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Amazing Leonardo Da Vinci Inventions: You Can Build Yourself (Build It Yourself)



Synopsis

Amazing Leonardo da Vinci Inventions You Can Build Yourself introduces readers to the life, world, and incredible mind of Leonardo da Vinci through hands-on building projects that explore his invention ideas. Most of Leonardo's inventions were never made in his lifetime; they remained sketches in his famous notebooks. Amazing Leonardo da Vinci Inventions You Can Build Yourself shows you how to bring these ideas to life using common household supplies. Detailed step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and templates for creating each project combine with historical facts and anecdotes, biographies and trivia about the real-life models for each project. Together they give kids a first-hand look into the amazing mind of one of the world's greatest inventors.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1240L (What's this?)

Series: Build It Yourself

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Nomad Press (January 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780974934426

ISBN-13: 978-0974934426

ASIN: 0974934429

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (61 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

We are homeschoolers using this book in part of a unit on Inventors. My eight year old is able to read and enjoy the history behind the different inventions. I thought it would just be a "how to" book, but we are both really enjoying the well written historical information in this book. It really makes Leonardo and the world he lived in come alive. I like to just browse through the book and look at all

of Leonardo's sketches as well. The pictures and instructions are fairly easy to follow. The inventions do use common items, but we don't always have the right "common" items at the right times. We have modified most of the directions to use what we actually have in our house. Today we wanted to make the camera obscura, but we just threw out our last empty Pringles can... guess we'll be eating lots of chips in the next week :)

I purchased this book after I saw the "Leonardo di Vinci" exhibit at my local museum. This particular exhibit showcased his inventions, not his artwork. There were many full size replicas of machines that he thought of that were actually built for this exhibit. I was intrigued by the bridge that could be built with just a few sticks and got stronger the more weight you put on it. After putting the dowel sized replica together at the exhibit, I had to have one for myself to build. That's the primary reason I purchased this book. Now that I have it in my hands, I've been going over the different activities I can do with my baby siblings, and I'm so excited I have this book in hand. I'd highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in "how things work" and science in general.

We received this book within five days, and before the sun set that afternoon, my nine-year-old grandson had constructed three sizes of the trebuchet by following the instructions.

I was hoping for a book to make mechanical, accurate models of da Vinci's inventions. The activities in this book are very basic and do not make good representations of his inventions. The "models" in this book sort of do what the inventions were suppose to, but do it in a dumbed down way. Most of the inventions in this book are not even that specific da Vinci. I did not get this book because I wanted to make a wind gauge. Da Vinci inventions should not be made of cereal boxes and pipe cleaners. Don't get this book expecting a serious model guide. It's suitable for 4th grade, but no more than that.

A hands on kind of book where you learn a bit about DaVinci and you also get to reproduce some of his projects. Projects are reasonably interesting and done with various easy to find materials like cardboard, pieces of wood and other household materials. Make your own paint, Hydrometer, hygrometer, trebuchet and stuff like that. Over all I like the way this book is handled with both interesting stuff about Davinci and some hands on projects. Great for curious minds.

There isn't anything presented in this book that you would want to build yourself. It provides no

challenge for someone who already knows anything about da Vinci and is not appropriate for someone who doesn't know about him. Our young family has been exploring da Vinci's inventions. This book was supposed to allow us to extend our explorations, but its notes and information about da Vinci are mostly simple facts drawn out with too many words and the projects are overall crude and uninteresting.

I have been using this book for a co-op with nine students (4th and 5th graders) at the request of the 4th -6th grade coordinator. I thought the students would hate several of these projects, but they have enjoyed making tempera paint, parachutes, webbed gloves, and water shoes. Honestly, I was surprised the kids enjoyed making tempera so much. We did crack the eggs and get messy so that's probably part of the appeal. The plastic glass project was a fail. Directions didn't specify that ultra pasteurized cream is also homogenized and will not work. I thought I was being careful by avoiding homogenized cream so this was disappointing. Thankfully the kids were unaffected because it was a secondary activity (an "if we have time" project). The helical air screw was a FAIL. We can make it look like the instructions, but there is no way it would fly because the spiral wouldn't stay put so it flopped around not the chopstick. Our class is one hour and I was extremely glad that I didn't bother to bring the launcher materials. I would have been livid if I had cut all the wood and predrilled holes for this dud of a project. The hygrometer was a successful build but no one bothered to hang it outside and test it. The monkey wrench project was enjoyed, but I think it's because I let them use hammers. Also I am looking for an alternative wheel for the armored tank. The directions say to use yogurt lids, but yogurt isn't sold with lids anymore in my town. I will be trying the baby food squeeze pouch caps out or wood circles. I don't think the description should state that templates are included as they are only sketched into the directions and not at scale. Perhaps I am assuming too much, but any other craft book with templates has a separate section of templates or includes a separate page or two with the shapes needed. I am regretting using this book as the spine for our course. I wish I had ordered Primary Physics because all of those projects worked, and I now have some trust in the author. If you decide to use Marti Ellen's book for a class, be sure to allow more time than you think is necessary. We did Roman Machines and it was very difficult to finish a build in a one-hour class period. If you are using this for a child at home, it might still be worth a look because the background info and stories are fun. Don't expect more than half the projects to work. There are several arts and crafts projects included that really aren't "inventions".

We love this book. I have the entire Dover set of notebooks, so I thought I would not learn anything

from it, but I was wrong. The author has dug up so many little anecdotes about Leonardo that balances out the book from a straight academic publication. It is sprinkled with little facts and figures to give the reader an insight into this brilliant man. I bought this for my wife to teach young children activities. We cannot say enough good about this book. It is well researched and written and oh so practical. Highly recommend this book.

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