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



Synopsis

From armored tanks and gliders to "plastic glass" and drawing machines, this interactive book explores the incredible mind of Leonardo da Vinci through hands-on building projects and activities. Most of Leonardo's inventions were never made in his lifetime and remained sketches in his famous notebooks; kids examine some of these original sketches and learn about the models he made of his inventions. From there they delve into detailed step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and templates for each project, which are interspersed with historical facts, biographical anecdotes, and trivia. Most of the building can be done using simple household supplies: construction paper, tape, markers, glue, cardboard tubes, aluminum foil, and cardboard boxes. Background about the Renaissance as a period of remarkable achievement in art and science appears throughout the book.

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Customer Reviews

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 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.

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