

UNBORED zine

Unbored Zine highlights different activities to get you interested to try something outside of your normal routine. Each issue has a theme, so you can select which (or all) you'd like to try.

All issues are initially released for free digitally on my blog, larajla.com. They will be available for a week before they move to my Etsy shop, larajlacreates.com.

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Indoor Builder

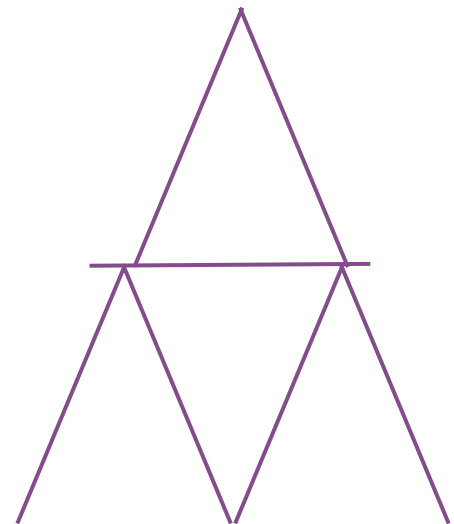


Instructables

Now, here's a site for you to check out. No, there's not ONE item to build here. There are . . . well, more than I care to count right now.

Instructables tells you HOW to build different things. Personally, I'm planning to build a book scanner, but I don't think you really care about that. Find items you're interested in building. Perhaps it's something you can use like a work table, plan

Even free access can give you information on a slew of things to build. Now, don't just bookmark everything you want to build. Actually, build something!



House of Cards

A deck of playing cards isn't expensive. Building with them is a challenge that requires steady hands and patience. Check online and see the different ways you can build with just playing cards.

Now, why were you bored?

Let's look for more stuff you can build!

We're going to build!

For this zine, we're building various items indoors. After they're built, we can play with them or use them for enjoyment. It might be a building to use with toy cars or a hidden nook to hide from a few minutes from the monsters inhabiting your home.

Yes, brothers count as monsters.

Some of the items need specific materials to build, some can be built from items you recycle from around your house. Be sure to gather all the items you need before you start your build. Nothing is more annoying than being unable to complete your build because of one item!

Just remember three things:

1. Ask before you take anything, especially if you plan to destroy . . . er, um, repurpose it.
2. Make sure the area where you plan to build is free from breakables and is not a heavy traffic area.
3. Make sure your mom (or your significant other) is okay with it.

Building Toys

You can build with a variety of toys that are designed for this purpose. These include LEGOs, Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, K'Nex, wooden blocks. . . well, you get the idea. Not only can you get kits, you can just buy generic sets and find information online to build all sorts of wonderful things.

Don't forget yard sales and other ways to get lower cost building toys!

Before you decide to build, take an inventory of what you have. This isn't a list of every little piece. Instead, it's a list of the types you have so you can go forth and find cool things others have built and shared online.

One day, if you're good enough, you might even share your own creations and instructions to others.

And you will be proclaimed king! (Well, maybe not, but we can all dream.)

Your Unique Builds

There's nothing more fun than creating an open-ended project. Building something from scratch just to explore the interplay of space, light and movement is challenging.

I'm not talking a painting, drawing or other flat artwork.

Think about mixed media and sculpture.

It doesn't have to be large, either. You might build something as a table centerpiece or a fidget toy.

Let your imagination go wild and explore the materials and tools you have on hand. After all that work, there's just one more thing to do . . .

Share your creations with the world!!!

Instruments

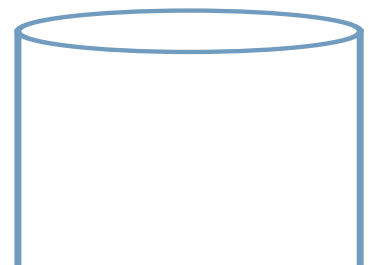
You might hate me for this one. Most of the rest of our builds are quiet . . . ignoring the obstacle course, of course.

A musical instrument might be as simple as a pot and a wooden spoon. It can be expanded into horns, shakers, kazoos, harmonicas and a slew of other noisemakers.

