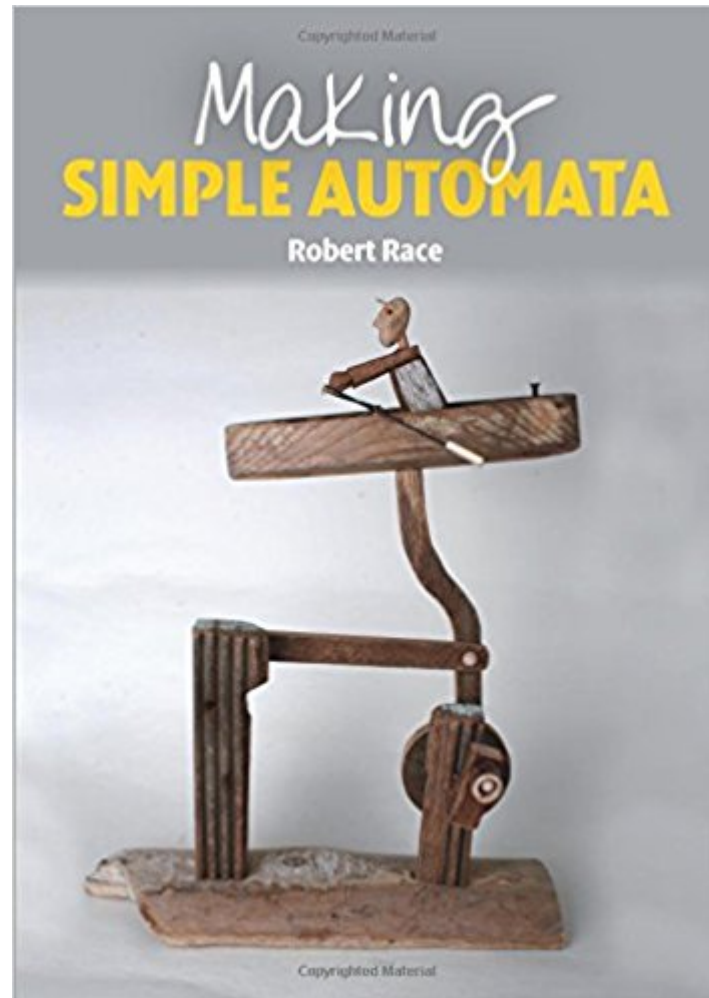




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Making Simple Automata



Synopsis

It's a superb book that explains how to design and construct small scale, simple mechanical devices for fun. It's perfect for toy makers, woodworkers, crafters, and tinkerers. Designing and making successful automata involves combining materials, mechanisms, and magic. Illustrated with color photos throughout, this wonderful book explains the six golden rules for making automata alongside detailed step-by-step projects. Many materials are discussed, including paper and card, wood, wire, tinplate, and plastics; mechanisms discussed include levers and linkages, cranks and cams, wheels, gears, pulleys, springs, ratchets, and pawls. Finally, there is the magic - an unanalyzable charm, a strong fascination so that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Race has been a full-time maker for more than 30 years. His work, including automata, kinetic sculpture, and moving toys, has been widely exhibited.

Interesting, and very nice photos - what's really annoying about this book is that he shows photos of beautiful "very simple" automata - but his directions at the end of the book are for making a couple of unattractive, unappealing and quite complicated pieces that I have no desire to attempt. It seems like a deliberate attempt to frustrate interest - he could have helped, but he didn't. Thanks a lot,

Robert.

Lots of pretty pictures, but not much how-to. Find a good (older) book on toys and crafts and you'll be better off.

Disappointing in that there are only three or four projects in this book, and the cover project is not one of them.

I was expecting more instruction and less fluff. But it's ok.

Great variety of working automata. I made one of the projects shown, though not really step-by-step tutorial. You do need to analyze the illustrations to see how mechanisms and linkages are assembled. I'd say it's a great book for a beginner to intermediate woodworker with a self-starting attitude.

Like the book. Some inspirational material.

Great little book including historical and cultural examples (photographs), how a maker thinks about design-and-materials, several small paper mechanical toys' instructions and cut-out parts, bibliography and resources. However this is not a 'simple book'; making a miniature precise paper machine is a challenge for anyone. Enjoy the adventure.

This book is a lot more about the history of automata than actually about making them. But still an interesting book

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