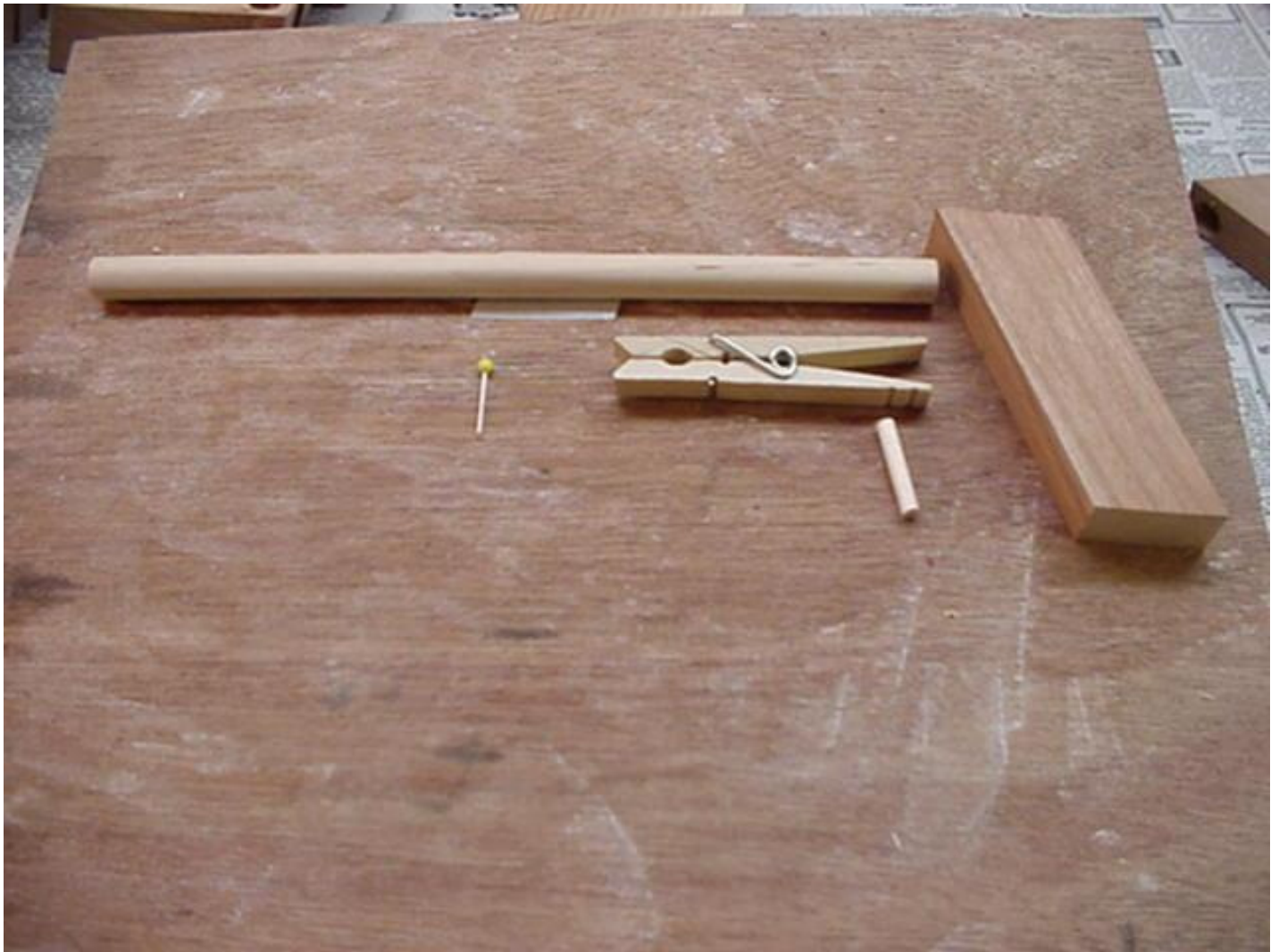


Simple Rubber Band Gun

Compared with sophisticated models to be found on the internet, the gun described here is very simple. That makes it quick and easy to build and easy to use, even for a five-year-old. If smaller kids are to be involved, be advised that this gun, or rather its rubber bands, constitute a **choking hazard**.

The first photo shows the parts of the gun before modification.



The barrel is a birch dowel $\frac{1}{2}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The handle is scrap hardwood of contrasting color (in this case cherry), $\frac{3}{4}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$.

The clothespin is from Rite Aid, 48 for about two bucks.

The trigger is a birch dowel, $\frac{3}{16}$ x 1.

The gunsight is a map pin.

The second photo shows the parts modified and ready for assembly.



Barrel: a notch is cut in the end to hold the rubber band. A flat spot about 3 inches long is cut on the bottom, to glue the clothespin to (hard to see in the photo, but the flat spot is just above the clothespin). To install the sight, drill hole near the end of the barrel with a high number drill (#56??). Install the pin, clip off the point, bend over the tag end and hammer flat.

Handle: The angle from the side to the top is 65 degrees. To bore the hole for the barrel at the same angle, tip the drill press table or make a wedge-shaped jig. Use a Forstner bit. Roundovers on all edges of the handle were done on a foam-padded drum (similar to an inflatable drum).

Clothespin: The notch behind the jaws of the clothespin is enlarged on a scrollsaw. The opposite end(s) of the clothespin are shortened, the lower leg a bit more than the upper. The trigger is glued in a hole bored in the lower leg.

The third photo shows two completed guns, one loaded with a single shot and the other with six shots. The gun works well with size #32 rubber bands. Other sizes might need a longer or shorter barrel.



To load and fire the gun:

Single shot: Squeeze the trigger to open the jaws of the clothes pin. Hang a rubber band in the notch behind the jaws and release the trigger. Stretch the rubber band forward and hook it in the notch in the end of the barrel. Aim and fire.

Six shot repeater: Squeeze the trigger and hang six rubber bands in a row in the notch behind the jaws. Release the trigger. Stretch the rubber band nearest the jaws forward and hook it in the notch in the end of the barrel. Aim and fire. Repeat. You can get off six well-aimed shots in about 20 seconds.

Shotgun: Load as above. Stretch several rubber bands forward and fire them all at once. Handy for downing flying insects.

I plan to market this gun in my booth in a craft mall around the holidays, as a stocking-stuffer/impulse item. Cost per gun is minimal, and with any sort of woodshop the parts can be mass produced very quickly. So the selling price will be low.

If you have any experience marketing such things, or any ideas or suggestions to make this gun better or easier to build, please don't hesitate to write. I'd really like to hear from you.