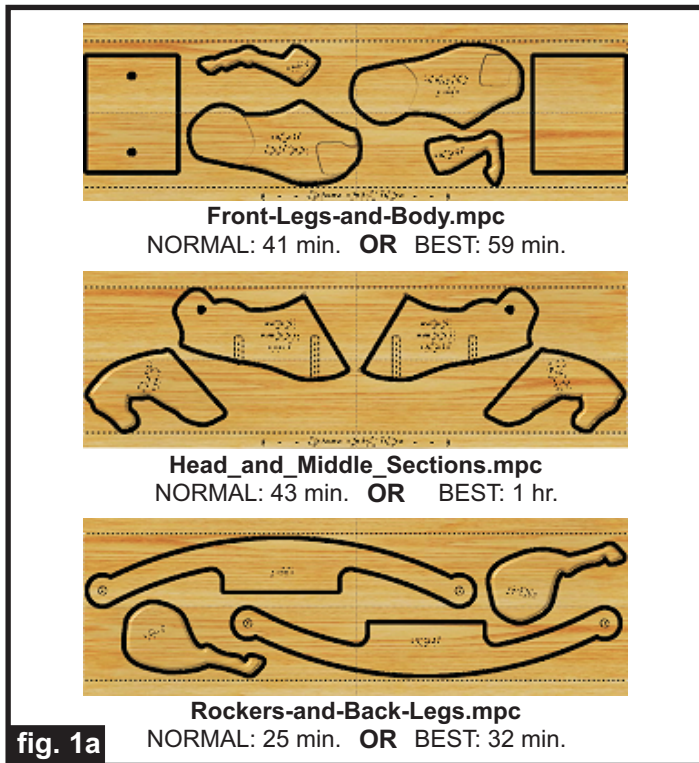


# Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

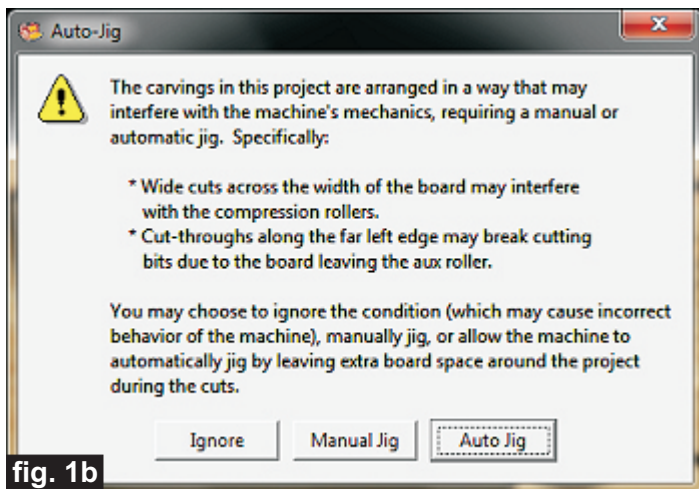
(cont.)

## STEP 1

Start Designer and open the .mpc files. (fig. 1a)



All you need to do at this point is upload the project files to your memory card. (File/Upload). When you upload, you may or may not get a pop-up window with an “Auto-Jig” warning message (Fig. 1b)

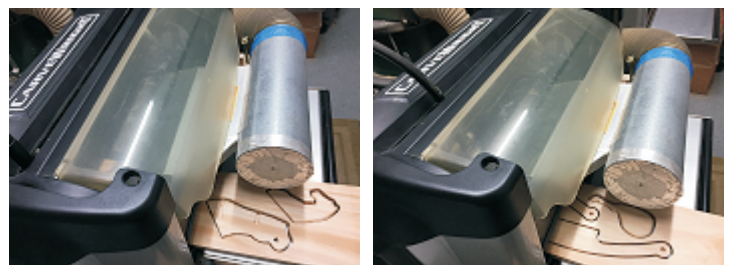


If you do see the message, you may safely click on “Ignore” because our actual boards will be large enough that it won’t cause any problems at all. After each project is compiled, select “Normal” or “Best” for the File Quality setting. Click “OK” and upload each mpc project file to your memory card. Insert the card into your machine and load a board.

## STEP 2 - Running the MPC File(s)

You will see “Project Menu” on your LCD display. Press “1” and scroll to **Front-Legs-and-Body.mpc** project, and press the green ENTER button to select it. Then follow the additional LED prompts as follows...

- **Stay Under Rollers** - press 1) YES
- **DO NOT RESIZE or SCALE the projects!** If prompted, always keep the original size. No scaling!
- **How To Place** - press 1) Center
- **Cut Board to Size?** - press 2) NO
- **Select Drill Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Press ENTER. The machine will move the bit holder to the center.
- **Load Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Insert your 1/8" cutting bit, then press the green ENTER button. (homes, etc.)
- **Select Vector Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Just press ENTER. (Bit is already loaded).
- **Select Cutting Bit: 1/8" Cutting** - Just press ENTER (Bit is already loaded).
- **Select Carving Bit: 1/16" Carving** - Press ENTER. The machine will move the bit holder to the center.
- **Load Bit: 1/16" Carving** - Remove the 1/8" cutting bit, and insert your 1/16" carving bit, then press the green ENTER button. After homing and finding surface, the carving process is performed.
- **After it is done carving, you will be prompted to load your 1/8" cutting bit.** Remove the 1/16" carving bit and insert your 1/8" cutting bit. Press the green ENTER button. The machine will perform the vector cuts and cutouts. Remove the board and repeat the steps for the remaining two MPC project files.