Of course, if you're older you might start looking at PVC for a great way to build even more unique instruments like flutes.

And what would musical instruments be without a performance?

It might be a parade or a concert. Perhaps even a live recording can be fun. So, let's make a few notes.



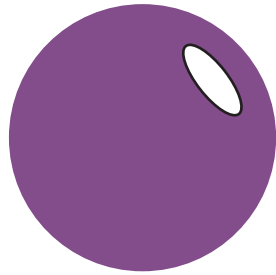
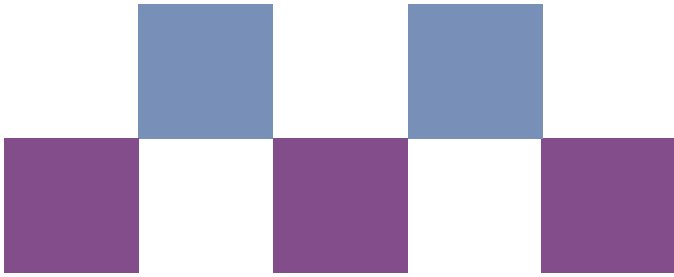
Minecraft

You knew this one was coming, right?

Kids love Minecraft. Not only can they build all sorts of buildings, they learn good lessons too . . . like what happens when you put a fire in the middle of a wooden structure.

Anyway, you might think this is a one-person task. It's not. Though I'm not a fan, I have watched my daughter, nieces and mother plan how to build their houses so they can visit each other and show off their building skills. Yes, my mother is a big kid too.

This is not a few hours of building. My daughter has obsessed over getting her buildings right for weeks. While not a physical build, it can be enjoyable all the same if that's your thing.



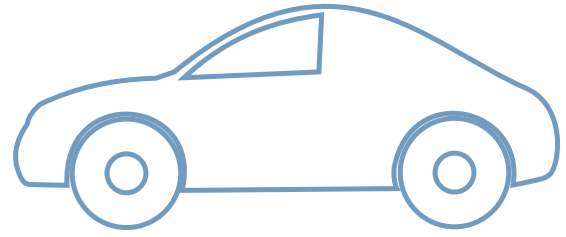
Marble Run

You know a marble run is just a way to make the marble move around, right? For this build, gravity is your friend.

Start with something simple. Hold two pencils together and put a marble at the top. When you let go, gravity pulls the marble down the pencils. If you don't have anything at the end, it will roll off the table. You'd better go get it. If mom steps on it after she sees those walls, you're in even more trouble!

Personally, I like metal marbles. They are heavier and less likely to break after it's fallen off the table twelve times. Can you stop that? It's really annoying listening to it hit the floor.

Go forth . . . build!



Models and Kits

You can buy a kit to build a specific item. I have the Starship Enterprise and I know you're jealous!

It's not just science fiction items, though. Planes, boats and more can be purchased in kit form. Some, like the Enterprise, are just a final piece to display. Some are designed to be playable like cars and drones.

If you've not built a model before, start small. It can be very delicate work. Be sure to take pictures along the way so you can see your model coming to life.

Your slotted disks can be any size . . . from 1" diameter to the size of a pizza box. Now, pre-cut shapes would make this a whole lot easier. If you don't want to buy them, start with a circle paper punch and a cardstock. Punch a couple dozen and slot them. See how it looks and decide if you want to build more!



Forts

Forts can be built from just about anything around your house. You can build something temporary with sheets, blankets and pillows. Furniture is a great stand-in for walls. Tables, especially large ones, work really well for rooms in your fort.

You can also get a LARGE cardboard box and cut out areas for windows and doors. Yes, we're talking boxes from major appliances for this project. If they're flattened, you can lean it against a wall.

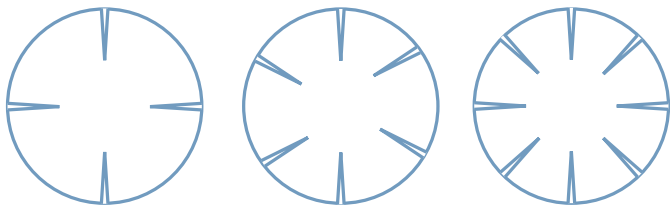
So, first you build it, then you pretend! I won't tell you what, though. That's up to you!

