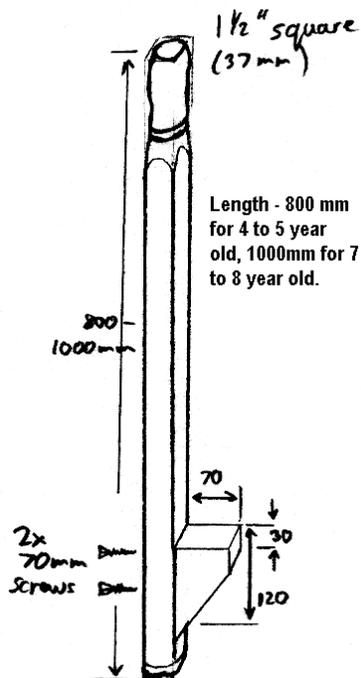
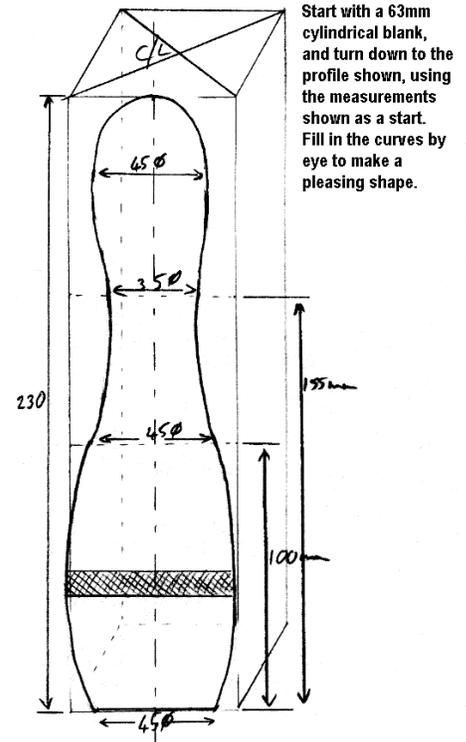


## Toys for the Year-end Braai

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Here are three designs for easy to make toys to donate to our favourite charities:

**Skittles.** In 1618, in England, James I became concerned that too much time was spent playing nine pin bowling, gambling and not working, so the playing of Nine Pin Bowling was outlawed. People just added another skittle and we play Ten Pin Bowling to this day! For the turners who would like to practise some spindle turning and reproduction work, skittles are a good start. The diagram shows the approximate sizes, but you don't have to stick to this. However, remember you have to make another nine the same! The base must be flat or slightly concave, so that they stand up properly. The size of the base is a compromise between stability and knock-over ability. For durability, use a harder wood. Traditionally they were painted white with a red band around the middle, but if you use a nice wood, you may want varnish them instead. A tennis ball can be used to bowl with.

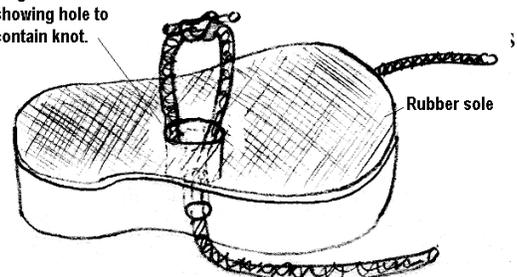


**Stilts.** These are made in pairs of 1 1/2" (37mm) square stock. Depending on the age of children these are intended for, make them 800mm to 1000mm long. Pine is quite adequate for this application. If you have a lathe that will accommodate the length, the handles can be turned. The only section that needs to remain flat is where the footrests are attached, so you are free to turn the remainder to your own design. If you don't have a lathe that will hold this length of stock, you can use hand tools or a belt sander to shape the handles. Then, the footrests can be attached. They are 70mm wide to accommodate small feet and should be glued and screwed to the uprights for strength. You may want to fit some sort of rubber foot for safety, and if you choose a white, non-marking rubber, you will make the stilts welcome inside the house as well. Smooth and round off all the edges, to reduce damage to the minimum in the event of accidental falls. They can be painted or varnished, to your preference. If you use paint make sure the

paint is lead-free.

**Clogs.** To keep the clogs lined up with the bottom of your turn as you take steps – some basic co-ordination skill of wood cut out into the shape of a foot, sized to suit

Clog - bottom view showing hole to contain knot.



80mm wide is a start. A length of 1000mm of 8mm poly rope is threaded through the holes and tied underneath. The diagram shows one way to join the ropes and attach them to the clogs. A hole to suit the rope is drilled through the sides and then a larger, intersecting hole is drilled from the bottom to hold the rope knot. By gluing on rubber soles, the hole is concealed, and non-slip, quieter walking is the benefit. You can paint or varnish them to your design, perhaps showing the outline of the foot and toes.

These design ideas come from Step-by-Step Wooden Toys by Roger Horwood, published by Struik 1993.