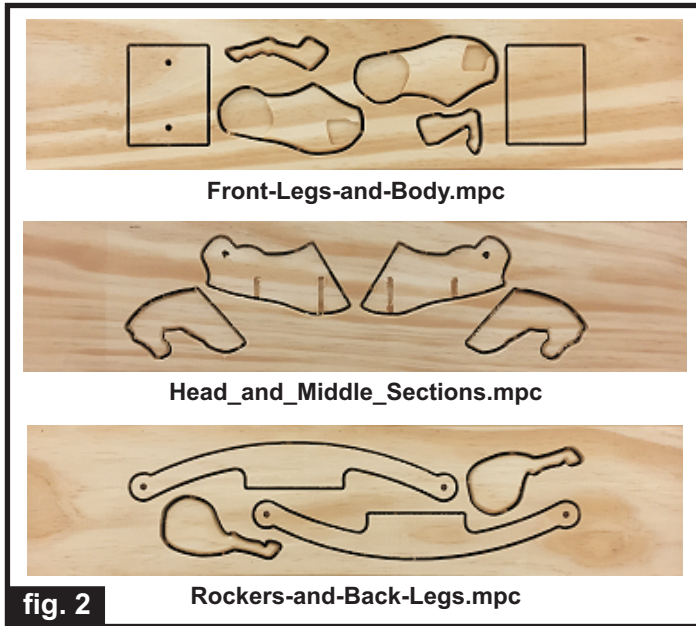
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# Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

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## STEP 2 - Running the MPC File(s) - cont.

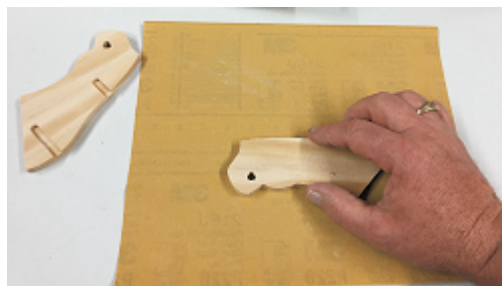
Your boards will look something like this...(fig. 2)



## STEP 3 - Separate Parts from Boards

Separate all the parts from the boards with a utility knife or hobby saw. Sand off tabs, but wait to final sand section edges until after glue-up. Rub the flat surfaces over a sheet of sandpaper laid on a flat surface to remove any fuzzies that could interfere with glue-up. (fig. 3a, 3b)

Separate the parts from the boards



Sand flat areas to remove fuzzies that could interfere with glue-up. (Final edge sanding will be done after glue-up.)

fig. 3b

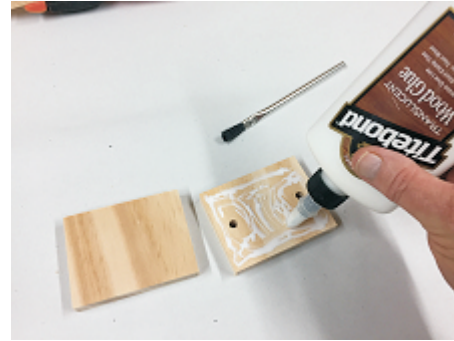
## STEP 4 - Assembly

Cut your 0.25" diameter dowel into two lengths of 3.25" and two lengths of 2.75". (fig. 4a)

Cut the dowel into lengths specified above



Glue the two rectangular blocks together. Don't allow glue to get into the dowel holes. (fig. 4b)



Glue the rectangular blocks together. Clamp until dry.

fig. 4b

Glue the two 3.25" length dowels into the end holes in one of the rockers. Glue the block assembly (with holes facing up) onto the rocker with top flush with rocker top. Glue the other rocker onto the dowels and block. Check for square, then tape, clamp or use a pin nailer to secure the parts while the glue dries. (fig. 4c, 4d)

Glue the rocker parts together.

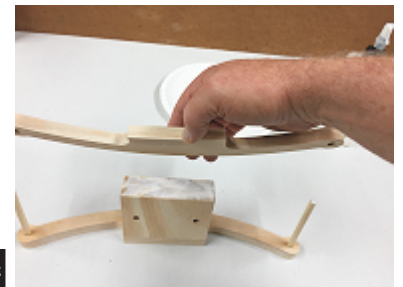


fig. 4c



Check for square, then tape, clamp or pin nail the parts together and allow to dry.

fig. 4d

# Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

(cont.)

## STEP 4 - Assembly - cont.

Align and glue the two slotted middle sections together. Don't get glue in the slots. (fig. 4e, 4f)



fig. 4e



fig. 4f

Glue the slotted middle sections together. Clamp until dry.



