

Whimmy-Diddle ^[1]

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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).

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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).

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