Craft, then Build

Making your own pieces to build with has one very important upside — you can make as many as you want.

Grab a 2" x 4" piece of wood and cut it into blocks. Of course, most of them will be rectangles, squares and triangles to start. As you become more comfortable with the tools, you'll be able to cut more interesting shapes.

You can also craft slotted disks. Take a circle and cut 4 slots into it at 90° from each other. You can do this with chipboard, cardboard, plastic canvas . . . well, you get the idea. Now, your final piece will be a bit boring as you have limited ways to build. You can instead change it up to 6 slots at 60° apart or 8 slots at 45° apart. The more slots, the more interesting your final piece.

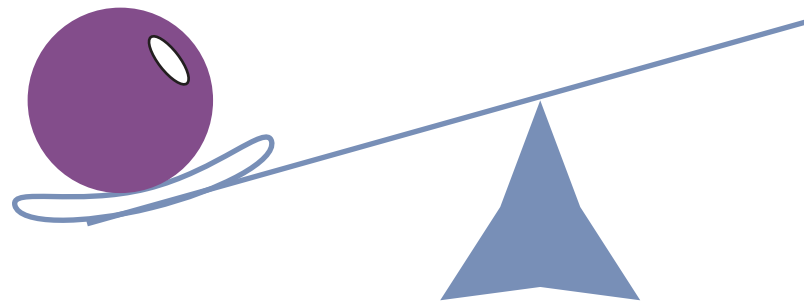


Obstacle Course

Okay . . . you need a lot of room. Is the garage or basement empty?

So, grab those laundry baskets to catch balls. Put crepe streamers across the hallway to creep through. Fill an area with balloons that you have to walk through without popping any. Stack Styrofoam cups to move around without disturbing them. Put two end tables close together so you have to move between them. Get the idea?

Now, you did ask mom about taping up those crepe streamers, right? You used blue painter's tape, not duct tape that will mess up the walls? Really? I'm glad I'm not at your house when your mother gets home!



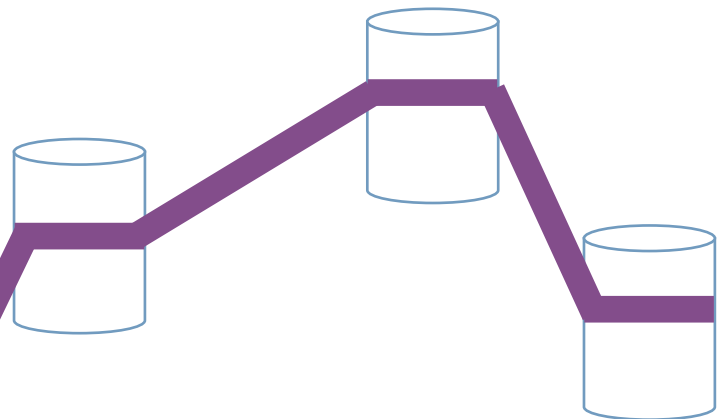
Rube Goldberg Machine

Taking the marble run up a step, you can build a Rube Goldberg machine.

No clue what I'm talking about? Have you ever played the board game Mouse Trap? Good.

Basically, you're designing a machine that will take a simple task and make it cool. Okay, some people may say complicated, but I just love watching the action.

Now, you can get apps, science projects and games that will help you understand the concept. Building one yourself, though, is cool. I did already say that, didn't I?



The obstacles you build can be large or small. They are only limited by your imagination and what you have available. You can even start with just brainstorming some great ideas!

It might help if you get a friend or two to build a couple of the obstacles as well. That way, no one knows everything in the obstacle course.

You can also create a card deck of actions you have to take in certain areas instead of obstacles. Of course, combining obstacles and actions can be fun too. Add 10 jumping jacks in an area filled with balloons makes it even more of a challenge.