Glue the horse head sections together. Clamp until dry. (fig. 4g)

fig. 4g

Sand the flat angled area of the middle body assembly smooth by rubbing along sandpaper on flat surface, while not altering the angle. (fig. 4h)



fig. 4h

Align and glue the outer body parts to the middle section assembly. Allow glue to set-up a bit. (fig. 4i, 4j)



Glue the outer body parts to the middle assembly. Don't apply glue to the flat area where the head will fit into yet.

fig. 4i

After gluing both sides, allow glue to set-up a bit.



fig. 4j

Test fit the head. Sand the flat angled area of the head until you achieve a nice fit. Glue the head into the body assembly and clamp while glue dries (fig. 4k, 4l)

Test-fit the head. Sand the angled flat section until the head fits nicely onto the middle section angle corresponding angle



fig. 4k



Glue the head into the slot. Clamp until dry.

fig. 4l

When dry, final-sand overall and blend the section seams nicely. Sand by hand starting with coarse-grit and progressing to finer grits. Power sanders and/or a Dremel-type tool expedites the sanding process for finish preparation. (fig. 4m, 4n)

Power sand when and where possible. Use a rotary tool with abrasive attachments, and spindle sander and belt sander to speed up the process.



fig. 4m



Hand-sand starting with coarse grits, progressing to finer grits to blend seams

fig. 4n

(cont.)

# Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

(cont.)

## STEP 4 - Assembly - cont.

Final sand the legs and glue them into the recessed pockets. They only fit one way, but be sure to line up the contour of the back legs with the contours of the body assembly when gluing in place. (fig. 4o, 4p)



Glue the legs to the body assembly

fig. 4o

Align the rear legs to match the contours of the body assembly when gluing in place



fig. 4p

Glue the two 2.75" length dowels into the slots of the horse. Then glue the entire assembly together by inserting the dowels into the rocker base holes.

**NOTE:** If you plan to finish the horse differently from the rocker base, keep the base and horse separate until after finish is applied. (fig. 4q, 4r)



Glue the 2.75" length dowels into the horse body slots

fig. 4q

Finish the assembly by gluing the protruding dowels into the rocker



fig. 4r

## STEP 5 - Apply Finish

Apply the finish of your choice. Here's what I used on the sample Mini Colonial Rocking Horse made from Select Pine: (fig. 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)

- Applied two coats thinned Bulls Eye SealCoat (50/50 SealCoat and denatured alcohol)
- Sanded when dry
- Applied Rust-Oleum Cabernet Stain to horse
- Applied Rust-Oleum Wheat Stain to rocker base
- Several light coats Krylon Clear Spray overall



Applied thinned Seal Coat

fig. 5a

Applied Cabernet stain to horse



fig. 5b

Applied Wheat stain to rocker base



fig. 5c

Applied several light coats of Krylon clear. Gloss coats first, then Flat to finish. Applying gloss first keeps colors brighter until the final light flat coats to tone down the sheen.



fig. 5d

(cont.)

# Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!

(cont.)

## IN CONCLUSION

I hope you enjoyed making your Mini Colonial Rocking Horse! Feel free to customize the “look” of your own Rocking Horse - paints, shabby-chic finishes, or other stains will all look good on this classic beauty!

Happy Carving!

*Michael*

Michael Tyler



## Mini Colonial Rocking Horse!



**Great Home Decor Item!**

approx. dimensions: 12" long x 7" tall x 3.75" deep

# Materials Source Page

- **3M Radial Bristle Discs** from [www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com)  
(stack 3 discs at a time on your rotary tool mandrel)

**80-grit:** part # 4494A19  
**220-grit:** part # 4494A18



## Items Purchased at Home Depot™ or Lowes™

- Zinsser Bulls Eye SealCoat (same as 100% de-waxed shellac)
- Denatured Alcohol
- Rust-Oleum Ultimate Stains: Wheat and Cabernet
- Krylon Clear Spray
- 0.5 " x 5.5 " x 24 " clear pine boards
- 0.25 " diameter wooden Dowel



Krylon Crystal Clear Spray  
from Lowes

# Additional Resources

## RESOURCES...

There are numerous resources for the CarveWright/CompuCarve owner to make their experience with these machines much more enjoyable.

Every owner should join the CarveWright User Forum (<http://forum.carviewright.com/forum.php>) where fellow users share their experiences and knowledge with these machines on a daily basis. It is a FREE service that you will surely appreciate. A handy Search Feature helps you find answers to any questions you may have.



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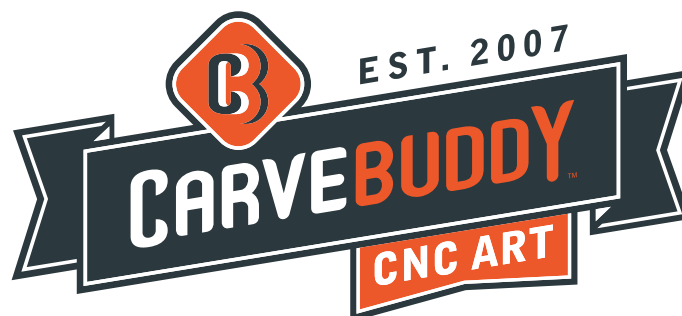


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